International Standard Numbering System for Books, Software,
Mixed Media etc. in Publishing, Distribution and Library Practice

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International ISBN Agency Project – Executive Summary

Introduction

ISBN (International Standard Book Number) is an internationally recognised Standard, first introduced in 1971. ISBNs are used to ensure each edition and format of a specific publication, whether in print or digital, by a particular publisher is identified uniquely in the book supply chain. The International ISBN Agency (IIA) is the registration authority for the ISBN system and is based in London. The ISBN system is decentralised and there are currently c.150 ISBN registration agencies. For further information see www.isbn-international.org.

The project

The IIA has existing contracts with third party providers who developed services on IIA's behalf that they now host, (including disaster recovery arrangements), and for which they provide corrective maintenance and technical support. However, current contracts will end on 31 December 2020.

This project is to:

a) create duplicate instances of the existing databases and websites on a new host infrastructure. [Note: Suppliers must incorporate upgrades at the infrastructural level of the IIA platform, i.e. where versions of the existing software stack and platform are at, or are approaching, end of life].
   Or

b) develop replacements, using different software, but on a like-for-like basis.

Note that a) above is the IIA's preference. Whichever route is chosen, suppliers should expect that subsequent project phases will include additional enhancements and developments, so any proposed solution must be capable of further adaptation.

Approximate start dates and timescales of the project

The project must **start no later than 2 March 2020** and **conclude by 30 November 2020.**

The websites, databases and their key functions

The IIA has the following sites and databases:

- Public facing informational website www.isbn-international.org (our main site)
  - Introduction to ISBN and its scope, contact details of ISBN agencies, news items, downloadable Users' Manuals and FAQs. Most pages available in English, French and Spanish.

- Private portal areas of www.isbn-international.org (our main site) accessed by user name and password. Differing access privileges - whether users are ISBN agencies or IIA (management services)
  - Provides mechanism for IIA to:
    - create and maintain agency records
    - set up and control assignments of group prefixes to agencies and configure ranges
    - process data submission files from ISBN agencies (including validation processes, kick out and warning reports and importing of records)
    - manually create or edit records, including ISBN assignments, on any agency's data
    - create and maintain private and public news items and maintenance of other web pages
    - download allocations (by various criteria such as agency, group prefix, specific range, etc.)
    - access statistics about website usage via Google Analytics

- o Provides mechanism for ISBN agencies to:
  - manually create or edit records or ISBN assignments in relation to own agency's data
  - check private news items
  - submit articles or questions to Forum
  - submit data files
  - download files of their own agency's allocations
  - use the ISBN calculator function to validate ISBNs and/or produce lists of calculated ISBNs

- Searchable database of publishers (the Global Register) – https://grp.isbn-international.org.
  Freely available. Users register to obtain more extensive contact details of publishers. Displayed in a different format, but underlying publisher data of the Global Register is the data held on www.isbn-international.org (i.e. it comes from data submission files or from manual entry by agencies).
  There is also an administrative log-on facility (for IIA only) to allow creation and/or maintenance of webpages and access website usage via Google analytics.

- Pre-production (test) versions of www.isbn-international.org and https://grp.isbn-international.org

Statistics
c.130 agencies access the main site to make edits and/or submit data files.
c.175 user accounts on the main site across various access privileges.
c.2.5m publisher records in total on the Global Register of Publishers.
c.200 data submission files a year (largest file - c.0.5m records, smallest file <1k records).
c.63k public users of main site, c. 281k pageviews.
c.95k public users of the Global Register, c.174k pageviews.

Software, programming languages and hardware overview

Main site only
Solr Search Engine 4.2.1* (main site only, but Global Register connects to main site's Solr to query publishers)
jdk-7-oracle-x64*
Spring framework
Apache Tomcat Java Application Server

Main site and Global Register
Debian 7*
Drupal CMS 7.50
PHP 5.5*
MySQL RDBMS
Apache 2.2 HTTP Server*
Programming languages – Java, PHP

*indicates that this version is either at, or will soon reach, end of life and upgrades to later versions of the basic software stack and of the IIA application platform should be planned as part of the project.

Live System Space Requirements
Diskspace for the applications:
350 GiB total diskspace of which:
- 68 MiB for the GRP service
- 45 GiB for the Solr index
- and the rest for IIA main service
Diskspace for the databases:
- Drupal main site: 100 MiB
- Drupal GRP: 150 MiB
- Application database: 8 GiB

Pre-production system Space Requirements
Diskspace for the applications:
139 GiB total diskspace of which:
- 40 MiB for the GRP service
- 64 GiB for the Solr index
- and the rest for IIA main service
Diskspace for the databases:
- Drupal main site: 40 MiB
- Drupal GRP: 11 MiB
- Application database: 7 GiB

Availability of the RFP (Request for Proposal) and how to register your interest
The RFP will be available by 25 November 2019. To register your interest and receive the RFP as soon as it is available, please contact: Stella Griffiths, Executive Director of the International ISBN Agency (stella@isbn-international.org) no later than **29 November 2019**.

Formal responses to the RFP must reach us by **3 January 2020**.