ISNI-IA Data Contribution by Batch

Organisations are invited to contribute data for matching against the ISNI database.

Advantages

The data loading will provide ISNIs immediately for a proportion of data provided. Those records that do not receive ISNI assignment will be stored on file for future disambiguation, correction matching or enrichment that will result in ISNI assignment. The matching will provide confirmation of incoming data; your data matches with data from another independent source. Another result of the matching will be links to other databases with an identifier that is distanced from any legal and financial transactions. These links, e.g. with VIAF data, could reveal hitherto unknown titles and translations of authors and creators. The matching will also reveal some errors such as spelling, use of private rather than public form of name and it may point to records that could be merged or should be split.

ISNI Assignment

ISNIs will be assigned where there are confident matches with other ISNI sources. Possible matches will also be signalled, which after resolution will result in ISNI assignment. Records that do not match may be enriched by reference to external authoritative sources using the ISNI web interface. Where a name in the form of surname and forename (not initials) or given name is unique and is supported by associated metadata that serves to disambiguate the name, an ISNI is assigned. Single source assignment for sources and records meeting certain defined conditions may be considered.

Assignment and other Reports

The ISNI successful matches report contains notification of ISNIs assigned, the local corresponding identifier and an indication of the data that matched. An online report indicates possible matches, where either the matching score was below the confidence threshold but above the no match threshold or where 2 different local identifiers matched one record on the ISNI database. Where there are 2 different local identifiers for one ISNI record, it may indicate that the ISNI record needs splitting or it may indicate that the incoming records need merging.

Periodic notifications will advise of any ISNIs that are subsequently assigned and also of error conditions noted such as the merging of two records, or correction of spelling errors.

Conditions of Participation

1. Data Format

Data for the database should be submitted as a file in one of three formats, tab delimited format for persons, tab delimited for organisations and the official ISNI XML request schema. The definition of these formats is included in the attached documents, indicating required and optional data elements.

2. Submission of Data

The data should be posted to the FTP site of the ISNI Assignment Agency at OCLC (write only).

3. Data Declaration

Organisations are required to sign a declaration which affirms that they are allowed to deliver the data for the purposes mentioned in this document, and that by so doing, they are infringing no known rights and will indemnify the ISNI-IA in the case of a third party asserting claims against the ISNI-IA concerning the data delivered.

Organisations are also expected to assist with the testing of the matching and should make changes as appropriate from the matching exception reports produced.

4. Verification of Assignment and Possible Matches

Contributors are required to verify a statistical sample of assigned ISNIs.

Contributors are also required to review possible matches.

5. Use of the data for the ISNI database

Each Party that submits data for the allocation of an ISNI retains ownership including all intellectual property rights in its Contributed Data. Contributed Data will be made available to the ISNI Assignment Agency. Contributed Data will not be disclosed to any other Party. The Assignment Agency undertakes to the ISNI-IA that they will not use the Contributed Data for any purpose other than for the assignment of ISNIs.

In the process of assigning an ISNI, the Assignment Agency checks Contributed Data against the ISNI reference database and other databases. As ISNIs are assigned, certain data elements are copied permanently into the ISNI Reference Database. These data elements in the ISNI Reference Database are defined as non sensitive information and are essential to the ISNI system. The following

elements are copied and retained permanently in association with an ISNI and become the core part of ISNI Reference Metadata.

- Name of public identity (e.g. surname, forename, given name, prefix, suffix)
- Name variants (e.g. Bernard Shaw, George Bernard Shaw, G.B. Shaw, name in a non Roman script, but not including pseudonyms that are considered different identities)
- Creation class or classes
- Creation role or roles
- URI to the source or sources

These elements will be supplied in responses to other parties requesting ISNIs. They will also be supplied in ISNI update notification services to parties with URIs associated with a particular ISNI. These elements may be displayed in responses to ISNI enquiries via an online interactive service or via machine APIs and linked data.

Other elements are required or requested by the ISNI assignment system for matching and disambiguation but not made available to any other Parties (including other ISNI members) without permission in the services as described above. Each contributing Party may determine which elements that are not part of core ISNI Reference Metadata may be retained for future matching and disambiguation, and whether they may also be made available for enquiry services, or whether they must be deleted once ISNI processing has completed. The following elements in particular are requested in Contributed Data (one work is mandated) but may be subsequently restricted:

- Birth and death date of an identity
- Links among identities, e.g. links among multiple pseudonyms of an author or links from a nom de plume to a real name
- Affiliations
- Works created by an identity or those in which an identity has a creative role

The ISNI-IA encourages data contributors to make disambiguating data available where possible, particularly to other ISNI members involved in matching and merging decisions.

The following sources have provided data that is fully public:

British Library Sound Archive (BLSA)
British Library Theses (BRTH)
JISC Names (JNAM)
MusicBrainz (MUBZ)
OCLC Theses (OCLCT)
Orcid and DataCite Interoperability Network (ODIN)
Ringgold institutions (RING)
Virtual International Authority File (VIAF)
Electronic Tables of Contents (ZETO)

Contributed Data and Base Data

Currently there are three base data files, VIAF, MusicBrainz and Ringgold. The VIAF database, as a large, cross domain database currently contains in a consolidated manner, the name authority work done by a number of major institutions world-wide, mostly national libraries (http://viaf.org/). All ISNI requests (whether batch or online) are processed against the ISNI database at the Assignment Agency which includes records with both assigned and provisional status. Where a match occurs with, for example a VIAF record with provisional status, the ISNI is associated with the VIAF record and a VIAF URI added to the ISNI Reference Metadata. A notification is sent to the managers of the VIAF database which includes the ISNI identifier, core ISNI Reference Metadata (as above) and an indication of the VIAF data elements that matched. No elements of Contributed Data are conveyed to VIAF.   This is a vital step in the accurate diffusion of ISNIs across Internet databases. For a particular personal identity, the base files VIAF and MusicBrainz may already contain data elements such as birth date and linking information that are already in the public domain.

Version	Date	Comment
1.0	2012-07-17	First version
2.0	2012-11-20	General distribution
3.0	2013-09-30	Minor changes to working; changes to Contributed data and base data
4.0	2020-05-21	Minor changes to wording; modified assignment criteria on unique names added