

13-Digit ISBN

We're
Here

to Help!



Bowker™ is committed to working with the publishing industry throughout the transition from 10 to 13 digit ISBNs.

To that end, we would like to make you aware of some key points.

Questions?

- As of January 1, 2007, all book and book related products and book industry fulfillment systems should carry 13-digit ISBNs
- The U.S. ISBN Agency provides services to any publisher requesting their list of ISBN-10s to be converted to ISBN-13s. To access the free online ISBN-10/ISBN-13 converter, please visit our website at <http://isbn.org/toolkit.html>
- This 13-digit ISBN is already represented, and will be identical to current EAN-13 bar code number carrying the "978" prefix (without the hyphens)
- All 10-digit ISBNs must be converted to the 13-digit format and all systems will need to be able to accommodate its use in this format by January 2007. Bowker will send updates regularly to the publishers along with other helpful links to related sites on our website at www.isbn.org
- Now is the time to submit your title information to Books In Print. Every ISBN registered will automatically be converted to 13-digits
- As each ISBN Agency exhausts its supply of 10-digit ISBNs in various prefix ranges, the International ISBN Agency will issue complete 13-digit ISBNs carrying the new EAN prefix "979"
- The EAN prefix "979" cannot be used on existing 10-digit ISBNs
- During the transition period, all publications should carry the current EAN-13 barcode on the back cover, and the ISBN-10 and ISBN-13 should both be printed on the copyright page in order to ease the transition

Additional information relating to the ISBN-13 can be found on the U.S. ISBN Agency website at www.isbn.org/toolkit.html.

If you have any questions regarding the move to the 13-digit ISBN please contact the U.S. Agency at isbnrevision@bowker.com.

isbn



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13-Digit ISBN

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What do U.S. Publishers Need to Do by January 1, 2005?

Publishers do NOT need to change their internal systems by January 1, 2005 to handle 13-digit ISBNs. What they DO need to have in place by this date is the ability to communicate with trading partners that MAY now be using Bookland EAN-13s as part of conforming to the EAN-13 “sunrise” date. It is to be noted that this need to support EAN-13 identifiers with trading partners by this date will exist independent of any decision made by the publishing community on the overall 13-digit ISBN timetable.

Do I just add the “978” prefix to my ISBN-10 in order to convert to the ISBN-13?

NO. The ISBN-13 will not only have the “978” prefix preceding the ISBN, but the check digit of the ISBN-10 will be dropped and a new algorithm will be applied to calculate a new check digit. PLEASE do not try to convert your ISBNs by just adding the “978” prefix. The U.S. ISBN Agency now has a converter online at www.isbn.org. There is no fee to convert your 10-digit ISBNs to 13-digit ISBNs.

What procedures should I take when printing new publications? Should I be printing the ISBN-13 on my publications from now on?

It is recommended that the ISBN-13 and ISBN-10 should be printed on the verso of the title page on publications from now on. There is no need to print the ISBN-13 and ISBN-10 on the back of the publications provided there is an EAN-13 bar code. If an EAN bar code is not printed on the back cover, it is recommended that both the ISBN-13 and ISBN-10 should also be printed there in addition to the verso of the title page. This procedure, when implemented, will allow the ISBN-10 to be easily deleted from reprints after 2007 with little or no cost to the publisher/printer. Below is an example of how the ISBN-13 and ISBN-10 should be printed on publications from now on (*please note that this is a sample ISBN only*):

ISBN-13: 978-1-873671-00-9

ISBN-10: 1-873671-00-8

If my inventory of 5,000 books is sitting in my warehouse by 2007 with just the ISBN-10, how should I change the printed ISBN-10 to the ISBN-13 on my books?

Publishers will not be expected to sticker their stock with the ISBN-13 because the EAN-3 digit code that appears below the EAN bar code is identical to the ISBN-13 (without the hyphenation). The publishing industry will be able to recognize the ISBN-13 by viewing this code on the back of your publications.

The screenshot shows the 'ISBN-13 Online Converter' web page. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, FEEDBACK, ISBN US, ISBN PR, ISBN INT'L, and SAN. Below the menu is a search bar with the text 'Apply for ISBN, SAN or ISMN Below:'. The main content area features the ISBN-13 Online Converter logo on the left and a form on the right. The form is titled 'Convert your ISBN:' and contains two input fields: 'Complete 10-digit ISBN' with the value '0-8352-4686-8' and 'Complete 13-digit ISBN' with the value '978-0-8352-4686-6'. A 'SUBMIT' button is located below the second field, and a 'Clear' link is at the bottom left of the form.

Additional information relating to the ISBN-13 can be found on the U.S. ISBN Agency website at www.isbn.org/toolkit.html. If you have any questions regarding the move to the 13-digit ISBN please contact the U.S. Agency at isbnrevision@bowker.com.