



**Please reply to:**

**International ISBN Agency  
c/o EDItEUR  
39-41 North Road  
London N7 9DP  
United Kingdom**

**Tel: +44 20 7607 0021  
Fax: +44 20 7607 0415  
Email: [brian@bic.ora.uk](mailto:brian@bic.ora.uk)**

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**ISBNs and eBooks**

Book trade systems require each format of a book, whether print, audio or eBook, to be individually identified with an ISBN. This is essential for many functions throughout the supply / value chain including retail systems, bibliographic databases, library acquisition and cataloguing and sales data reporting.

The ISBN standard (ISO 2108) clearly states that *‘each different format of an electronic publication that is published and made separately available shall be given a separate ISBN.’*

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In order to ensure the continuity of ISBN-based trade systems, the International ISBN Agency has agreed that national ISBN agencies may assign registrant prefixes to eBook resellers to enable them to allocate ISBNs to individual eBook formats if, and only if, the publisher has not provided an eBook ISBN for each format, or has used a composite identifier which covers many formats.

The original publisher will appear in the bibliographic records that the resellers provide to the bibliographic agencies

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