

EDITORIAL

Implication of ISSN – 1012-8298

By Ahmed Abdulla Ahmed*

Today, the Bahrain Medical Bulletin serves as a venue for the publication of papers in the field of medicine, health and related sciences in Bahrain and has recently been indexed and given an ISSN number (1012-8298). This is a significant contribution to the dissipation of medical information about Bahrain at the national and international level.

ISSN, the International Standard Serial Number is a unique code for the identification of titles serial which can be used wherever the information on the serials is recorded or communicated. It consists of 8 digits in Arabic numerals (from 0 to 9) except for the last (ie. check digit) which can sometimes be the capital letter X. A single ISSN uniquely identifies a title regardless of language or country of publication.

The serial number applies to publications in printed form or otherwise issued in progressive numbers or chronological designations and intended to be continued indefinitely. The serials include periodicals, journals, memoirs, proceedings, transactions, newspapers, monographs, annals (reports, yearbooks, directories etc.).

The responsibility for assigning an ISSN and registering serials is vested on the International Serial Data System. ISDS operates a network of regional national centres in individual countries and an international centre in Paris. All ISSN registrations are maintained in the ISDS international data base and published in the ISDS register together with other bibliographic information.

The application include the following: (1) A single ISSN identifies any serial title in any language anywhere in the world. (2) It provides a convenient and economical method of communication between publishers and suppliers making trade distribution faster and efficient. (3) ISSN are used in the libraries for identifying titles as well as in ordering serials and claiming missing issues. (4) It simplifies inter-library loan and catalogue reporting and listing. (5) ISSN are suitable for computer linkage to assist in retrieval and transmissions of data. (6) It is an integral component of the Bar coding symbols for serials, and has also been used in legal deposit systems and in postal services. (7) It is the basis for the standard code which is being developed to identify serial issues and serial articles.

Chief of Medical Staff
Consultant Ophthalmologist
Salmaniya Medical Centre
Ministry of Health
State of Bahrain