
Indexing of Bahrain Medical Bulletin

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To do research is to seek a new knowledge or confirm a finding. To publish a research is to have self-satisfaction, to be recognised in the scientific community, to be recognised for promotional purposes and finally and the most important is to be cited in the international literature citation centres.

The most recognised centres for citation are WHO, ISDS International Centre and the Index Medicus.

WHO needs no identification, Index Medicus is U.S. local indexing system which belong to the National Institute of Health, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, USA. But this local centre has acquired an International name and recognition.

ISDS is an International centre based in Paris responsible for numbering and registering serials published by or for international organizations. All ISSN registrations are maintained in the ISDS international data base and published in the ISDS Register together with other bibliographic information. The ISDS assigns an International Standard Serial Number which is a unique code for the identification of serial titles which can be used wherever information on serials needs to be recorded or communicated. The ISSN consists of 8 digits – in arabic numerals 0 to 9 – except for the last or 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 ISSN should be as basic a part of a serial as its title. Its applications are many.

A single ISSN identifies any title in whatever language in whatever part of the world.

ISSN provide a convenient and economical method of communication between publishers and suppliers making trade distribution system faster and more efficient.

ISSN are used in libraries for identifying titles, ordering and acquisition of serials, and claiming missing issues. ISSN simplify inter-library loan systems and union catalogue reporting and listing.

ISSN are eminently suitable for computer use in file update and linkage, retrieval and transmittal of data. ISSN are used for control in legal deposit systems and postal services.

The ISSN is an integral component of bar coding symbols for serials.

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The ISSN is the basis for the standard code which is being developed and which will identify serial issues and serial articles.

The Bahrain Medical Bulletin has been indexed by the WHO since 1981 and has been assigned No. 02/81. The WHO index is available with all the medical libraries including Sh. Al-Farsi Library. The ISDS has indexed the Bahrain Medical Bulletin since September 1988 and registered it as follows :

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Abbr. key title = Bahrain med. bull

To illustrate the importance of ISSN number you only have to look at the British Medical Journal cover or the New England Journal of Medicine or any other international medical journal and you will find the ISSN number is printed there. To our authors who supported the bulletin for the last 10 years we are thankful and now we can assure them that their efforts have not gone in vain, but it will be cited by two international centres, WHO & ISDS.