April 2005

Triskaidekaphobia No More

Ann-Marie Breaux

YBP Library Services, abreaux@ybp.com

Ruth Fischer

R2 Consulting, ruth@r2consulting.org

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>

Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Breaux, Ann-Marie and Fischer, Ruth (2005) "Triskaidekaphobia No More," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 17: Iss. 2, Article 5.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.4786>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

MLA, SLA, BOOK EXPO ISSUE

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 2

Against the Grain

c/o Katina Strauch
209 Richardson Avenue
MSC 98, The Citadel
Charleston, SC 29409

TM

APRIL 2005

ISSN: 1043-2094

Against the Grain

"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"

Triskaidekaphobia No More

by **Ann-Marie Breau** (Senior Manager, Academic Services Development, YBP; Phone/Fax: 678-445-5720) <abreaux@ybp.com>

and **Ruth Fischer** (Partner, R2 Consulting; Phone: 603-746-5991; Fax: 603-746-6052) <ruth@r2consulting.org>

ISBNs serve as the lowest common denominator in the book industry.¹ They are used for identification (both to identify a particular work and to distinguish it from alternate versions), transactions (such as searching, ordering, and invoicing), and matching (for bibliographic records, deduplicating search results, marrying enhanced content with its corresponding record in the OPAC, and the like). By now you're probably at least somewhat aware that the ISBN is changing. We hope you had a chance to read **Eric Thronsdon's** excellent introductory article the December 2004/January 2005 issue of *Against the Grain* (p.84). In the current issue, we further explore ramifications of the new ISBN format with a suite of articles from a wide variety of book industry experts.

Overview

ISBNs are expanding to 13 digits, from their current 10. This is being done for a number of

reasons. The international pool of ISBNs is running low, and the ever-increasing demand for ISBNs to distinguish alternate formats such as electronic versions only hastens the drain. Similar to the growing use of 10-digit phone numbers in major metropolitan areas, increasing the length of ISBNs expands the available pool so that the book industry will not run out any time soon.

The more compelling reasons for the change are to bring the ISBN numbering system into conformity with international product numbering standards and to decrease the current book numbering systems from three to one. Some retail outlets such as supermarkets sell books via their 12-digit UPC codes rather than their ISBNs. Both the ISBN and the UPC codes will be re-expressed as 13-digit numbers, officially known as EANs. Colloquially, most booksellers continue to refer to that product number as

an ISBN, or as "ISBN-13" to distinguish it, for now, from its 10-digit counterpart.

ISBN-10s are constructed of a 9-digit number followed by a calculated 10th check digit which confirms that the preceding digits are correct and the ISBN is valid. ISBN validation helps to guard against transposed numbers and other ISBN formatting problems. All current ISBN-10s can be recalculated as ISBN-13s by removing the check digit, adding 978 at the beginning, and recalculating the check digit. Be-

continued on page 18

If Rumors Were Horses

How will we ever replace him? He was truly a whirlwind. I remember asking him if he would keynote a **Charleston Conference** and he said that he did not make public appearances. I never met him but I always hoped to. From the **Haworth Press** Website — "**Dr. William (Bill) Katz** passed away on September 12, 2004. Dr. Katz was Editor of the **Haworth** journals *The Acquisitions Librarian* and *The Reference Librarian* as well as *Magazines for Libraries*, *RQ* (the journal of the Reference and Adult Services Division of the American Library Association), and the "Magazines" column in *Library Journal*. In addition to his countless contributions to library science as an author and editor, he was a much-beloved professor in the **School of Information Science and Policy** at the **State University of New York at Albany** and a mentor to many of his former students in their professional lives. His association with **The Haworth Press** began in 1980 and lasted more than two decades. His steady hand, friendly guidance, and

steadfast leadership will be missed by all of us. May he rest in peace. "Memoria illius et nomen sepulchro effundet gloriam aeternam." "His memory and name shall shed an eternal glory on his resting-place." <http://www.haworthpress.com/newreleases/obituaries.asp>

After more than 33 years as **Vice President and General Manager of Walter de Gruyter, Inc.** Eckart Scheffler will retire as of June 30, 2005. After establishing **de Gruyter's** U.S. branch in 1971, **Mr. Scheffler** was responsible for building a successful operation in New York. Beginning with two people in a small office in the **Flatiron Building**, with book distribution being handled by **Adler's Foreign Books**, it soon became necessary to move to larger quarters. The 1976 acquisition of **Mouton Publishers** added

continued on page 6

What To Look For In This Issue:

<i>Architecture Books Every Library Should Have</i>	53
<i>The Top Ten Intellectual Property Cases of the Past 25 Years</i>	58
<i>ATG Annual Survey Report</i>	70
<i>Ten Management Tips for Recent Graduates</i>	72
<i>Issues in Vendor/Library Relations — How Was ALA?</i>	84
<i>Technology Left Behind</i>	88
<i>Profiles Encouraged</i>	
<i>John Krafty</i>	20
<i>Ann-Marie Breau</i>	22
<i>Wendell Lotz</i>	28
<i>Frances McNamara</i>	38
<i>Christy Allen</i>	73

Interviews

<i>Troy Williams</i>	42
<i>Eckart Scheffler</i>	80

1043-2094(200504)17:2:1-W

Triskaidekaphobia No More from page 1

change is that ISBN-13s will always end in a digit, never an X.

cause a new check algorithm is being used, one side benefit of the

Many people have been working hard to spread the word. The **Book Industry Study Group (BISG)** has issued guidelines aimed to make the transition period as stable and transparent as possible (<http://www.bisg.org/pi/index.html>). The **ALCTS Publisher-Vendor-Library**

Once the pool of 978 ISBNs is exhausted, new ISBNs will begin with 979. 979-ISBNs will not be backwards-convertible to ISBN-10s, since the 9-digit "core" (obtained by removing the 979 and the check digit) will duplicate the core of a different title's 978-ISBN.

The "due date" for this change is January 1, 2007. By then, all of our systems should be able to recognize ISBN-13s and to communicate using them exclusively. Before then, much work needs to be done to make our systems and transactions ISBN-13 compliant. Though all books must continue to carry ISBN-10s through 2006, ISBN-13s are already showing up. Publishers are beginning to assign them to forthcoming works, and the Library of Congress is starting to include them in CIP cataloging records. Several weeks ago, YBP's warehouse received our first book bearing only an ISBN-13. Fortunately we were able to calculate the 10-digit equivalent and find the appropriate record in our system.

Some recent examples, taken from title page versos and back covers of books in YBP's warehouse:

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Wasserstein, Wendy.
Sloth / Wendy Wasserstein.
p. cm.— (The Seven Deadly Sins)
ISBN-13: 978-0-19-516630-9
ISBN-10: 0-19-516630-2

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOGING-IN-PUBLICATION DATA
Lydenberg, Steven D.

Corporations and the public interest : guiding the invisible hand / by Steven Lydenberg.
p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-57675-291-3

No ISBN-10 given

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data available upon request
ISBN 0-312-33125-8
EAN 978-0312-33125-2

Relations Interest Group (PVLIR) recently sponsored an open forum on ISBN-13 at Midwinter. At that forum, representatives from a number of segments in the book supply chain presented ISBN-13 information from their particular viewpoints. In the following pages, those presenters along with several other stakeholders, provide a thorough portrait of the impact of ISBN-13.

Contributors to this Issue

First up is an explanation of Bowker's role as a regional ISBN agency, by John Krafty. Next is an article on implementation of ISBN-13 in the CIP and LCCN programs by David Bucknum of the Library of Congress. Following that, Greg Giblin from Wiley describes some issues publishers will need to consider when transitioning to the new ISBN standard. Wendell Lotz from Ingram presents the complexities facing materials vendors, and Terry Willan from Talis outlines the numerous ways ISBNs are utilized in integrated library systems. Glenn Patton from OCLC explains a WorldCat interim treatment for ISBN-13s. Some specifics related to EDI are covered by Eric Thronson of BISG's Internet Commerce Committee. Finally, Frances McNamara from the University of Chicago discusses ISBN-13s from a library's perspective. Elsewhere in this issue you'll also find Pat Harris's Technology and Standards column that offers a look at ISBN-13 from NISO's viewpoint. We'd like to thank each of our writers for their valuable contributions and insights.

We invite you to share your ISBN-13 stories by emailing either of us. Though we're all facing a bit of work in the coming year, we look forward to putting this conversion task behind us so that books will move through the supply chain as quickly and efficiently as ever.

Endnotes

1. Substantial portions of this article appeared first online as "ISBN-13 and YBP," *Academia*, March 2005, http://www.ybp.com/acad/features/0305_isbn13.html.

Rumors

from page 16

U.K. institutions using Innovative systems. Edge Hill will be working with Innovative as a development partner in their Short Messaging Service (SMS) Initiative, which will allow the library to send text messages to patron's mobile phones to alert them that reserved items are on the shelf. Students will get an immediate notification from their mobile phone rather than waiting until they next

continued on page 34