ISSN portal and customer extranet

Lisa Romano

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/lisa_romano/14/
article metadata and spit out a report on which of the articles are available OA—a convenient way to assess the potential value of DeliverOA.

The Button can prove buggy. A URL query may produce zero results or an error, whereas a DOI query for the exact same article may produce a full-text version. Odd error messages are commonplace. For example, attempting to locate a certain 2017 *Serials Librarian* article using the Button returned not only an item-not-found message but also the title of a totally unrelated 2016 United States court case. The article in question (doi:10.1080/0361526X.2017.1309843) was in fact already open access on the publisher site. In addition to developing more consistent and precise performance, the Button should document its history, mission, and nonprofit status on its official website. It should link prominently to the service’s privacy policy and terms of use and document its data, sources, and algorithms in one place. Transparency is vital to openness.

Notwithstanding these reservations, the Open Access Button is a useful tool that seeks to deliver point-of-need access to scholarly journal articles. The Button is simple to install and use and its integration into ILL workflows holds promise. But it is only the longest established of several browser tools designed to deliver free access to full-text articles. Future reviews by this author in *Technical Services Quarterly* will compare the Open Access Button with Unpaywall, Kopernio, and other emerging browser-based solutions to the problem of locating full text.

Rating: 4 out of 5

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### ISSN portal and customer extranet

https://portal.issn.org/

The International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) portal and customer extranet from the ISSN Centre provides access to an international database of information about print and online journals, magazines, newspapers, newsletters, scholarly blogs, and open access scholarly resources. Currently, the site is available in English, French, and Spanish.

The home page of the site displays a map indicating the number of serials published by region. Clicking on one of the circles shows the publications for that area. For some regions, users can refine their search even further by clicking additional circles. Unfortunately, some of the circles (such as the one for the United States) do not allow refining the search to a smaller area.

A search box at the top of the page lets users locate serial information by keyword, ISSN, or title. After entering a search term, the matching results appear. There are entries for both the print and online serials with associated icons. The results include the title, ISSN, country published, uniform resource locator (URL), and status. A column on the left side of the page allows further refining by medium, open access, record status, and country. The associated count is included. There is also a modify search button to
change the search terms. At the top of the results, there are options to change the list to a map, sort (relevance, a to z, z to a, newest, and oldest), and the number of results to appear on a page (from 5 to 100). To navigate multiple result pages, browse buttons are handily located at the top and bottom of the page.

Clicking on a title or icon of a result shows additional information including last modification date, which ISSN Centre is responsible for the record, identifiers (such as linking and incorrect ISSNs), and external links. Multiple serials can be selected by clicking on the plus sign next to the item or the select all link on the results page. On the right side of the results and detail pages, there are tools to share on social media, print, and display linked data.

Across the top of all site page, there are links to the publisher’s area, discover ISSN services, search open access resources, and ISSN International Centre. The publisher’s area is login controlled and this review covers the open part of the site. The discover ISSN services area offers an overview of the site while the ISSN International Centre area provides information on the center itself. The search open access resource area allows users to check open access resources. This area is called ROAD (Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources) and functions similarly to the main ISSN portal site.

Plus, there is a link to the advanced search, to locate serials by title, ISSN, country, URL, medium, and category of material. The last four options are available from the final drop down. This is a little confusing as the user may not think to check the drop down arrow. These four options can be combined using the plus signs. The title can be checked by all, key title, or key and variant title. ISSN can be limited to ISSN or ISSN-L (linking ISSN). Boolean operators (and/or/not) are available to combine ISSN and title searches. Along the left side of the page, more filters are available: medium, type of record, and open access.

Across the bottom of all pages, there are links to general terms and conditions (GTU), licence (license contract), contact, newsletter, frequently asked questions (FAQ), and data sources. The GTU and licence areas contain terms of use and some site definitions. Newsletter provides access to archived newsletters and a link to subscribe. It would be nice to have this subscribe link on the home page. Data sources list the sources used to enrich the records. The FAQ provides some helpful background and detailed site usage information. Unfortunately, it is buried on the bottom of the site and should be more prominently displayed.

The icons used help for international translation, but could be a little more distinct. Additionally, the map searching could use tweaking or fixing as the search seems inconsistent. Plus, downloading records, uploading multiple ISSNs, and date search are only available to subscribing users. On a small mobile device such as a phone, the ISSN portal offers a strip down version of the site lacking some of the refine features such as the map. The ISSN portal contains valuable information for technical service professionals and is worth checking out.

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