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Second edition
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Information and documentation — Digital object identifier system

*Information et documentation — Système d'identifiant numérique
d'objet*



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Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 DOI name	3
4.1 Syntax.....	3
4.1.1 General characteristics.....	3
4.1.2 DOI prefix.....	4
4.1.3 DOI suffix.....	5
4.2 Visual presentation and other representation of DOI names.....	5
4.2.1 Screen and print presentation.....	5
4.2.2 URI presentation.....	5
4.2.3 Other representations.....	6
5 Assignment of DOI name	6
5.1 Principles of assignment.....	6
5.2 Granularity.....	6
5.3 Description.....	7
5.4 Uniqueness.....	7
5.5 Persistence.....	7
6 Resolution of DOI name	7
6.1 General.....	7
6.2 Functionality.....	8
7 DOI metadata	8
7.1 General.....	8
7.2 Functionality.....	9
7.3 Registration of DOI metadata.....	9
8 Administration of the DOI system	9
Annex A (normative) Relationship between the DOI system and other identifier schemes	10
Annex B (normative) DOI metadata specification	12
Annex C (normative) Administration of the DOI system	14
Annex D (informative) Transition from ISO 26324:2012 to ISO 26324:2022	16
Bibliography	18

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 26324:2012), which has been technically revised. The main changes are as follows.

- The requirement that the directory indicator be “10” has been removed.
- The registration authority now has the ability to assign DOI prefixes with a directory indicator other than “10” (including prefixes consisting of a directory indicator alone), allowing existing identification schemes with a compatible syntax to request that those schemes become part of the DOI system.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

The digital object identifier (DOI®¹⁾) system provides an infrastructure for persistent unique identification of objects of any type.

DOI is an initialism for “digital object identifier”, meaning a “digital identifier of an object” rather than an “identifier of a digital object”. In this document, the term “digital object identifier” refers to the system defined in this document, unless otherwise stated. The DOI system was initiated by the International DOI Foundation in 1998, and initially developed with the collaboration of some participants in ISO/TC 46/SC 9. Due to its application in the fields of information and documentation and previous collaboration with some ISO/TC 46/SC 9 participants, it was introduced as a possible work item in 2004 and further developed from 2006 to 2010.

The DOI system offers a useful set of functionalities, including:

- persistence, if material is moved, rearranged, or bookmarked,
- interoperability with other data from other sources,
- extensibility by adding new features and services through management of groups of DOI names,
- single management of data for multiple output formats (platform independence),
- class management of applications and services, and
- dynamic updating of metadata, applications and services.

The DOI system is designed to work over the Internet. A DOI name is permanently assigned to an object to provide a resolvable persistent network link to current information about that object, including where the object, or information about it, can be found on the Internet. While information about an object can change over time, its DOI name will not change. A DOI name can be resolved within the DOI system to values of one or more types of data relating to the object identified by that DOI name, such as a URL, an e-mail address, other identifiers and descriptive metadata.

The DOI system enables the construction of automated services and transactions. Applications of the DOI system include but are not limited to managing information and documentation location and access; managing metadata; facilitating electronic transactions; persistent unique identification of any form of any data; and commercial and non-commercial transactions.

The content of an object associated with a DOI name is described unambiguously by DOI metadata, based on a structured extensible data model that enables the object to be associated with metadata of any desired degree of precision and granularity to support description and services. The data model supports interoperability between DOI applications.

The scope of the DOI system is not defined by reference to the type of content (format, etc.) of the referent, but by reference to the functionalities it provides and the context of use. The DOI system provides, within networks of DOI applications, for unique identification, persistence, resolution, metadata and semantic interoperability.

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