



SERVING AUTHORS WORLDWIDE
AU SERVICE DES AUTEURS DANS LE MONDE
AL SERVICIO DE LOS AUTORES EN EL MUNDO

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Document prepared by SaorServices

ISWC Resolution Service Quick Guide for Publishers

1 Introduction

The key purpose of the ISWC Resolution Service is to deliver a same/next day ISWC for existing works once the mandatory data requirements are provided, via either JSON format or a Flat File format. Before accessing these services, Publishers will first undergo a test cycle to ensure the required specifications are being met.

This document will help guide Publishers through the initial test cycle for the ISWC Resolution Service before being onboarded to the live service after test files have been processed successfully.

This document can be either sent directly to Publishers or used as a template to allow for the inclusion of specific information or rebranding as required.

2 Documentation and Sample Files

The below documents will be provided to all Publishers and are also available at <https://cisaciswcuat.portal.azure-api.net/PublisherResolution>

- SPE_20200120_ISWC_AllocationAndResolutionSolution Release Version
- Sample Submission and ACK Files for both JSON and Flat File formats

3 ISWC Resolution Service

NOTE: ISWCs returned during the test cycle are not genuine ISWCs and should not be disseminated by the Society or Publisher.

The ISWC Resolution Service allows Publishers to retrieve ISWCs for existing / back catalogue works. Unlike the ISWC Allocation Service, it will not generate ISWCs for works which do not have one.

Publishers retrieve existing ISWCs by submitting Title and all Creator data for a work. In April 2023, a new feature was deployed allowing Publishers an enhanced search option where not all creator data is known e.g. uncontrolled writers. Publishers may now also choose to include an agency work code in their submission data for the IRS. Where an agency work code is included, the IRS will search initially on Title (a minimum threshold of 90% similarity must be met for a match) + Agency Work Code. If a match is found, the ISWC will be returned along with (for JSON users) all Creator IPs regardless of the number of IPs submitted. In December 2025, the requirement for at least one Creator IP to be submitted as part of this search was removed. If no match is found based on Title + Agency Work Code, the system defaults back to the standard search using Title + Creators (if provided).

To commence UAT for the ISWC Resolution Service, Publishers must sign the required Terms and Conditions with CISAC by contacting pubnet@cisac.org

Once these are signed, Publishers will undergo the following steps:

1. Confirm the CWR submitter code and IPI number which they will use for the service (*IPI number must be linked to the submitter code and associated with Society offering the service*)
2. Confirm if they will be using a JSON or Flat File format
3. Generate a test File with a minimum of 10k works (if their repertoire can exceed this) and a maximum of 50k works in their chosen format complying to the specification and sample files.
4. Confirm with CISAC, their FTP folder location & credentials for uploading files & retrieving ACKs.
5. Submit the test File to the 'In' folder of their FTP
6. Successfully retrieve the ACK File once the service has processed the submission file.
7. Verify Publisher software can ingest the ACK File and interpret error codes (examples below)

Following these steps, analysis will be done on the results by CISAC to determine no issues in the data. A recommendation is then made that the publisher is approved to the live environment, whereupon live FTP details will be issued for use.

4 Common Error Codes

This section lists the most common error codes generated by the ISWC Allocation service. A comprehensive list of all error codes can be found in section 7.1 of the document: *ISWCIA20-0961_ISWC_Allocation_Service_Onboarding_Publishers_2020-09-11_EN*

Error Code	Message
102	I.P. Name Number is required
106	I.P. Role Code is required
111	At least one creator I.P. is required
134	I.P. Name Number is invalid, must be numeric
137	IP Name Number must be status 1 or 2 and exist in the IPI database
138	Source Society Database Code is invalid
139	I.P. Role Code is invalid
148	I.P. is not accepted
163	No matching Preferred ISWC has been found
164	Multiple matching ISWCs have been found