



## International Standardobook Numbers (ISBN) *What Are They ... and, Why Are They So Important???*

Since 2007, the ISBN has been a 13-digit number that uniquely identifies books and book-like products published internationally. Previously, the ISBN was a ten-digit number.

### What is the purpose of an ISBN?

- The purpose of the ISBN is to establish and **identify one title or edition of a title** from one specific publisher and is unique to that edition, allowing for more efficient marketing of products by booksellers, libraries, universities, wholesalers and distributors.

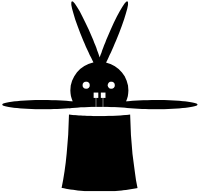
### What are the unique characteristics of an ISBN?

Each format or binding must have a separate ISBN. Once assigned, an ISBN can never be reused. An ISBN is printed on the **lower portion of the back cover of a book above the bar code and on the copyright page.**

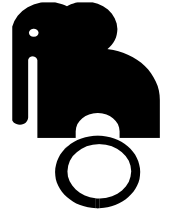
- Examples of formats which require a unique ISBN include:
  - Hardcover versions of textbooks
  - Paperbound versions of textbooks
  - Florida Editions of textbooks
  - National Editions of textbooks
  - Teacher's Editions of textbooks
  - Examination copies of textbooks (often shared with districts during district new adoption process)
  - Revised editions of textbooks
  - E-book format of textbooks that are purchased from publisher
  - VHS video
  - Laserdisc
  - etc.
- Some ISBNs end in an "x," in which case enter the "x" into the search string.

### Does the ISBN-13 have any meaning imbedded in the numbers?

- The five parts of an ISBN are as follows:
  1. The current ISBN-13 will be prefixed by "978" ... usually;
  2. **Group or country identifier** which identifies a national or geographic grouping of publishers;
  3. **Publisher identifier** which identifies a particular publisher within a group;
  4. **Title identifier** which identifies a particular title or edition of a title;
  5. Check digit is the single digit at the end of the ISBN which validates the ISBN.





## Tricks and Tips to Identifying the **Correct ISBN!**



When searching for an ISBN, school-based staff members often give the District Digital Rights Manager (DRM) the ISBN of the book that is sitting on top of their desk at the time. That version of the textbook may be a Teacher's Edition of the textbook or an Examination Copy of the textbook given to the school by the publisher's representative. ***In either situation, the ISBN would be different than the ISBN of the Student Edition of the textbook!***

The following are TIPS to identifying the correct ISBN :

- Ask the school-based staff **to make a copy of back cover of Student Edition** of the textbook or **a copy of the copyright page**
- Check the **Florida Catalog of State-Adopted Instructional Materials**  
[https://app1.fldoe.org/BII/Instruct\\_Mat/InstMatCatalog/](https://app1.fldoe.org/BII/Instruct_Mat/InstMatCatalog/)  
Click the link above; enter ISBN; click "Search"
- Check the **Florida School Book Depository (FSBD)**  
[http://www.fsbd.com/browse\\_search.asp](http://www.fsbd.com/browse_search.asp)  
Click the link above; enter ISBN (10 digit) or ISBN13; click "Search"  
(Unique login and password are not required to access search function at FSBD.)
- **Google the ISBN** (the actual number, itself, without hyphens) –  
Even though the purpose of this is to ensure the accuracy of the ISBN, you may also be surprised to see used copies of student textbooks available for sale at a reduced cost.

 **IMPORTANT NOTE:**   
Do NOT enter the hyphens of the ISBN  
when searching any database.