

The ISO ILL Protocol: a “State of the Standard” Report

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Library and Archives
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Why was the ILL Protocol created?

- To allow libraries to exchange interlibrary loan requests and responses electronically, even when using different systems
- To provide a common structure for ILL requests
 - Thereby improving their tracking and management

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What’s in the standards?

- Definitions and specifications of the ILL process, including:
 - Number and type of messages involved in the request process
 - Data included within each message
 - Sequence of messages
 - Syntax of messages

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ILL Protocol: a chronology

- 1980s: developed as a standard of the Canadian Standards Association
- 1991: ISO 10160, 10161
- 1997: 2nd edition, plus 10161-2
- 2004: 3rd edition approved
 - And then withdrawn
- 2007: 2nd edition confirmed for 5 more years

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Who looks after these standards?

- ISO Technical Committee 46: Information and Documentation
- Subcommittee 4: Technical Interoperability
- ILL Protocol Implementers Group (IPIG)
- ILL Application Standards Maintenance Agency

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How the ILL Environment Looks Today

- Fewer systems and vendors than we imagined
- Libraries forming consortia and networks based around a common system
- Ease of access via Internet
- Changing visions of resource sharing

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Thank you

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