Digital Identifiers – the new ISBNs

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Central Theme

- Explosion of web activity is far exceeding capacity of Government infrastructure to manage the publication & life cycle of official information
- What we are seeing is gradual replication of appropriate publishing disciplines within the context of a multiple media world
Quote From a Major Pan-government Tender

• “(The organisation) intend to increase their online presence and wish to move towards web-based only publications for practical, financial and environmental reasons”

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“...publication in electronic format alone does not fully meet the obligations of Government or official bodies to publish those documents for which they are responsible ...

...there needs to be some procedure for ensuring that the corresponding Final Report is made available as a printed publication, with all the safeguards of copyright deposit, bibliographic control...”

* Standing Committee On Official Publications
Replicating the “Trading” Infrastructure

- Digital Identifiers, encompassing ISBNs for print and web manifestations
- Securing reliable linking
- Building traffic over time
- Tracking throughout the life cycle – copyright deposit, persistence during lifetime, archiving
- Providing assurance and reliability
Versioning with DOI - Assurance

DOI: 10.1786/239086731

= the reference point
= e.g. Regulatory advice note for drug dispensation

Permanent reference
Does not change
But always referencing latest version

Links to resource for current and previous versions
DOI: 10.1786.239086730 = advice of 31/03/04
DOI: 10.1786.239086729 = advice of 23/02/04
DOI: 10.1786.239086728 = advice of 07/01/04
DOI: 10.1786.239086727 = advice of 30/11/03

Embedded in user desktop application / web output.
Permanent, reliable, assured (name to link does not change)
Government sector adoption - progress

- Policy – Office of the e-Envoy
- European Community – OPOCE
- Scottish Government
TSO development

- Publishers of UKOP (*United Kingdom Official Publications*)
- First DOI Registration Agency in Europe
- Established portal ([www.tsoid.com](http://www.tsoid.com))
- Commercial customers
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