



The International DOI Foundation

Washington & Oxford

## DOI Registration Agency MEDRA to be launched in Italy, Germany, France and Spain

June 6, 2003

The International DOI Foundation and MEDRA announced today the completion of formal steps to appoint MEDRA as an official DOI Registration Agency with services for Italy, Germany, France and Spain.

In September 2002 a project was announced within the eContent programme of the European Commission to create a multi-application Multilingual European DOI Registration Agency, with the endorsement of the International DOI Foundation (see DOI News September 2002: <http://www.doi.org/news/020913-TSO.html>). An aim of the project was to create a new entity to continue as one of the DOI Registration Agencies.

MEDRA, the Multilingual European DOI Registration Agency, will become a DOI Registration Agency with effect from July 1 2003, whilst the launch of the first release of the system is planned for November 2003. MEDRA will be a company backed by the five partner organisations of the original MEDRA project: AIE, the Italian Publishers Association (co-ordinator); MVB – a company of the German publishers association, the ISBN agency for German language; SNE – French Publishers Association; Editrain – Spanish publishing services company; and CINECA – Italian technology provider, a consortium of 18 Italian universities.

MEDRA will initially offer DOI registration in Italy, Germany, France and Spain, with an initial service offering comprising:

- Persistent citation system for Internet documents. MEDRA will add to the DOI persistence functionality (resolution from a DOI to a URL) a managed service including a regular check of the URLs registered in the service; procedures and appropriate messages to publishers and end users in case of change, temporary or definitive removal of the document from the Internet. The aim will be to implement persistence by always reaching the best information available about that document.
- Relation tracking between intellectual property entities. This will offer to users and/or intermediaries such as booksellers, librarians, etc. a managed service defining relations such as "A is part of B" (a chapter of a book; a journal article, etc.), "A is a translation of B", "a new edition", "a different product form" etc. By defining bilateral relations, the service will offer an extended map of relations such as "A is a part of B that is a translation of C, that is a new edition of D". The service will draw on the precise definitions of entities and relations offered by use of structured metadata in DOI Application Profiles
- Deposit of Intellectual Property works: certification of legal deposit including time stamping and digital signature. The service will offer, for materials identified with a DOI, additional functions relating to copyright certification within European legislation.

Norman Paskin, Director of the International DOI Foundation, said: "We are pleased to welcome MEDRA, building on both the work of the EC project and the IDF's structured data framework, to extend DOI applications to significant new language sectors of the publishing industry".

Piero Attanasio, of Associazione Italiana Editori, the MEDRA co-ordinator, said: "MEDRA was born as a project within the eContent programme of the European Commission. It





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addresses mainly the continental European market and focuses on multi-lingual e-content, which can now benefit from DOI use. These characteristics make mEDRA system particularly suitable for European small and medium enterprises”.

For further information on DOI, see [www.doi.org](http://www.doi.org)

For further information on MEDRA, see [www.medra.org](http://www.medra.org)

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The DOI is a system for interoperably identifying and exchanging intellectual property in the digital environment. A DOI assigned to content enhances a content producer's ability to trade electronically.

It provides a framework for managing content in any form at any level of granularity, for linking customers with content suppliers, for facilitating electronic commerce, and enabling automated copyright management for all types of media. The International DOI Foundation, a non-profit organization, manages development, policy and licensing of the DOI to registration agencies and technology providers and advises on usage and development of related services and technologies. The DOI system uses open standards with a standard syntax (ANSI/NISO Z39.84) and is currently used by leading international technology and content organizations.

This is a service announcement for the International Digital Object Identifier foundation and has been prepared to increase you awareness about important developments to enable digital copyright management of intellectual property. For more information, please contact [info@doi.org](mailto:info@doi.org).

