

Context and Rationale for Motion to Assign ISBNs to the Conference Web Proceedings

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This report provides the context and rationale for the motion to assign International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) to the conference web [proceedings](#).

Until 2014, the SDS assigned ISBNs to conference proceedings. In 2014, authors were [encouraged](#) to submit abbreviated papers instead of full papers for the proceedings, and the use of the ISBN was discontinued for web proceedings. ISBNs are still used for the printed and digital (CD-ROM) [proceedings](#) that are available for purchase from Curran, a third-party publisher.

In 2018, the web proceedings were relabeled as a Conference Record, and the SDS introduced a new conference [format](#) to welcome a wider variety of submission types, including Practitioner Applications and Work in Progress (WIP) Descriptions as well as Research Papers. In this new format, only authors of Plenary, Parallel, and Poster presentations were asked to submit material for the Conference Record, and only the abstract was included for other types (WIP, Feedback, and Workshop). In all cases, authors could include a hyperlink providing further information about them or their work.

The change in 2018 to including only the abstract in the Conference Record for a good portion of submissions, combined with the emergence of a number of archival online publishing outlets that go through no substantive review, suggests that the SDS should rethink its strategy for conference web proceedings to distinguish them from other material available online. Though not as rigorous as journal review, the conference proceedings are fully refereed, and they also form a permanent and invariant record once published to the web. Calling them “The Proceedings of the xxxx International System Dynamics Conference” and assigning them an ISBN acknowledges this.

Thus, both the Society Programs Oversight Committee (SPOC) and the Publications Committee recommend the assignment of an ISBN and rebranding the Conference Record as Proceedings going forward. The use of an ISBN as an established publishing identifier affirms the legitimacy of the Proceedings as a refereed body of work presented at the ISDC and adds to the publication value of presenting work at the conference.

All material presented at the conference will have the title, authors, and abstract included as part of the web Proceedings. Authors of Research Papers and Practitioner Applications delivered as a Plenary, Parallel, Poster, or Table Talk presentation may submit a paper, extended abstract, poster, or set of slides to be included in the Proceedings, in addition to models and other supplementary material useful for understanding the results presented. Authors choose what to include, since whatever is submitted to the Proceedings should never prevent them from publishing elsewhere.

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