

A photograph showing a row of various national flags flying on tall poles against a clear blue sky. The flags include the United States, France, Greece, and others. In the background, a modern building with a glass facade is visible. A semi-transparent blue box is overlaid on the lower part of the image, containing the text.

# International Cooperation, Resource Sharing and Standardization in LIS

# Cooperation & resource sharing

- Terminology
  - Difference between “cooperation” and “resource sharing”
  - Implications of “sharing”
  - Prerequisites?
- Areas of resource sharing
  - What resources can be shared?

# Resource sharing strategies

- Centralized vs decentralized
  - British Library Document Supply Centre
    - Boston Spa, Yorkshire, 1962
    - Originally National Lending Library for Science & Technology
  - Germany: Sondersammelgebiete
  - Scandinavia: Scania Plan
  - USA: Farmington Plan, RLG, CRL, OCLC
- Discipline-based vs general
- Appropriate for developing countries?

# “Universal” schemes

- UBC: Universal Bibliographic Control
- UAP: Universal Availability of Publications
- Roles of:
  - IFLA (“Core programmes”)
  - UNESCO
  - British Library (Maurice B Line on UAP)
- Theory:
  - Each country responsible for its own output
    - National bibliographies
    - National union catalogs
  - International mechanisms for exchange/sharing

# The British Library Document Supply Centre, Boston Spa, Yorkshire



Maurice B. Line



Aerial photograph: British Library; Portrait: Ariadne,  
<http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue13/main/mb1.gif>

# Asymmetries in document supply

- Predominance of major suppliers (net lenders)
  - Examples
    - British Library Document Supply Centre
    - CISTI (Canada)
    - TIB (Technische Universitätsbibliothek Hannover)
  - Push-back from private sector
  - Intellectual property issues
- Dependence relations
  - Lack of domestic resource sharing development
  - UNESCO coupons

# OCLC: *de facto* UBC & UAP?



Founded 1967

Ohio College Library  
Center

Today: “OCLC  
Online Library  
Computer Center,  
Inc.

Image: Rtenant,  
[flickr.com/photos/rtenant/576286211/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/rtenant/576286211/)



# OCLC

[At a glance](#)

[A global catalog](#)

[A suite of integrated services](#)

['Web scale' discovery and delivery](#)

[Facts and statistics](#)

[Join WorldCat](#)

[Promote WorldCat in your library](#)

[National libraries in WorldCat](#)

[Watch WorldCat grow \(LIVE\)](#)

[WorldCat Record Use Policy](#)

[Subscribe to OCLC updates and offers](#)

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## WorldCat facts and statistics

**72,000**

Number of libraries represented worldwide

**1,825,640,151**

Number of holdings

[Watch WorldCat grow](#) »

**170**

Countries and territories with library holdings in WorldCat

[View the list](#) »

**Every 10 seconds**

How often a record is added

**Over 470**

Number of languages and dialects represented

**Every 4 seconds**

How often a request is filled through [WorldCat Resource Sharing](#)

**Every second**

How often WorldCat is searched via [FirstSearch](#)

**264,068,770**

Number of bibliographic records



# Industry dominance

Power of the markets:

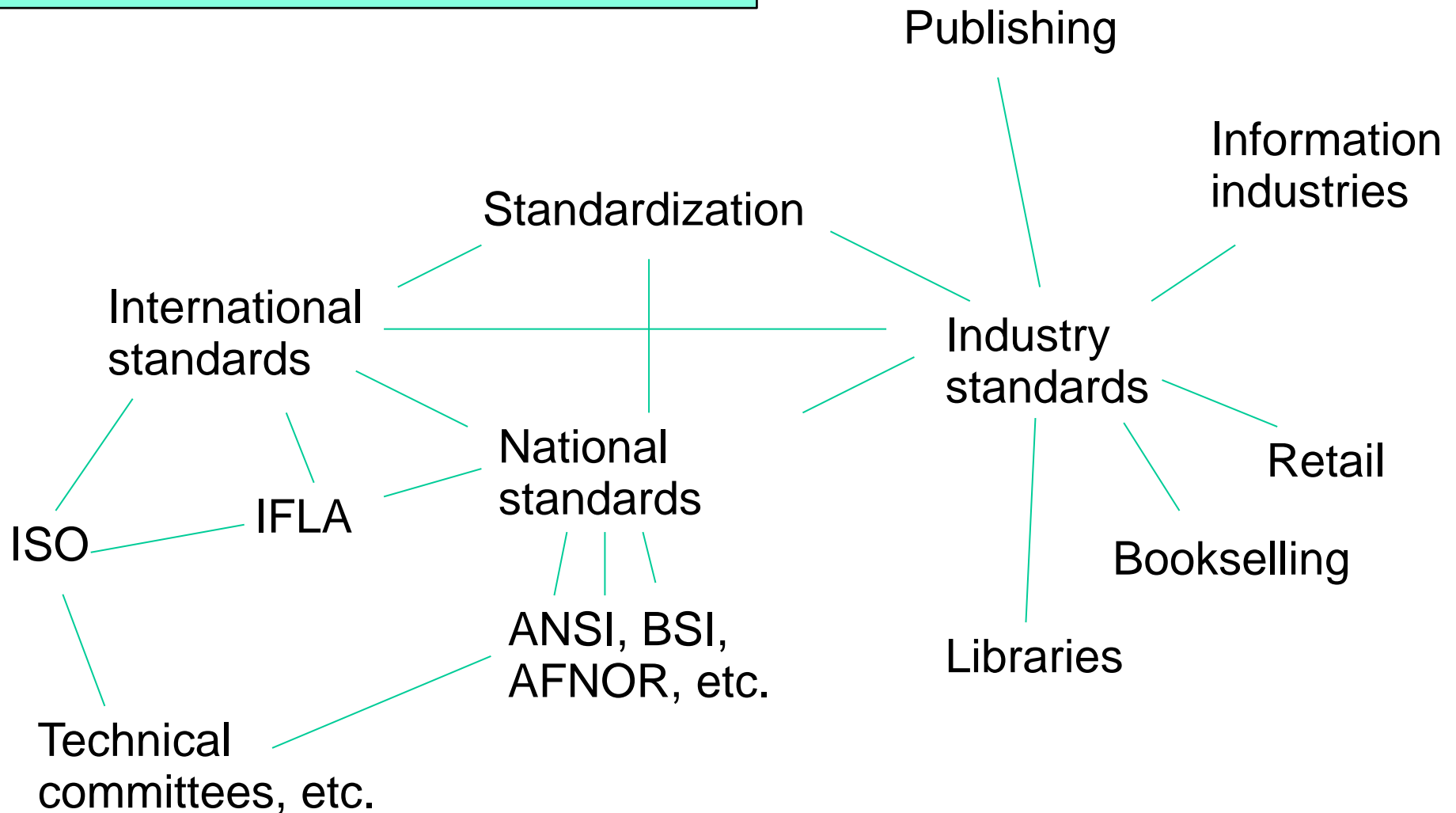
Dewey, LCC vs. UDC

LCSH vs. PRECIS etc.

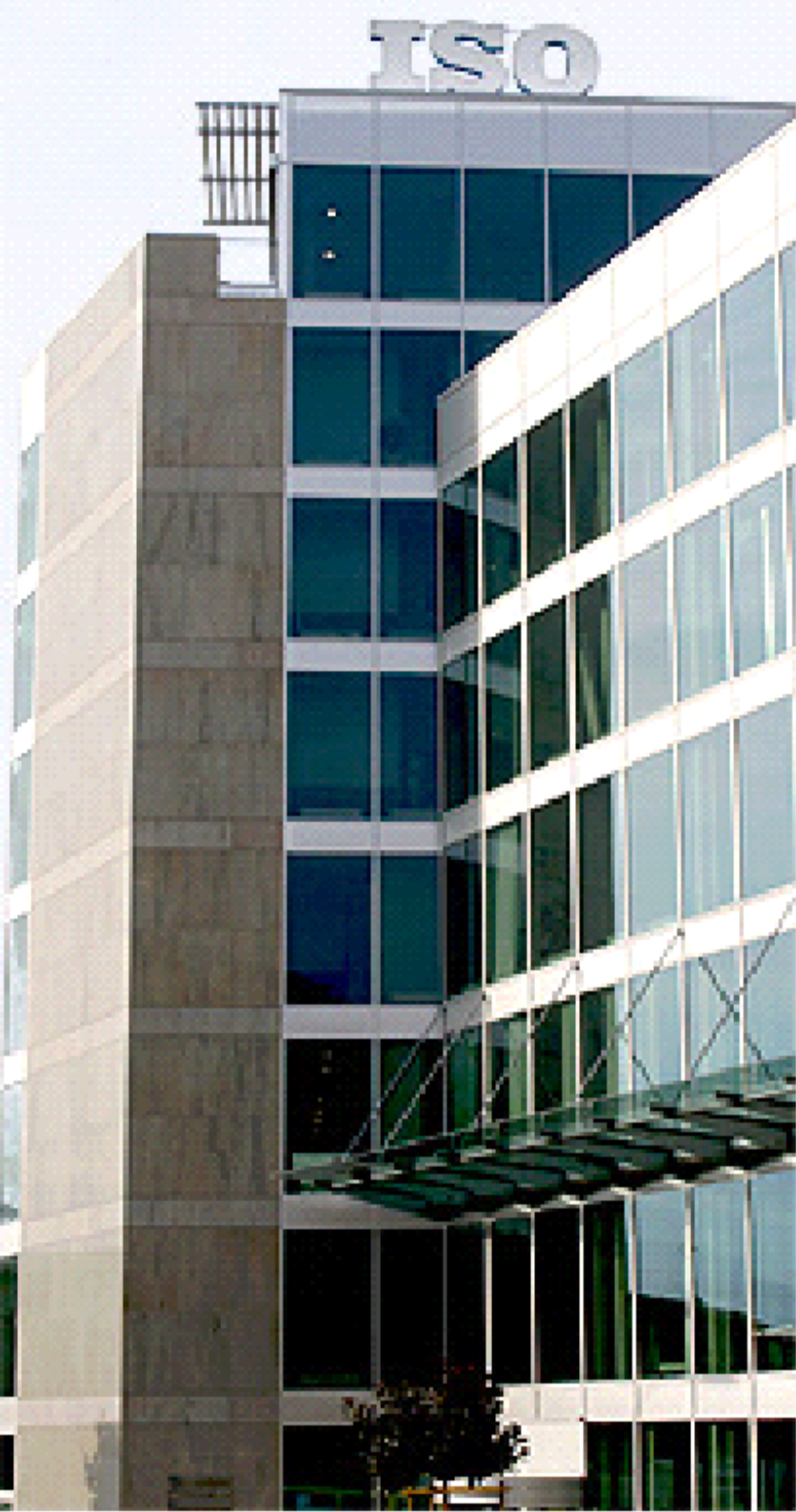
USMARC, MARC21 vs. UNIMARC

Demise of CANMARC, UKMARC, SAMARC etc.

# Standardization



See inter alia: Hopkinson, Alan. 2004. International standards for global information. In Kesselman, Martin Alan & Weintraub, Irwin. (eds) *Global librarianship*; New York: Marcel Dekker: 219-256. (Chapter 16)

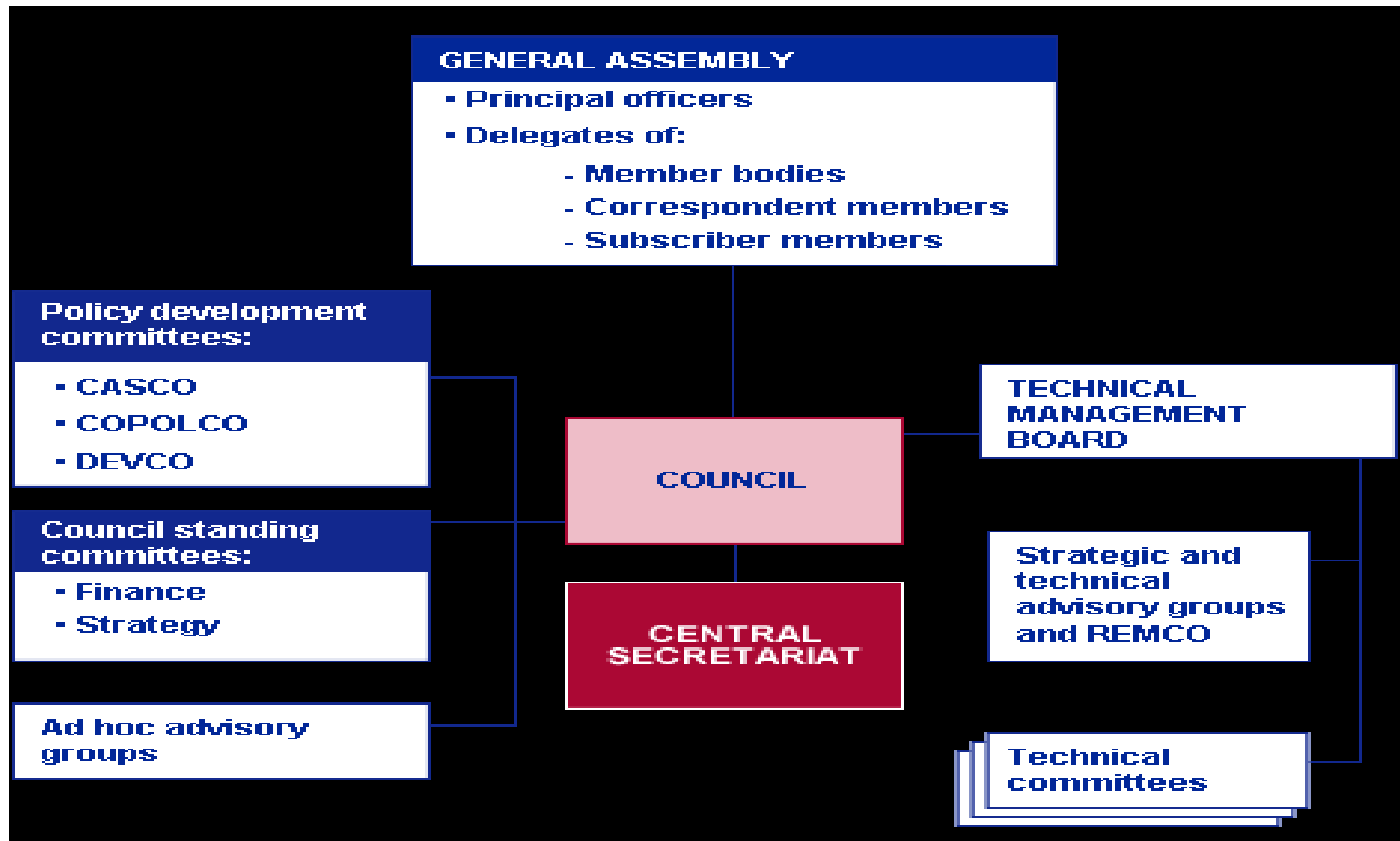


# ISO: International Organization for Standardization

- Not an acronym: "ISO", derived from the Greek *isos*, meaning "equal".
- International non-governmental organization
- A network of national standards institutes in 159 countries
- Central Secretariat in Geneva
- <http://www.iso.org/iso/about.htm>

Image: ISO, <http://www.iso.org/iso/building-2.jpg>

# ISO system



# ISO technical committees

Numbered TC1 to TC 252 (gaps), e.g.

[TC 44](#) Welding and allied processes

[TC 45](#) Rubber and rubber products

[TC 46](#) **Information and documentation**

[TC 47](#) Chemistry , etc.

## Subcommittees

TC 46/SC 4 Technical interoperability

TC 46/SC 8 Quality - Statistics and performance evaluation

TC 46/SC 9 Identification and description

TC 46/SC 11 Archives/records management

Working groups, e.g.

TC 46/SC 11/WG 1 Metadata

# Examples of ISO standards

[ISO 18:1981](#)

Documentation -- Contents list of periodicals

[ISO 233:1984](#)

Documentation -- Transliteration of Arabic characters into Latin characters

[ISO 2108:2005](#)

Information and documentation -- International standard book number (ISBN)

[ISO 2789:2006](#)

Information and documentation -- International library statistics

[ISO 3166-1:2006](#)

Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions -- Part 1:  
Country codes

[ISO 10161-1:1997](#)

Information and documentation -- Open Systems Interconnection -- Interlibrary Loan  
Application Protocol Specification -- Part 1: Protocol specification

[ISO 11108:1996](#)

Information and documentation -- Archival paper -- Requirements for permanence and  
durability

[ISO 11620:2008](#)

Information and documentation -- Library performance indicators

[ISO 15836:2009](#)

Information and documentation -- The Dublin Core metadata element set

# Industry standards (examples)

- ISBN (managed by EDItEUR)
- DOI (Digital Object Identifier)
- ISNI International Standard Name Identifier
- ACAP Automated Content Access Protocol
- ONIX Online Information eXchange  
(XML-based)

# Conclusion

Librarians can take pride in long history of cooperation

Impact of neoliberal ideology:

- let the private sector do it

- loss of control of resource sharing systems?

Imbalances: center of gravity in the West

Knowledge knows no boundaries

Globalization: we are all interdependent and need to be connected

