

Revision: 01
Issue Date: 07.16.2012
Revision Date: 12.27.2016



Standard ISBN Barcode

A barcode is an image generated by software that makes the ISBN (International Standard Book Number) readable by an optical scanner to increase the speed and accuracy of data management. Software is available on the Internet to create a printable barcode. There are several different types of barcode standards for different purposes. The publisher will need to choose what barcode is the best fit for their needs.

All books published after January 1, 2007 must display the number in the new 13-digit format, which is referred to as ISBN-13. Older 10 digit ISBN numbers may be converted to 13-digits with the free ISBN conversion tool that you can find at <http://www.isbn.org/converterpub.asp>.

The lines and spaces of a barcode are of varying thicknesses and print in different combinations. The printing must be accurate and the contrast between the bars and the spaces adequate in order for the barcode to be scannable.

Vector images and one bit images are both suitable for barcodes. A bitmap image must be a minimum of 300 dpi. Letters and numbers may appear ‘jaggy’ on a 300 dpi bitmap but the lines will scan.

Barcode images must print a dark color on a light background and must be set up as 100% Black or 100% of a suitable PMS color. Black or blue are best as a general rule and the spaces can be white or yellow. The background can not be screened. Screened or pixillated bar code images are not acceptable. Do not re-size the barcode.



Acceptable



Unacceptable

For information regarding barcodes and printing them on books see the following web page <http://www.bowkerbarcode.com/barcode/faqs.asp>