


# Generating Unique IGSN Identifiers

When using the API to mint IGSNs, you will be required to generate your own IGSN identifier strings to include in the metadata XML.

The IGSN identifier is comprised of several parts:

<b>XX</b> AAI CW OPY	The first 2 characters of the IGSN identify the allocating agent (e.g. ARDC). This value is assigned by IGSN when an allocating agent signs up to become a member. This value must always be 'XX' when minting through the ARDC service.
XX <b>AAI</b> CW OPY	The next 2 characters are used to separate accounts/clients and help in ensuring IGSN identifiers are unique. The value is alphanumerical 01 to ZZ (excluding the letters O and I to avoid confusion with the numbers 0 and 1). This value is managed by ARDC and will be allocated to you upon account setup.
XX AAI <b>CW</b> <b>OPY</b>	The remaining character sequence is chosen and managed by you. There is no limit to the length of this sequence but it should be kept as short as possible to allow for label printing and use in citations etc. The characters a-z and A-Z in the IGSN string are case insensitive (e.g. ABC is identical to AbC). It is recommended to use upper case characters in all cases. Please also refer to IGSN's guidance on <a href="#">syntax</a> .   Note that in both the <a href="#">ARDC and CSIRO IGSN schemas</a> the characters that are permissible in this portion of the IGSN are restricted A-Z, a-z, 0-9, "-" (hyphen) and "." (full stop).



Tip: The ARDC provides an [API endpoint](#) for generating unique IGSN strings. This is the endpoint used by the [web user interface](#) upon page load to generate an IGSN for the user.