ISQ

INFORMATION STANDARDS QUARTERLY

SPECIAL EDITION: STATE OF THE STANDARDS AND YEAR IN REVIEW

NISO

How the information world CONNECTS

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SPECIAL EDITION: NISO

2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

This comprehensive report on NISO's standards and initiatives appears in the first issue of the year of ISQ to keep you informed of the scope and status of NISO's program on an annual basis. If you have questions about any of the standards or development programs, contact the NISO office by phone (301.654.2512), via e-mail (nisohq@niso.org), or visit the NISO website (www.niso.org).

- NEW INITIATIVES
- PROGRESSING INITIATIVES
- COMMUNICATIONS
- STANDARDS UNDER REVIEW
- EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
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ERM Data Standards and Best Practices Review Working Group

Approved: June 30, 2009

Business Information Topic Committee

Chairs: Ivy Anderson, Tim Jewell

This project is an outgrowth of the Digital Library Federation's Electronic Resource Management Initiative (ERMI), first begun in 2002. A second phase of the Initiative was completed in late 2008. In follow-up discussions between **Todd Carpenter**, NISO's Managing Director, and **Peter Brantley**, Executive Director of DLF, regarding the future of ERMI, NISO agreed to perform a needs assessment with respect to ERMI and broader ERM-related data needs and standards, and to assume any appropriate maintenance responsibilities. A subgroup of NISO's Business Information Topic Committee was tasked with surveying this landscape to determine what, if any, further steps should be undertaken by NISO. This new project is an outcome of that initial ERMI landscape. The Working Group began a "gap analysis" in November 2009 regarding ERM-related data and standards and will make recommendations regarding the future of the ERMI data dictionary within that broader context. The analysis will begin with a review of the ERMI data dictionary as it presently exists, and a mapping of ERMI data elements to those within relevant related projects (e.g., CORE, SUSHI, ONIX-PL, etc.). The deliverable will be a report for the Business Information Topic Committee and the NISO community highlighting current work that provides solutions for specific areas of ERM use, identifies gaps where work has not been done, and recommends appropriate further work.

DAISY Standard Revision Working Group

Approved: August 29, 2008

Content & Collection Management Topic Committee

Chairs: Markus Gylling, George Kerscher

ANSI/NISO Z39.86-2005, *Specifications for the Digital Talking Book*—more commonly known as the DAISY standard— is undergoing a revision in order to modularize it for easier and more flexible use, as well as to take advantage of current technologies to enable a significantly better user experience. The specification will be divided into two parts: Part A, *Authoring and Interchange,* and Part B, *Distribution.* Both parts will be released as Draft Standards for Trial Use and will remain in these phases until both are ready for submission to NISO for formal approval. It is expected that Part A will be released in April 2010, with Part B available by December 2010. The working group held its first face-to-face meeting in March 2009 adjacent to the CSUN conference, and meets via conference call every two weeks. The group has published three working drafts, with the latest produced in December 2009.

CORE Working Group

Approved: May 30, 2008

Business Information Topic Committee

Chairs: Ted Koppel, Ed Riding

The Working Group completed the CORE (Cost of Resource Exchange) draft standard (NISO Z39.95) and associated schemas in March 2009. Following approval by the Business Information Topic Committee, a trial period was launched April 1, 2009, to end March 31, 2010. During this time, the Working Group continued to promote use and be available for trial questions, though vendor software development cycles have caused some delay in implementation. In 2010, four implementations are expected; the Working Group is now considering an extension of the trial period by six months.

Educational Programs

This past year was a great success for NISO's education programs. With the support of the Education Committee, NISO held three in person forums, including the third annual NISO/BISG forum at ALA Annual, as well as thirteen webinars—one each month (except July), with May and September having special two-part webinar events. Over 300 people attended NISO's forums, and an additional 1,100 sites registered for NISO webinars. With an average of three people viewing the live webinars at each site, that's a grand total of over 3,500 people benefiting from NISO's education events! To learn more about the fantastic programs held in 2009, visit the related feature in this issue on page 47.

ONIX-PL Standing Committee

ONIX-PL *Publications License format, version 1.0*

Chair: Alicia Wise

The first version of the ONIX-PL format specification was released in November 2008 by EDItEUR, and this joint NISO/EDItEUR committee focused in 2009 on promotion of the XML format and the related OPLE (ONIX-PL Editor) open source tool. The year ended with the NISO webinar, *ONIX for Publication Licenses: Adding Structure to Legalese,* held December 2009.

SSO Authentication Working Group

Approved: April 22, 2009

Discovery to Delivery Topic Committee

Chairs: Harry Kaplanian, Steven Carmody

This project is the focus of the 2009 Chair's Initiative. **Oliver Pesch**, Board of Directors Chair 2008–2009, identified user authentication as the issue that he would like to see NISO address. The goal of this Working Group is to explore practical solutions for improving the success of SSO authentication technologies for providing a seamless experience for the user and to promote the adoption of one or more of these solutions to make the access improvements a reality. To achieve this objective, the group will explore the problem and deliver one or more Recommended Practice documents. The Working Group first met in October 2009, and has spent a good deal of time refining and further defining the goals of the group and identifying leads for specific work outcomes.

NCIP Implementation Group

ANSI/NISO Z39.83-1 2008, NISO Circulation Interchange Part 1: Protocol (NCIP)

ANSI/NISO Z39.83-2 2008, NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol (NCIP) Part 2: Implementation Profile 1

Chair: Gail Wanner • Maintenance Agency: EnvisionWare

This year the NCIP Standing Committee was able to transition from a development working group to a group focused on ways to encourage implementation and promotion of the NCIP standard, parts 1 and 2. This included outreach, development of a new website, and a move to continuous maintenance (approved by the group in 2009 and endorsed by ANSI in January 2010). In addition, the group modified its internal procedures in April 2009 to ensure an active and engaged standing committee, and work began on an implementer registry, supporting documentation, and updating of the RFP guidelines for NCIP. Perhaps the biggest outcome of the group's work in 2009 was defining a core message set of nine messages that together support the majority of the current functionality for resource sharing and self-service applications. Responding applications need only implement this core set of messages to be NICP-ready, which reduces the effort needed to implement NCIP. Initiating applications may still use additional messages, but the definition of a core set of messages will increase interoperability and enable librarians to expect support for a common baseline workflow.

Information Standards Quarterly (ISQ)

In 2009, NISO unveiled a new design for the *Information Standards Quarterly* (ISQ) magazine to coincide with the celebration of NISO's 70th anniversary. Highlighted in the four issues of ISQ was a special running feature celebrating NISO's achievements since the first Z39 standard was published in 1935. In addition, the ISQ website was redesigned to provide improved access to contents and links to resources discussed in the issues.

SUSHI Standing Committee

ANSI/NISO Z39.93-2007, *The Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative (SUSHI) Protocol*

Chairs: Adam Chandler, Hana Levay, Oliver Pesch

In 2009, the SUSHI Standing Committee focused its efforts on creating support for the standard and its users in order to ensure ease of implementation. This was done so that implementers could meet the deadline of August 31, 2009 in order to be compliant with release 3 of the COUNTER *Code of Practice for Journals and Databases*. A SUSHI Server Registry was created, providing information from report providers on how to access and use their server implementation of SUSHI. Although security is outside the scope of the protocol, an informative appendix in the standard provided some suggested security approaches. With greater implementation experience, the standing committee was able to publish an erratum to this appendix with best practices for SUSHI server authentication. A number of implementation tools and aids were created or updated including web client toolkit, server software development kit, open source code for the client, a SUSHI FAQ, COUNTER FAQ, and other helpful documentation. The SUSHI Developers e-mail list remains very active in assisting with implementation questions.

I² Working Group

Approved: January 10, 2008

Business Information Topic Committee

Chairs: Grace Agnew, Tina Feick

The I² (Institutional Identifier) Working Group was established to develop a robust, scalable, and interoperable standard for identifying a core entity in any information management or sharing transaction—the institution. The group first met in July 2008. During the first phase of their work in 2008-2009, the group developed scenarios to represent the most compelling use cases for institutional identifiers that will engage all relevant stakeholders and identify their institutional identifier needs. Three sub-groups of working group members and appropriate non-members were created to engage in the initial scenario development and to survey the community to ensure that the use cases would be fully developed; these groups focused on: E-Resources, Institutional Repositories, and Library Resource Management. E-learning, originally a fourth subgroup, was instead considered as part of each of the three scenario groups' work.

The next phase of this group's work—finalizing the standard—is commencing in 2010. At that time, **Tina Feick** will step down from the role of co-chair (though she will remain an active member of the group), and **Oliver Pesch** will assume that role.

Standardized Markup for Journal Articles Working Group

Approved: September 2, 2009

Content & Collection Management Topic Committee

Chairs: Jeff Beck, Tommie Usdin

The goal of this Working Group is to take the currently existing National Library of Medicine (NLM) Journal Archiving and Interchange Tag Suite version 3.0, the three journal article schemas, and the related documentation and fast track them through the NISO standardization process. The group first met in December 2009 and has been reviewing and revising a list of changes that have been suggested for the journal article tag sets.

New Members

In the midst of a major recession, the work of NISO's community attracted five new voting members:

» American Chemical Society (ACS)
» American Institute of Physics (AIP)
» Cengage Learning
» Emerald Publishing Group
» Microsoft Corporation

and four new Library Standards Alliance (LSA) members:

» Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Library
» NIH Library
» Nylink
» Southwest Research Institute

At the end of 2009, NISO had a total of 83 voting members and 30 LSA members.

Open Teleconference Series

In 2009, NISO launched a monthly Open Teleconference series. These free calls provide members and others who are interested in NISO activities with updates on current work and an opportunity for casual conversation with NISO staff to provide feedback and suggestions. Held the second Monday of each month, NISO makes the recordings of these open calls available on the website.

Physical Delivery of Library Resources Working Group

Approved: September 1, 2009

Discovery to Delivery Topic Committee

Chairs: Valerie Horton, Diana Sachs-Silveira

Building on the efforts of three recent projects—Moving Mountains, Rethinking Resource Sharing's Physical Delivery Committee, and the American Library Association's ASCLA ICANS' Physical Delivery Discussion Group—the NISO Physical Delivery Working Group will be developing a Recommended Practice related to the delivery of library materials. The Recommended Practice will include areas such as: packaging, shipping codes, labeling, sorting, and more. This Working Group was kicked-off in its first call in November 2009. In the few months since that call, the group has provided written feedback to ballot comments available on their website and is near completion of the document outline.

KBART Working Group

Approved: January 18, 2008

Discovery to Delivery Topic Committee

Chairs: Peter McCracken, Charlie Rappel

The KBART (Knowledge Bases and Related Tools) Working Group was established following the publication of the UKSG-sponsored research report, *Link Resolvers and the Serials Supply Chain*. The report identified inefficiencies in the supply and manipulation of journal article data that impact the efficacy and potential of OpenURL linking. The KBART working group was charged with developing a Recommended Practice that contains practical recommendations for the timely exchange of accurate metadata between content providers and knowledge base developers. On September 11, 2009, a final draft was sent to the KBART Interest Group list, with a note that the group was seeking to confirm that organizations remain interested in testing our recommendations. At that time, active testing took place and feedback was solicited and received. Based on that feedback, a final edit was prepared, with the report formally released on January 18, 2010. NISO's Discovery to Delivery Topic Committee and the UKSG (co-sponsor of the working group) have approved the NISO Recommended Practice: NISO RP-9-2010, *KBART: Knowledge Bases and Related Tools*.

Phase 2 of the project will begin in 2010 with Sarah Pearson as chair. With some continuing and some new members, the working group will focus on some of the more complex issues and undertake educational and promotional activities.

OpenURL Quality Metrics Working Group

Approved: December 8, 2009

Business Information Topic Committee

Chair: Adam Chandler

This project will build on work already underway by **Adam Chandler** (Database Management and Electronic Resources Research Librarian, Cornell University Library) to investigate the feasibility of creating industry-wide, transparent, and scalable metrics for evaluating and comparing the quality of OpenURL implementations across content providers. This is envisioned as a two-year project. At the end of two years an evaluation process will be conducted, to be provided in a published NISO Technical Report, and a decision will be made on whether or not to continue the work.

The Working Group first met in December 2009. The existing log processor and reporting software is being transitioned to NISO, along with the supporting data already gathered. A new site, niso.openurlquality.info, will be available shortly.

SERU Standing Committee

NISO RP-7-2008, *SERU: A Shared Electronic Resource Understanding*

Chair: Judy Luther

During the first half of 2009, this standing committee remained active with promotion of the SERU Recommended Practice, including presentations and support on the SERU information electronic discussion list. The group is looking to reconstitute in 2010 with additional members in order to pursue the creation of a logo, the development of an ONIX-PL encoded version of SERU, a survey of use in the U.S. and internationally, and more. Over 50 organizations joined the SERU Registry in 2009; the registry now has 40 publishers and content providers, 8 consortia, and 114 libraries.

Standards Under Review

In 2009, five standards underwent their periodic reviews. All five standards were recommended for reaffirmation by their respective managing Topic Committees. The voting pool ballots to determine reaffirmation end in early 2010. The five standards were:

» ANSI/NISO Z39.18-2005, Scientific and Technical Reports—Preparation, Presentation, and Preservation

» ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005, Guidelines for the Construction, Format, and Management of Monolingual Controlled Vocabularies

» ANSI/NISO Z39.29-2005, Bibliographic References

» ANSI/NISO Z39.84-2005, Syntax for the Digital Object Identifier

» ANSI/NISO Z39.88-2004, The OpenURL Framework for Context-Sensitive Services

RELEVANT LINKS

Information Standards Quarterly (ISQ)
www.niso.org/publications/isq

NISO Education Programs
www.niso.org/news/events

NISO Standards
www.niso.org/standards

NISO Recommended Practices
www.niso.org/publications/rp/

NISO Workrooms (all active working groups and committees)
www.niso.org/workrooms

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