



Report of the NISO Representative
Betty Landesman
Midwinter 2006

Report of Business

On Monday, January 23, 2006, the ALCTS Board discussed recent developments at NISO. On November 15 the NISO Board of Directors announced that Pat Harris was leaving her position as Executive Director of NISO effective immediately. Pat Stevens, head of NISO's Standards Development Committee, was appointed as the interim head of NISO. On December 15 NISO released a report prepared by Roy Tennant called *NISO Standards Development Process: Review & Recommendations* in which he outlines problems with the existing standards development process and recommends changes. It is felt by members of the library community that there is a lack of clarity as to NISO's direction, that members' input into the process has been lacking, and that libraries' standards needs are not being met. ALCTS will review and comment on the Tennant report (which is available at www.niso.org/pdfs/strategic_dir_preview.pdf).

In this report, Tennant recommended that the NISO Board do the following:

- Resolve issues regarding NISO's appropriate constituency and reformulate its mission accordingly;
- Create and maintain an architectural overview of the standards landscape, and identify key areas to which it will commit to being active;
- Dismiss the Standards Development Committee;
- Appoint standing committees for each of the key areas identified, charged with soliciting draft specifications and standards, appointing working groups, and communicating with other standards development organizations doing work in this area;
- Require NISO member organizations to register their interest in participating in and voting on standards within particular areas of interest (members would only be allowed to vote on draft standards in these areas);
- Create a new staff position of Standards Coordinator, charged with helping all active standards working groups in executing their work;
- Expand the NISO Patent Policy to include appropriate procedures for the exposure of relevant patent activities by participants in the NISO standards development process;

- Create a new pathway into the standards process that can be used by anyone, e.g., Discussion Document;
- Standards that are protocols (e.g., OpenURL) should have additional requirements:
 - At least 2 working implementations required before the protocol can advance to voting;
 - Compliance test methods provided prior to voting;
- A Working Group's charge will include a summary of activities to be undertaken, a description of the Group's scope and context within the larger standards environment, expectations as to reporting, timeline, and completion of work, and a requirement to scope activity to first focus on basic specification that can be built on by further standards;
- Working Groups should return to Standing Committee if its work suggests a different path than the original charge;
- Acquire software to support the work of Working Groups and Standing Committees;
- Charge the Standards Coordinator with drafting a proposal outlining a process for welcoming ad hoc standards activities into the NISO process;
- Establish a more substantial annual meeting to foster a community of individuals interested in learning about and contributing to standards efforts; and
- Provide orientation training to member voting representatives who should attend the annual meeting at which there should be activities specifically planned for them.

Standards activities since annual conference 2005:

NISO standards

Z39.87-200X – Data Dictionary for Technical Metadata for Digital Still Images)

This standard defines a set of metadata elements for raster data images so users can develop, exchange, and interpret digital image files. It was jointly developed with the Association for Information and Image Management. The balloting period ended August 26, 2005.

E-mailed:

ACRL Arts Section Technology in the Arts Committee
ALCTS Networked Resources and Metadata Interest Group
ALCTS CCS Cataloging: Description and Access Committee
LITA Digital Libraries Technologies Interest Group
LITA Technology and the Arts Interest Group

Received comments/recommendations from:

None.

Vote:

In the absence of input, ALA voted Yes.

ANSI gave final approval to Z39.29-2005, *Bibliographic References* (originally approved in 1977) on June 9, 2005. ANSI also approved the revision of Z39.86, *Specifications for the Digital Talking Book* (first released in 2002); the revision of Z39.84, *Syntax for the Digital Object Identifier* (first released in 2000)

The revision of Z39.18, *Scientific and Technical Reports--reparation, Presentation and Preservation*, passed NISO review and was submitted to ANSI for approval.

ALA was designated as the maintenance agency for Z39.7, *Information Services and Use: Metrics & Statistics for Libraries and Information Providers--Data Dictionary*.

The 4th edition of Z39.19, the controlled vocabulary standard (renamed *Guidelines for the Construction, Format, and Management of Monolingual Controlled Vocabularies*) was published in January, 2006.

ISO standards

ISO/CD 3297 – International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)

The revision of the 1998 edition of the ISSN standard expands the scope to include continuing resources and introduces the new concept of the Medium-Neutral ISSN. The balloting period ended January 16, 2006.

E-mailed:

- ALCTS Electronic Resources Interest Group
- ALCTS Networked Resources and Metadata Interest Group
- ALCTS CCS Cataloging: Description and Access Committee
- ALCTS SS Continuing Resources Cataloging Committee
- ALCTS SS Serials Standards Committee
- LAMA SASS Technical Services Systems Committee
- LITA Electronic Publishing/Electronic Journal Interest Group
- LITA/ALCTS Electronic Resources Management Interest Group
- RUSA MARS Local Systems and Services Committee
- RUSA MARS User Access to Services Committee
- RUSA STARS Codes, Guidelines, and Technical Standards Committee

Received comments/recommendations from:

- ALCTS SS Continuing Resources Cataloging Committee
- ALCTS SS Serials Standards Committee

Vote:

ALA voted Yes.

Other NISO activity:

Robin Murray (Fretwell-Downing Informatics) was elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect of the NISO Board of Directors. Nancy Davenport (CLIR), Lorcan Dempsey (OCLC), and Bruce Rosenblum (Inera) were added as Directors.

NISO held an educational workshop on the OpenURL standard and NISO's Metasearch Initiative on September 19-21, 2005.

The NISO/EDItEUR Joint Working Party for the Exchange of Serials released version 1.0 of the ONIX for Serials transaction format, *Serial Online Holdings (SOH)*.

NISO and the Center for Digital Knowledge at the University of North Texas-Denton conducted an Institute on RFID Technologies: Standards and Integration in the Information Environment October 25-26, 2005 in Denton, Texas..

NISO, the Digital Library Foundation, and EDItEUR agreed to form a License Information Exchange Standard Working Group to develop a single standard for the exchange of license information between publishers and libraries.

NISO agreed to sponsor and formalize the work of an ad hoc group that is developing a standard data container for moving Project COUNTER usage statistics into a digital repository. This will allow libraries to retrieve and import reports from compliant content providers into local systems automatically. NISO designated the working group as an official NISO standards committee, called Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative (SUSHI). The group expects to issue the protocol as a NISO Draft Standard for Trial Use in early 2006.

Activities at Midwinter:

NISO meetings/programs:

AVIAC – ILS vendor roundtable – Friday, January 20, 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., Menger, Renaissance

LITA Standards Interest Group meeting – Saturday, January 21, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., Convention Center, 008B

NISO Standards Roundup – Sunday, January 22, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., Convention Center, 212A Ballroom