EXPANDING OUR REACH

7 annual report
EXPANDING OUR REACH: NISO moves information standards forward.
NISO has laid the foundation outlined in our strategic plan and is now positioned to build on that foundation to grow the organization and respond quickly to the community’s needs. An expanded education program has enabled greater knowledge sharing about NISO standards that will ultimately lead to wider adoption.

Enhancing the bandwidth available to coordinate standards activities was the most critical project undertaken in 2007. This involved changes to NISO’s procedures and recruiting a network of committees to oversee our diverse portfolio of standards. Under the leadership of a new Architecture Committee and three new Topic Committees, each of which manages a distinct portfolio of standards, NISO is able to rationalize and better direct the work of development. This new structure gives us the ability to explore emerging areas and to focus attention on keeping projects on track.

With the generous support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, in 2007 NISO was able to make great strides towards putting into place technological enhancements necessary to effectively manage the organization, without curtailing standards development activities. The Mellon grant awarded in June of 2007 has funded the acquisition of a technological platform for NISO’s administration and management. Launching in early 2008, NISO’s new website will provide tools to speed and better document the development process. The grant also will support the incubation of new standards projects in the coming year.

One should always be concerned that significant change will distract from the core mission of the group undergoing the transformation. However, in 2007 NISO was able to launch and release a number of important activities and standards. These initiatives will provide increased efficiencies in the exchange of information in the areas as of licensing, usage data, and content management. In addition to revising and updating extant publications, the approval of the SUSHI standard, the recommended practice on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) in Libraries, and the development of the Shared E-Resources Understanding (SERU) recommended practice will all have positive impacts on the community as they are adopted.

The core of NISO is comprised of a committed and passionate group of volunteers who contribute their time and energy to pursuing the work of standards development. It is only with the support of these volunteers that NISO’s ongoing development work and the implementation of our new structures have been possible. Not only are we all participants in these changes—driving many of the resultant beneficial actions—we too will be the beneficiaries of its results, as will be the information community as a whole. The improved processes, the expanded leadership structures, the tools being put into place, and the educational outreach programs—each will improve the pace at which standards are developed and the impact of the work undertaken.

We collectively have much to be proud of looking back on 2007. It has been a solid year that positions NISO well to make even more of an impact in the future.

Respectfully yours,

James Neal
Chair, NISO Board of Directors
The pace of technology change no longer supports a three- to four-year standards development cycle. NISO has established new incubation processes that will allow us to anticipate the needs for standards and focus on the most worthwhile initiatives. New technological tools are being implemented that will facilitate communication, collaboration, and management, while speeding up both the development and the consensus processes.

NISO has spent a significant amount of its efforts over the past year preparing us for the new developments the community will face in 2008 and beyond. Much of NISO’s time and effort went into preparing structures and procedures to be more efficient, more proactive, and more responsive to community developments.

These changes have provided more capacity to effectively manage our diverse portfolio of interests. Like time and energy invested in the standards development process, the efforts directed at improving NISO’s internal efficiency will provide both immediate and long-lasting dividends.

The coming year will see a key development with the launch of NISO’s new website, which will provide the technological tools to more efficiently manage the work of the numerous technical working groups and the leadership committees, as well as NISO’s own internal management. Having a centrally managed and streamlined system for tracking documents, voting, comments and suggestions, as well as the many teleconferences, in-person meetings and educational events, will be critical to ensuring that all of these projects take place successfully and on schedule.

Among the key aspects of the standards development lifecycle are the education, outreach, and communication of work once a project is underway and even after it is completed. The launch of a re-designed Information Standards Quarterly will improve the information flow coming from NISO on a variety of topics. In addition to continuing to cover developments within NISO, ISQ will expand its coverage of technology, initiatives, and standards development in our community. ISQ will align with NISO’s free monthly newsletter, Newsline, to provide a stream of information that will keep the community aware of the ever-changing standards landscape.

NISO will continue to expand its educational programs by offering both more in-person as well as online events in 2008. This past year has proven, with six events drawing in total nearly 500 attendees, that there is ample interest among the community for more information and training on standards and standards-related topics.

We look forward to a busy year in standards development as well. Several projects were nearing launch by NISO in early 2008 and the new Topic Committees organized in 2007 will use the criteria they have developed to assess new standards proposals. Finally, the incubation of new standards activities through Thought Leader meetings, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, will provide guidance from community leaders on new directions and projects in which NISO can engage.

The upcoming year will prove to be a busy year, full of challenges and successes. We expect that the foundation created in 2007 of improved procedures, tools, and events will provide a strong base upon which to build. The resulting work of our incubation efforts, acted on by the leadership committees, will focus NISO’s work on the most critical areas. The technological tools will facilitate and speed the development process and the outreach, education, and communications efforts will ensure that our work will be broadly known and adopted. The path forward will be smoother for our efforts; indeed, the most exciting phase of NISO’s transitions lies before us: the successful results.

Sincerely,

Todd Carpenter
NISO Managing Director
Participation in NISO helps you and your organization connect with the information world.

NISO standards are developed by consensus, with broad and expert input from librarians, publishers, and library systems developers, to ensure that NISO standards benefit the information community as a whole and meet the diverse needs and common goals of this community.

NISO is for individuals and organizations.

Individuals and organizational members engage in NISO through its working groups, committees, educational events, and publications. Additionally, by becoming a member of NISO, your organization can comment and vote on NISO standards as well as on international ISO standards; receive advance knowledge of standards requirements and emerging issues; be provided with substantial discounts for NISO education events; and be given online and print access to *Information Standards Quarterly*, NISO’s scholarly journal, free of charge.

Join NISO and have a voice in standards development.
With NISO membership you can:

- Take a leadership role in NISO and the development of standards for the information community
- Drive the development and acceptance of standards in new areas
- Influence standards requirements and comment and vote on proposed NISO standards
- Review, comment, and vote on international ISO information and documentation standard drafts, which are not made available to the general public
- Provide the support that enables NISO to provide the information community with free electronic copies of our standards, recommended practices, technical reports, and white papers
- Receive advance knowledge of forthcoming standards requirements
- Network with customers and competitors in a neutral environment
- Gain competitive advantage through early adoption of draft standards, recommended practices, and other working group products
- Increase press coverage for your organization through announcements in *Newsline*, NISO’s monthly e-newsletter, and in other NISO venues
- Achieve recognition and enhance career development of participating individuals

Visit [www.niso.org](http://www.niso.org) to learn more about how to participate and join.
Overall revenues spiked significantly in 2007—up more than 31%—to $937,259. The major cause of the jump was the award of a $196,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which was received in June 2007. Excluding the grant, NISO's operating revenue still increased by 3.9% from 2006—a modest but positive indication of the continued strength of NISO's core activities. Support from members remains the most significant source of organizational funds, with 58% of 2007 revenues coming from memberships. The expansion of NISO's educational programs resulted in a 6.4% increase in workshop revenue in 2007. Investment income was down 5.1% from 2006 due to market fluctuations affecting invested surpluses.

An ongoing management goal for NISO will be to continue to diversify revenue sources through additional grant-funded projects, increased sponsorship and advertising sales, and the continued expansion of NISO's educational programs. Efforts will also be directed at expanding membership by increasing the level of standards activity and thereby community participation in NISO. Expenses during 2007 were up significantly in almost every category from 2006, the result of the organization's rebuilding its operational levels to what was in place prior to the leadership transition in 2006. Some of the increased expenditures in the areas of member services and standards development were due to the availability of new funds from the Mellon grant, while administrative costs were somewhat higher because of the one-time costs related to moving the NISO office to Baltimore. Also, the addition of a full-time staff position has added to overall expenses. On balance, however, the costs that have been added to NISO's central office roughly match the increases in revenues over the past several years.

More efficient financial structures put in place during 2007 will allow NISO to increase effective management of expenses and control expenditures. The expanded capacity provided by NISO's overall realignment should also allow it to provide increased benefits to its members, while growing membership and educational program revenues in the coming years.

Complete audited financial statements are available from the NISO offices.

Respectfully submitted,

Winston Tabb
NISO Treasurer
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NISO’s scope is not limited to national standards development. The 2007 accomplishments also include internal process improvements, recommended practices, international standards involvement, new initiatives and partnerships, and support activities such as educational programs, schemas and profiles, and communications media. It has been a tremendous year.
EXPANDING OUR REACH: NISO MOVES INFORMATION STANDARDS FORWARD

It was a great opportunity to get together with a group of people who are more or less confronting the same problems and sharing ideas of how to solve those problems.” — Forum Attendee

Following an eight-month trial, The Standardized Usage Statistics Harvards Initiative (SUSHI) Protocol was announced as an American National Standard, ANSI/NISO Z39.93-2007. The protocol defines an automated required and optional method for the harvesting of statistics, such as COUNTER reports. The standard was announced by Tim, siblings, and developers’ buddies.

A new Education Committee was formed to focus on the goal of creating NISO’s constituency, communicating and educating about the standards and training providers. Chaired by Ken W. Wetzel, NISO’s President, the committee will work to engage internal and external constituencies about the value of adopting and using the information systems.

The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative, approved and published. The revision addresses minor updates, corrections, and editorial clarifications based on comments received since the standard was first issued in 2001.

Dublin Core Metadata Initiative NISO received a $196,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s Scholarly Communications Program. The award will be used to support the adoption of technology and subscriptions. Communicating information about serials products and subscriptions.


EnvisionWare, Inc., was formed to support the goal of making NISO Z39.85-2007 widely adopted and for inspection of new editions through a series of thought leader meetings.


The Committee on Institutional Identifiers, cosponsored by EDItEUR and the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), was formed to develop and promote Institutionally Unique Identifiers (IUIs) for the global academic community.

Microsoft Corporation is working with the NISO Z39.86 committee, an agency for metadata and Library Services, on the Digital Rights Management (DRM) framework of shared understanding to be used in lieu of conventional license agreements for digital resources. Ten publishers, 26 libraries, and four consortia participated in the pilot.

The final report on the COUNTER project—the guidelines for the measurement of serials usage—was published as ANSI/NISO Z39.86-2007, the standard will be updated every 10 years. The standard represents a major step forward in making it easier for librarians to analyze, manage, and analyze the COUNTER usage data from vendors. We are delighted to cooperate with NISO on this very important initiative.” — Peter Shepherd, COUNTER Project Director

NISO’s Standards Development Committee was replaced by three subcommittees: Management Board, Topic Committees, and Education Committee. The new structure provides for streamlined governance and decision-making processes.

“SUSHI represents a major step forward in making it easier for librarians to analyze, manage, and analyze the COUNTER usage data from vendors. We are delighted to cooperate with NISO on this very important initiative.” — Peter Shepherd, COUNTER Project Director

NISO signed an agreement with SAI Global, Ltd., to provide funding to support a joint working project between NISO and SAI Global, Ltd., for Building Good Digital Collections.

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### NISO Summary of Operating Revenue & Expenses

#### REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dues</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Publications Revenue/Subscriptions</th>
<th>Workshops/Other Revenues</th>
<th>Investment Income</th>
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#### SUBTOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES

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<th>Program Services</th>
<th>Membership Services</th>
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#### SUPPORTING SERVICES

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<th>Governance</th>
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<th>Program Services</th>
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#### TOTAL EXPENSES

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#### NET ASSETS & ANNUAL SURPLUS/LOSS

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<th>End Of Year</th>
<th>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</th>
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#### MEMBERS

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<th>Voting Members</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2002</td>
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* NOTE: These figures are drawn from audited financial statements covering 1998–2007. Complete copies of the full audited financials are available from the NISO office.
James Neal, Chair
Columbia University

Vacant, Vice Chair

Carl Grant, Immediate Past Chair
CARE Affiliates

Winston Tabb, Treasurer
Johns Hopkins University

Todd Carpenter, Managing Director/Secretary
NISO

Directors
Nancy Davenport
Nancy Davenport & Associates

Lorcan Dempsey
OCLC Online Computer Library Center

John Erickson
Hewlett-Packard Laboratories

John Harwood
Pennsylvania State University

Michael Jensen
National Academies Press

Chuck Koscher
CrossRef

Oliver Pesch
EBSCO Information Services

Bruce Rosenblum
Inera, Inc.

IM
AIM
Alcatel-Lucent
American Association of Law Libraries
American Library Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Information Science and Technology
American Society of Indexers
ARMA International
Armed Forces Medical Library
Association of Information and Dissemination Centers
Association of Jewish Libraries
Association of Research Libraries
Auto-Graphics, Inc.
Baker Robbins & Company
BioOne
Book Industry Communication
California Digital Library
Cambridge Information Group
Chekpoint Systems, Inc.
Civica Pty Ltd
College for Library Automation
Copysight Clearance Center
CrossRef
DAISY Consortium
Dow Jones Factiva
EBSCO Information Services
EnvisionWare, Inc.
Ex Libris, Inc.
Gale Cengage Learning
H.W. Wilson Company
Helsinki University Library
HighWire Press
Index Data
Inera Inc.
INFLIBNET Centre
Infor Library and Information Solutions
Innovative Interfaces, Inc.
The International DOI Foundation
Ithaka/JSTOR/ARTstor
John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
Library Binding Institute
Library of Congress
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Medical Library Association
MINITEX
Modern Language Association
Motion Picture Association of America
Music Library Association
National Agricultural Library
National Archives and Records Administration
National Library of Medicine
National Security Agency
New England Journal of Medicine
New York Academy of Sciences
NFAIS
OCLC Online Computer Library Center
OCLC PICA, Inc.
Polaris Library Systems
Publishers Licensing Society Ltd.
Recording Industry Association of America
Read Elsevier
Ringgold, Inc.
SAGE Publications
Serials Solutions, Inc.
Smaths
Society for Technical Communication
Society of American Archivists
Special Libraries Association
Standards Australia
Swets Information Services
TAGSYS, Inc.
Talis Information Ltd
Thomson Scientific
TLC The Library Corporation
Triangle Research Libraries Network
U.S. Department of Defense, DTIC
(Defense Technical Information Center)
U.S. Government Printing Office
VTLS, Inc.
WebFeat

LIBRARY STANDARDS ALLIANCE

Boston College
British Library
Emory University Library
Harvard University Library
Indiana University Library
Johns Hopkins University
Library and Archives Canada
National Institute of Standards & Technology
Nebraska Library Commission
New Mexico State University
New York Public Library
New York State Library
Ohio State University Libraries
Princeton University Library
Stanford University Libraries
University of Arizona
University of Chicago Library
University of Florida
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University of Maryland
University of Notre Dame, Hesburgh Library
Wastchaster Library System
World Bank/IMF (Joint Bank Library Fund)
Wyoming State Library

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