

**Proposed NISO Work Item:
Develop the ISO Standard Tag Set (ISOSTS) in line with JATS (ANSI/NISO Z39.96-2012 JATS: Journal Article Tag Suite) for application by standards development organizations (SDOs) and use in the standards ecosystem
(Short Title: (N)ISO STS)**

**Proposal for Consideration by the NISO Voting Membership
Approval Ballot Period: July 2-July 31, 2015**

The following proposed work item is submitted by: Howard Gilson, ASTM International, Bob Hollowell, ASME, Lesley West, ASTM International, and Robert Wheeler, ASME.

**Proposal Last Modified: June 11, 2015
Approved by the NISO Content and Collections Management Topic Committee June 26, 2015**

Work Description

This work will standardize a specific tag set used for standards publishing, and link it officially to JATS (ANSI/NISO Z39.96-2012 JATS: Journal Article Tag Suite), a widely used specification which defines a set of XML elements and attributes for tagging journal articles and describes several article models.

Background/Problem Statement

There are currently several DTDs used for tagging standard-type information based on JATS and a number of others that have been independently developed. This variety of DTDs used in standards publishing makes interoperability between organizations difficult and increases any integration costs.

At the end of 2011, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) revamped its publishing systems and together with Mulberry Technologies, Inc. developed a derivative of JATS to be used for ISO standards publishing: the ISOSTS (ISO Standard Tag Set). This DTD has been in full production since, with little or no changes. The DTD and documentation are openly available at <http://www.iso.org/schema/isosts/>. A number of ISO's members [BSI (British Standards Institution), SIS (Swedish Standards Institute), NEN (Netherlands Standardization Institute), SA (Standards Australia)] and some distributors have adopted the ISOSTS.

Several standards development organizations (SDOs) and distributors in the United States are looking to upgrade their publishing systems. Some are already familiar with JATS and have looked at ISOSTS. However, there is reluctance to adopt ISOSTS as it is not currently an official standard. Concern also exists that if JATS is updated, its updates may not filter into ISOSTS.

It would be beneficial to all stakeholders to move ISOSTS toward standardization and create an official relationship with JATS. The two standards will then remain coupled and the ISOSTS solution will be adopted more readily. This move will result in greater interoperability of standards, which in turn will aid our end users, and improve the future of standards publishing.

Statement of Work

Goals

- Improve interoperability between standards development organizations and help streamline standards dissemination by formalizing ISOSTS as an ANSI/NISO standard
- Improve ISOSTS by synchronizing it with JATS

Deliverables

- ISOSTS as an ANSI/NISO standard directly coupled with JATS

Process

- Form a Working Group to collaborate with the JATS Standing Committee (http://www.niso.org/workrooms/journalmarkup/sc_roster/)
- Review current documentation for ISOSTS

Note - a pre-assessment of tasks and costs to modify ISOSTS from a technical point of view has been carried out by Mulberry Technologies, Inc. and the submitters, and involves:

- Move the ISOSTS “base” to the latest version of JATS (1.1d3 or 1.1)
- Add an OASIS table model option (which would require 2 different model sets)
- Add MathML3 or MathML2 option (which would require 2 different model sets)
- Add less ISO-specific metadata model (e.g., sdo-meta in conjunction with current iso-meta), which includes support for CrossRef data
- Add normative notes
- Add Xinclude, so standards documents can be more easily managed
- Modification of the DTD and provision of the vocabulary in DTD, XSD, and RNG formats
- Add the index model from BITS (Book Interchange Tag Suite: <http://jats.nlm.nih.gov/extensions/bits/>)
- Make the documentation, and in specific the examples in the Tag Library, more standards-specific
- Total estimate is \$75,000

Partners and Participation

Co-sponsors: ASME and ASTM

Participants: API, ASME, ASTM, BSI, IEEE, ISO, Inera, JATS Standing Committee, Mulberry Technologies, Inc., SAE, others

Participant Types: The most required knowledge will be a familiarity with standards, production and publishing systems, and XML (these could be from SDOs or distributors); familiarity with JATS would also be required. We could also see standards product owners contributing.

Timeline

- New Work Item Proposed: **May 2015**
- NISO Voting Member approval: **July 2015**
- Working Group Roster Formed & Approved: **August 2015**
- Working Group Work: **November 2015** (*Draft Standard for Trial Use*)
- Final Draft for Ballot: **December 2015**

- Approved NISO standard sent to ANSI for ANS approval: **February 2016**

Funding

ASME & ASTM