NISO STS (Standards Tag Suite)
Combined Steering Committee and
Technical Working Group
Decision Minutes
for STS Draft Version 1.0

For NISO STS Membership December 2016

December 14, 2016, 10:00 am - 11:00 am EST
1 Introduction

1.1. Attendees for December 14, 2016

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1 Administrative

These are the minutes for the combined NISO STS Steering Committee and NISO STS Technical Working Group December 2016 meeting for the NISO activity to create a standard tag set for Standards. Details on the NISO STS work item are available at:


These minutes record decisions made and action items assigned during the combined meeting of the NISO STS Membership on December 14, 2016.

1.1. Attendees for December 14, 2016

- Bielfeld, Anja (IEC)
- Dreyfuss, Bob (ASTM: observer)
- Flanagan, Heather (RFC)
- Galichet, Laurent (ISO)
- Gilson, Howard (ASTM)
- Gooskens, Frans (NEN)
- Hollowell, Bob (ASME)
- Imseieke, Gerrit (le-tex Publishing Services)
- Juillerat, Serge (ISO)
- Lagace, Nettie (NISO)
- Landesman, Betty (NISO)
- Lapeyre, Debbie (Mulberry Technologies)
- McRae, Mary (IQ Solutions)
- Owens, Evan (CENVEO)
- Preuss, Tim (Silverchair Information Systems)
- Rawson, Ken (IEEE)
- Rosenblum, Bruce (Co-chair, Inera)
- Saari, Antti (SFS)
- Salcedo, Ivan (BSI)
- Usdin, Tommie (Mulberry Technologies)
- Wheeler, Robert (Co-chair, ASME)
- Winchell, David (XSB)
- Wischhöfer, Cord (DIN Software GmbH)
- Xu, Hong (CEN)

1.2. Working Procedure Going Forward

Mulberry Technologies has categorized the Comments that were received on the NISO form. The comments will be resolved according to their category as follows:

- Mulberry will fix typos, non-controversial requests for increased documentation, and other small infelicities in the Tag Library, samples, or DTDs as appropriate. No further committee input will be required.

- Noncontroversial technical comments will be summarized and the summary document emailed to the Technical Working Group. WG members will then vote on each comment (Yes, Yes with Comments, or No). Any comments that receive “no” votes or significant comments will be moved onto the Technical Working Group agenda.
• Technical comments that require discussion will be summarized in an agenda document and resolved by the Technical Working Group during one or more telephone meetings.

• For comments that requested new or improved tagged examples, Mulberry will email the individual requestors and work with them to find or create new samples. Any requests for samples that cannot be resolved this way will be moved onto the Technical Working Group agenda.

• For comments that requested new or improved Tag Library documentation where the resolution is beyond the knowledge of Mulberry, Mulberry will email the requestor for help with improved wording. Any documentation request that cannot be resolved this way will be moved onto the Technical Working Group agenda.

• For comments that require no action, the requestor will receive an explanation.

• Comments that require a change to the NISO STS Charter (for example non-backwards-compatible changes) or philosophical direction (enforcing versus enabling) will be discussed by the group as a whole. Major decisions and reaffirmations made in this meeting are described in Section 2.

1.3. Action Items

For Bruce Rosenblum and Robert Wheeler

• Make sure that the comment requestors may join the Technical Committee meetings when their comment(s) will be discussed, if they are available and they so desire, with the status of invited expert observers.

For Mulberry Technologies

• Determine, by Doodle poll or other mechanism, the most convenient time for the next few Technical Working Group calls. We will try for the week of January 9, 2017 and another call 2 weeks later, the week of January 23, 2017. Comment requesters will need to be included in the poll.

• Determine, by Doodle poll or other mechanism, the most convenient time for the next Steering Committee call, if one is necessary.

• For the noncontroversial technical comments, Mulberry will put together a summary document that describes the request and makes a recommendation for a resolution. The Technical Working Group will then be able to vote (Yes, Yes with Comments, or No) on each comment.

• Put together an Agenda document describing any technical comments that require discussion, for resolution during future Technical Working Group meetings.

• Email the requestors who asked for new or improved tagged examples and work with them to find/develop new samples.

• Email the requestors who asked for new or improved Tag Library documentation (that is beyond the knowledge of Mulberry to supply) and work with them to develop new wording.
• For comments that require no action, write the requestor an explanation.
• Make changes as requested to the Tag Libraries, tagged examples, and DTDs.
• After delivering the new NISO STS draft, report elements and model changes that the group would like to have made but were prevented by the backwards compatibility requirement, for example, deleting elements such as <time-stamp> that are no longer part of current JATS.

2 Decisions and Reaffirmations

• We reaffirmed that complete backwards-compatibility with ISO STS will be maintained. Thus any document that was valid to ISO STS 1.1 will be valid to NISO STS 1.0.
• We also reaffirmed that we cannot remove elements that some members consider unlikely to be used in standards because we have already learned during the comment period that some elements, like <private-char> and <glyph-data>, that were “thought” to be unused are, in fact, in-use by working group members.
• In spite of desires for tagging regularity for adoption and interchange, we recommend that the NISO STS Tag Suite be enabling not enforcing. Elocquently summarized: “We are ... persuaded not to foreclose on what might be used elsewhere just because our ecosystem does not use it.” NISO STS must allow standards tagging to be flexible to cover the wide variety of different standards organizations.

Therefore tagging regularization or a true code of practice will not be accomplished through the Tag Set, but will require additional agreements or an enforcing layer (such as shared Schematron or group agreements).

• Strategically, NISO STS will continue to align with current JATS and BITS, as part of the JATS community. Where we have elements from previous JATS versions that no longer exist in current JATS, we will deprecate them and explain that they were retained for backward compatibility.

• Because some members of the Steering Group are interested parties to comments that will be discussed in Technical Working Group meetings, the Chairs will investigate the possibility of allowing the comment requestors who are not on the Technical Committee to participate in the Technical Committee meeting when their item is discussed, as invited experts.

3 Schedule

We hope that this comment resolution process does not put our original publication target date jeopardy. Once the NISO Committee approves the draft, there will be a public comment period, time for all comments provided at this time to be resolved, a NISO voting period, and there will be some administrative time between these steps in the process. We may make our April deadline, but if not, we would rather slip a month into May if that allows us to resolve comments using an orderly, consensus-based process.