Dear Colleagues,

Best wishes from the Open Discovery Initiative Steering Committee for a productive 2017 full of new discoveries! We embark on this new year re-energized and with a fresh set of priorities for moving the work of this group forward, with the goal of improving discovery for all participants - users, libraries, content providers, and discovery providers. This year we have identified 5 key areas of focus:

- Increasing Content Provider participation in discovery
- Analyzing and defining usage stats needed by stakeholders
- Recommending methods for content coverage disclosure for Content Providers and Discovery Providers
- Updating the Recommended Practice to ensure it addresses needs and responsibilities for all stakeholders (Libraries, Content Providers, Discovery Providers) in line with current technologies and library trends
- Continuing to educate stakeholders across a variety of mechanisms

**ODI in Action**

**ALA Annual.** ODI member Ken Varnum provided an update on recent activities of the Open Discovery Initiative at an ALCTS talk on Monday, June 27. The presentation included work to promote conformance statements from discovery vendors and content providers, the impact of the ODI process on libraries, and the current state of interoperability among libraries, discovery platforms, and content providers via APIs and other mechanisms. Co-sponsored by LITA and National Information Standards Organization (NISO).

Ken Varnum. ALA Annual 2016. NISO Open Discovery Initiative Update, sponsored by ALCTS and co-sponsored by NISO and LITA. Monday, June 27, 8:30-10:00 AM. Orange County Convention Center, Room W203. Slides available at [NISO Open Discovery Initiative Update](#) and a summary of the presentation is available from [ALCTS News](#).

ODI Member Elise Sassone provided an update on ODI Activities during the NISO Update session.


**Learned Publishing.** Several ODI members contributed to the January 2017 Learned Publishing special issue on content discoverability from diverse perspectives, spotlighting best practices, leveraging relevant research, and synthesizing the latest thinking on how best to ensure our publishing products reach the right readers at the right time.

- Julie Zhu. “Should publishers work with library discovery technologies and what can they do?” Learned Publishing. 2016 DOI: 10.1002/leap.1079. Discussions on the causes of the major issues in library discovery technologies in terms of discoverability, visibility, linkability, accessibility and trackability, the pros and cons of publishers working with discovery technologies, and a three-tier approach publishers can take to address these issues.
- Lettie Conrad. “Headlines from the discovery files: Key publications on scholarly content discoverability,” Learned Publishing. 2016 DOI: 10.1002/leap.1080. A review of 13 research papers and
industry publications from 2015 and 2016 to present a broad view of today’s scholarly content discovery landscape.

**Current Initiatives**

**Discovery Service Provider Outreach.** The group has spoken to Libraries, Content Providers and Discovery Service Providers to determine which missing information would be most helpful to Content Providers and libraries and how that information should be presented. Based on these conversations, the group has presented their findings to the broader committee and awaits feedback before embarking on the process of formally submitting an addition to the recommended practice.

**A&I Outreach.** The first phase of the ODI A&I initiative is focused on education and needs assessment among relevant stakeholders. A survey of subject database and specialty content providers is planned for January 2017. The goals of the following survey are 1) to better understand the goals and needs of the A&I provider community as it relates to discover service participation; 2) to uncover barriers for those who are not yet participating with any/all discovery services and bring attention to these areas of concern through ideas of recommended practice & conformance; and 3) to ultimately gain greater participation by helping to bridge gaps that may exist between the needs of A&I providers, and the way in which their content is utilized and displayed by discovery services. We expect that insights from these survey results will enable new programming from ODI to address the specific challenges and demands of this sector of our professional and academic publishing supply chain.

**Content Provider Outreach.** This initiative has been focusing on encouraging Content Provider participation, not only in ODI, but in discovery in general. To that end, the group is drafting a set of value propositions to better explain to Content Providers why they should participate in discovery and move toward conformance.

An FAQ has been published in order to make submitting conformance statements more straightforward for Content Providers. The FAQ is available on the ODI website:

[http://www.niso.org/workrooms/odi/content_provider_faq/](http://www.niso.org/workrooms/odi/content_provider_faq/)

**Education and Outreach.** The group organized a webinar co-hosted by UKSG on January 10, “Optimizing the discovery experience through dialogue – a community approach,” to build awareness for both the challenges posed by Discovery Services and for ODI’s ongoing efforts toward creating solutions through conversations. The webinar recording is available online: [http://www.uksg.org/webinars/discovery](http://www.uksg.org/webinars/discovery). The webinar will kick off a “participation sprint” in which the group will increase awareness for ODI through social media, blog posts, presentations, etc.

**Learn more about ODI**

Please attend these upcoming presentations by the ODI Standing Committee to learn more about the Open Discovery Initiative:

Laura Morse. ALA Midwinter 2017. *NISO Update - Open Discovery Initiative*. Saturday, January 21, 10:30 AM-12:00PM. GWCC-B207.

Please follow ODI on twitter!

Thank you - The Open Discovery Initiative Standing Committee