



## Work item title

Develop best practices for tagging content in JATS XML to optimize content reuse and exchange.

Short title: NISO JATS4R Working Group

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## Background/problem statement

JATS (ANSI/NISO Z39.96-2015 JATS: Journal Article Tag Suite) is the XML standard used by most journal article publishers today to encode article content. JATS is a very flexible standard, meaning that the same content can be marked up in many different yet valid ways in JATS, which makes it very difficult for machines and humans alike to predictably and accurately find key pieces of information, especially in the metadata. Since today virtually all publishers' article content travels beyond the publisher's own website to various systems throughout the shared scholarly publishing infrastructure (composed of aggregators and indexers, archives, digital catalogs, databases, repositories, and many other systems), an article's ability to be exchanged among systems is more important than ever. Additionally, since much content is now also open access and published under CC-BY licenses, common practice in XML markup would enable more complete integration of cross-publisher data. The full scope of this potential is not yet known, but will have immense value to the scholarly publishing community. To address the challenges posed by inconsistent markup in article content, the JATS4R initiative aims to develop best-practice recommendations for tagging article content in JATS XML. This work item is for JATS4R to become a NISO Working Group, publish its outputs as NISO Recommended Practices, and continue its efforts with NISO support.

## Statement of work

### Goals

The major goal of the NISO JATS4R Working Group is to optimize the efficiency of article exchange and reuse throughout the scholarly publishing ecosystem. This is accomplished by

encouraging reliable and accurate XML inputs to these systems through community adoption of NISO JATS4R's Recommended Practices for encoding articles in JATS XML. Ultimately, consistent, accurate JATS XML markup across publishers results in efficiencies and cost-effectiveness at many levels (for example, exchange between publishers and their vendors), and also likely promotes the efficient development of new and existing systems and tools that serve the industry as a whole.

A secondary goal of the NISO JATS4R Working Group is to promote general understanding of-- and comfort with--XML, so that people of all levels of technical understanding in scholarly publishing can make informed markup decisions without necessarily involving technical resources. The link between those making policy and editorial decisions and those implementing those decisions can be strengthened through demystification of the markup. Policy makers will have a better understanding of how their goals will have greater impact if implemented at the markup level so the content is machine readable as well as being consistent across publishers.

### **Specific deliverables**

The NISO JATS4R Working Group's major deliverables are as follows:

1. Best-practice recommendations for encoding journal article content in JATS XML, to be published as NISO Recommended Practices. Each article object that JATS4R works on has its own separate document of best practice recommendations. Examples of article objects include article permissions, math, and conflicts-of-interest statements. These recommendations are developed by the community; the areas they potentially cover are prioritized based on user request and emerging standards. It is an ongoing effort and recommendations are revisited and revised when necessary.
2. The JATS4R Validator tool (<http://jats4r.org/validator/>). The Validator tool is a web-based tool that publishers use to validate samples of their journal article XML against JATS4R recommendations.

### **Processes**

The NISO JATS4R Working Group would continue the processes already established. JATS4R is an inclusive working group run by a Steering Committee composed of approximately 7 long-term volunteer members representing various kinds of organizations (publishers, vendors, etc.). The Steering Committee develops and oversees the administrative work of JATS4R, such as its policies and protocols, its social media use, and its website. It also determines the group's

roadmap (i.e., what article objects to work on) and both oversees and gives final approval to work carried out by JATS4R subgroups.

JATS4R recommendations are, with occasional exceptions, developed by JATS4R subgroup committees. Each subgroup is run by a JATS4R Steering Committee member, who then recruits interested participants from the larger JATS-using community. Membership of a subgroup can be composed of any number of different people representing different organizations. The subgroups are self-organizing, in the sense that each group determines the scope of work, the frequency of meetings, and method of communication. However, the groups follow a standard JATS4R-determined protocol for a public commenting period and review by the JATS4R Steering committee before final publication; under NISO auspices, this public review period and Steering Committee approval before NISO publication will continue.

## Partners and participation

The JATS4R Working Group makes calls for participation on new projects via Twitter, the JATS4R GoogleGroup, the NISO JATS mailing list and any other method of communication or outreach. There is no limitation to membership; anyone who wishes to contribute to consistent, accurate JATS XML markup may participate

The following organizations either support, or directly participate in, JATS4R and its activities and have signaled this through sending their logo for posting on the JATS4R website:

American Society for Microbiology, Aries, Atypon Systems, BIR, The BMJ Group, Cambridge University Press, Canadian Science Publishing, Crossref, eLife, Europe PubMed Central, F1000, Frontiers, Green Fifteen Publishing Consultancy, Hindawi, HighWire, MIT Press, NCBI, OpenBook Publishers, PeerJ, PLoS, Prepress Projects, River Valley Technologies, Scholars Portal, Sheridan, Taylor & Francis, Ubiquity Press.

## Timeline

Ongoing, after NISO Voting Member approval.

## Funding

eLife pays for website hosting and hosting of the validator tool.

All other contributions are voluntary time given by members (these range from simply reading the recommendations up to full participation in subgroups and the Steering Committee) .