2020 Calendar of NISO Educational Events

January

Identity Management and Authentication Strategies, Part One
Two Part Webinar, Wednesday, January 15, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Eastern)

Organizations and institutions holding licensed content or other sensitive forms of data -- regardless of whether the data may be hosted in a library or in a proprietary service or platform setting -- must do so with the intent of minimizing any risk of leakage or unauthorized incursion by third parties. One solution consistently put forward in recent years is the use of federated identity management systems. An application verifies the user’s right to interact with a particular system by engaging with another system storing individual credentials and the various access rights associated with those credentials.

However, depending upon the institution’s role and resources, hesitation may arise about the trustworthiness of such federated identity systems. This roundtable will feature discussion by a variety of stakeholders (chief technology officers, information professionals, producers of content and service providers) to talk about available system options, their reliability and the benefits gained in their use.

Talking to Your Organization’s IT Group When You’re Not an IT Person, Part Two
Two Part Webinar, Wednesday, January 22, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Eastern)

Libraries may not always be blessed with their own dedicated information technology unit. Those lucky enough to have such internal access are in a better position to discuss complex issues, such as those surrounding identity management and authentication. But what if you or your colleagues are dependent upon an external IT group, one that has different professional priorities? What might be the best tips and tricks for communicating library needs and concerns to those IT groups? They may be using the same vocabulary but associating a different definition with the terminology. This event will be a roundtable discussion between professionals with the intent of easing those exchanges in order to reach shared goals.
February

NFAIS Forethought: Cybersecurity: Protecting Your Internal Systems
Webinar, Wednesday, February 12, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Eastern)

Every organization, as a standard course of action, should be implementing protection policies and updating protective measures surrounding their confidential data and internal systems. Phishing and malware are a constant threat. As a response, reliable cybersecurity requires an integrated approach in ensuring the safety of networks, devices, and data. How should enterprises and institutions be thinking about their cybersecurity needs? What basic requirements should be in place? What guidelines or best practices exist? What are the best resources? This roundtable discussion will bring together experts active in the field to address these and other questions.

March

Labor and Capacity for Research Data Management, Part One
Two Part Webinar, Wednesday, March 11, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Eastern)

For any library serving a research community, research data management continues to be a significant area of interest and concern. Significant labor must be applied to the curation and preservation of such data and additional resources allocated to ensure on-going access. This program will consider the combined roles of archivists, data librarians and administrators in formulating and delivering suitable and effective services. What communities of practice exist? Which is preferred -- a general purpose data repository or one that is discipline specific? How varied is the form of such data? What practices and policies have proven effective? This session will update practitioners and administrators.

Building Data Science Skills: Strategic Support for the Work, Part Two
Two Part Webinar, Wednesday, March 18, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Eastern)

This roundtable discussion will focus on the on-going need for information professionals to be well-versed in data science skills in order to successfully support the work of students, scholars and other professionals. While the community may be quite familiar with the research data lifecycle, it is likely that additional tools or support are needed for information professionals as they extract, wrangle, analyze and present data? From the perspective of administrators, where are the challenges in ensuring staff are sufficiently prepared and supported by their institution? How does such expertise bolster the position of the library? What is the best way for data science education to permeate the institution? What policies or practices have proven useful?
Researcher Behaviors and the Impact of Technology
Virtual Conference, Wednesday, March 25, 12:00 Noon – 4:00 pm (Eastern)

The introduction of technologies (augmented reality, visualization screens, quantum computing, etc.) can dramatically change how research is performed as well as how the outcome of the research is presented. This event will tap into the excitement felt by researchers when they find a new technology offering greater efficiencies to their work as well as how their adoption of new technologies changes the workflow. Not every community will need the same tools so this event will feature those working in a variety of fields. Service providers of all sorts will be interested in what technologies have captured the interest of scholars as well as transformed their output.

April

NFAIS Forethought: Artificial Intelligence #1 – Planning for Implementation.
Webinar, Wednesday, April 8, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Eastern)

Artificial intelligence (AI) is an all-encompassing umbrella term for varying sets and combinations of algorithms simulating human intelligence processes. Such implementations are used by a computer system to rapidly perform a specific set of functional tasks, saving the time and labor of human workers.

While in many ways, artificial intelligence is still in nascent form, many information providers are exploring the implications of AI for their businesses and services. How might AI allow information companies to enhance their products and services? How best to strategically approach the technological needs for doing so? What costs may be incurred? What balance should there be between customization and privacy?

Making Content Accessible: How Can Publishers and Libraries Better Satisfy the Obligation?
Virtual Conference, Wednesday, April 15, 12:00 Noon – 4:00 pm (Eastern)

Institutions of higher education (IHEs) have a legal and moral obligation to support the information needs of those in their community -- whether student or faculty -- to provide access to content regardless of individual ability or need for accommodation. They are required to provide access to information resources that are as close as possible to those resources provided to individuals who do not experience those impairments. But what goes into making an ebook, a textbook, or other course materials fully accessible? This event will bring together stakeholders to discuss current efforts made to ensure that all content is accessible and the challenges still to be overcome.
May

NFAIS Forethought: Artificial Intelligence #2 – Processes for Media Analysis and Extraction.
Webinar, Wednesday, May 20, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Eastern)

In order to implement artificial intelligence in a meaningful way, those holding large collections of material seek support for processing, analysis, and extraction of meaningful data. What should such providers know before engaging services from technology providers? This event will allow attendees to learn from the experience of others. Speakers will address the practical needs, barriers and benefits of embarking upon this process.

June

No More Big Deal? Picking and Choosing Titles for Use
Webinar, Wednesday, June 10, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Eastern)

Some institutions are moving away from the “Big Deal”, those licensing arrangements that allow institutional access to a critical mass of content. In that context, library collections may be managed rather than “developed”. To further complicate taking such a step, the institution must be prepared to rely on resource-sharing, borrowing from other collections. This roundtable discussion will bring together those who have both stepped back from such deals as well as those for whom taking that step is -- for whatever reason -- not yet an option. What does the collection budget permit? What researcher or departmental needs run the risk of being sidelined or overlooked? Is it even possible to go back to selecting just that content a particular institution actually needs for their community?

Changes in Higher Education and The Information Marketplace
Virtual Conference, Wednesday, June 17, 12:00 Noon – 4:00 pm (Eastern)

Pressures on institutions of higher education in the United States are increasing. Reductions in state funding may severely constrict the work of an extended university system. There is heightened competition for research grants. Donations and endowments must be secured and guarded. At the same time, institutions face a shrinking pool of qualified student applicants. At the same time, technology companies promise efficiencies to be gained from adopting new infrastructure. Open educational resources, online learning and deepened digital engagement are positioned to become the norm. How does all of this impact on the long-term strategic planning for libraries and the providers that serve them? This event will gather key decision-makers from a variety of constituencies to identify and consider long-term implications.

July - Summer Hiatus
August

By Faculty and For Students: Supporting Open Educational Resources, Part One
Two Part Webinar, Wednesday, August 12, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Eastern)

How do participating players -- whether the librarian or the member of the faculty -- successfully drive buy-in by the target audience, the undergraduates? What is important to consider in terms of design that engages students? What indicators of use are deemed valuable? Some texts may not lend themselves to being printed out. In some instances, the subject matter may dictate appropriate design (interactive? Text only? Images?). The creation of low-cost textbooks and curriculum support is recognized as important, but, moving forward, how is the community dealing with the challenges of ensuring currency and quality? How does the community ensure access for all users who may not have access to the same technology? What support might be made available to faculty interested in developing these materials?

Open Access Monographs: What You Need To Know, Part Two
Two Part Webinar, Wednesday, August 19, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Eastern)

A 2019 article in The Atlantic observed that the current disruption in scholarly book publishing might result in the Great Sorting, what the author saw as a beneficial “matching of different kinds of scholarly uses with the right media, formats and locations.” In this specific arena, who are the stakeholders currently delivering open access monographs? What are the current business models that represent sustainability for those stakeholders? Recognizing that the population of interested readers of these works may be far larger than the actual revenues derived, how can both publishing professionals as well as librarians assist users in discovering such high-value OA monographs?

Transforming Search: What the Information Community Can and Should Build
Virtual Conference, Wednesday, August 26, 12:00 Noon – 4:00 pm (Eastern)

Linked data. Aerial photography. Voice recognition and automated transcription. While none of these alone have transformed the user’s search experience, each plays a part in how users currently think about information retrieval and about the research process. In the coming years, artificial intelligence will have an increasingly important role as well in satisfying the user’s information need. This event will address how search technologies have progressed as well as emerging issues associated with discovery and relevant retrieval.

September

Demonstrating the Return On Investment: The Library’s Role and Contribution
Webinar, Wednesday, September 9, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Eastern)
The value of assessment practices lies in their use to demonstrate to administrators and key decision-makers the return on investment from services offered by the library to faculty and students. Available metrics become critical in showing that, rather than being a drain on institutional resources, the library is a cost-effective and impactful part of the educational offering. How well are library initiatives aligned with institutional goals? How effectively is the library allocating its space in serving students or faculty? What is being spent on licensed content and are those resources being used? This program will focus on how assessment exercises are critical to positioning the library and on effective presentation of the data supplied to those passing judgement.

**Privacy in the Age of Surveillance: Everyone’s Concern**

*Virtual Conference, Wednesday, September 16, 12:00 Noon – 4:00 pm (Eastern)*

In an age of networked information platforms, a user’s activity is traced automatically and frequently without much system transparency. Does that necessarily constitute surveillance of the user? Depending upon the geographic location, camera and satellite monitoring are ubiquitous. Why shouldn’t data sensors help administrators improve traffic flow? Why should we hesitate to gather and use data in resolving big and small issues in society? Vendors want to improve the user experience; studying user data allows that. Even in the library, benign assessment exercises trace patron use of resources or access. Where is the line and how should stakeholders be thinking about the issue?

To what extent are these practices intrusive or threatening to the individual? How transparent are we required to be about systems and practices? This event will feature participation by a variety of community stakeholders considering these and other questions about this sensitive concern.

**October**

**NFAIS Forethought: Artificial Intelligence #3 – Implications and Impact on Content Discovery**

*Webinar, Wednesday, October 14, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Eastern)*

The hope for many in the information community is that the implementation of artificial intelligence will vastly enhance the discovery process for the user. How might AI do so? Will it enable a researcher’s delight in a moment of serendipitous discovery? When the right article falls into one’s hand exactly at the point of need, it can spark great things? What might users be hoping for? What might providers be able to engineer?

**Community Owned Infrastructure: Partnerships and Collaboration**

*Virtual Conference, Wednesday, October 21, 12:00 Noon – 4:00 pm (Eastern)*

How might community-owned infrastructure be successfully managed in the 21st century information environment? Infrastructure -- whether speaking of highways or information platforms -- is inevitably costly to build and maintain. It entails financial planning and long-term
technical support. What represents the minimum viable product, and what does it take to engineer the reality? What might be the opportunities for public/private partnerships? Who finds the funding? Is there a plan for sustainability? The question is not whether there are successful examples of community-owned platforms, but whether those examples will be sustained over the long-term.

**November**

**How Should Libraries Prepare Their Communities for Artificial Intelligence?**

Webinar, **Wednesday, November 18, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Eastern)**

The library community is already sensitive to the potential ways in which algorithms may impact the user experience. There are calls for greater transparency surrounding platform infrastructure, for greater deliberation by third parties in handling, preserving, protecting and sharing individual data, for public debate about ethical interactions between systems and social needs. How much expertise in computer science is needed? What training do librarians themselves require in understanding the scope of the phrase “artificial intelligence” and the algorithmic calculations driving it? Without either alarmist tones or rose-colored glasses, how might the information profession address the risks as well as the choices facing their communities in dealing with artificial intelligence?

**December**

**Libraries and University Publishing Operations**

Webinar, **Wednesday, December 9, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Eastern)**

How well is this working? In a variety of universities, presses have been brought under the auspices of the library. What insights have the libraries to offer about the processes of manuscript acquisition or production workflow? What innovations have been introduced? Is scholarly communication being changed by this shift? This event will bring together representatives from presses and from libraries to spotlight successes and lessons learned.

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Important Information About NISO Event Registration

Purchase of a single registration for the above events entitles you to gather an unlimited number of staff from your organization/institution in a conference room setting to view the event on the day of the live broadcast. It also includes access to an archived recording of the event to allow those with conflicting obligations to still benefit from the day’s content.

All members of NISO automatically receive sign-on credentials for the 14 NISO webinars as a member benefit. Verify your membership status to avoid any unnecessary confusion over credit card charges.

Participation in a NISO Virtual Conference requires a separate registration fee; access to the event is not an automatic benefit of NISO membership. Visit the NISO web site for specific discounted rates.

Note on Event Timing
- All NISO Webinars are 90 minutes in length, 1:00pm – 2:30pm (Eastern)
- All NISO Virtual Conferences are 4 hours in length, 12:00 Noon – 4:00pm (Eastern).

All Events Available Via Subscription Package Deals (No Price Change)
- Buy 9, Get 5 (Get All Fourteen NISO Webinars)
- Buy 5, Get 4 (Select 9 of the 14 NISO Webinars To Attend)
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For details, visit the NISO web site.