The NISO OpenURL Registry And You

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The goal today is to enable you to use the OpenURL Registry and Maintenance Agency to improve discovery and delivery services for your users.

Key Questions

• What can I do with the registry?
• What do I need to know?
• How do I create a registry entry?
• What is the investment I need to make?

The NISO OpenURL Registry And You: What can I do with the registry?

• Developers:
  • Reference Tool.
  • Implementer’s Guide
• Institutions and Service Providers:
  • A Catalog of what is available for the communities you serve.
  • A tool to allow you to create new applications for the community you serve.
  • In effect, you can extend the standard.

The NISO OpenURL Registry And You: What do I need to know?

OpenURL 0.1

• Introduced with the ExLibris SFX resolver.
• Published as the ‘SFX’ OpenURL specification.
• Addressed the appropriate copy problem primarily for electronic licensed content in libraries.
OpenURL 1.0 NISO Z39.88

• Approved NISO standard April 2005.
• Defines an architecture for creating OpenURL framework applications.
• The OpenURL registry is maintained by the OpenURL Maintenance Agency.
• The registry contains all instances of core components created by communities that have deployed OpenURL Framework Applications.

The NISO OpenURL Registry And You: What do I need to know?

OpenURL Framework describes:

What you want services about, the referent, in the context of:
who you are, the requester,
where you are when you request services, the referrer,
along with the source of the referent, the referring entity,
why you are making the request, the servicetype,
and what will be providing the services, the resolver.
This is the ContextObject framework in a nutshell. The OpenURL framework does not describe how services are rendered.

The ContextObject

• The “information package”
• At the heart of the standard
• Describes a referenced item and the context within which it is being referenced
• Allows independence from transport method
• Formalizes expression of context

The NISO OpenURL Registry

• The NISO OpenURL registry resides at http://openurl.info/registry and is maintained by the maintenance agency.

• For each ContextObject the following must be registered:
  – Character Encodings (one or more) UTF-8, Latin-1, etc.
  – Serializations (one) KEV, XML
  – Constraint Languages (one) MTX, XML schema
  – ContextObject Formats (one) KEV, XML

• For each entity (referent, requester, referrer, etc.) the following may be registered:
  – Namespaces (zero or more) info:lccn:, urn:ISBN:, .ldap:, etc.
  – Metadata Formats (zero or more) book, journal, etc.

• For transporting ContextObject Representations:
  – Transports (one or more) by-reference, by-value, inline (all HTTP or HTTPS)

• For each OpenURL application:
  – Community Profiles (one) SAP1, SAP2

Community Profiles – A Community Profile defines the core characteristics of an Application as a list of Registry entries.

This list contains Registry entries for:

• One ContextObject, with at least one entity, the referent.
• Format, serialization, constraint language, and character encodings.
• zero or more metadata formats,
• zero or more namespaces to describe identifiers,
and one or more transports to specify how ContextObjects are transported.
The Request Transfer Message Community Profile.

- Was approved in November 2009.
- According to the creator Janifer Gatenby:
  The OpenURL Request Transfer Message (RTM) will be used to direct requests for loan, copy, access to lookup, or digitization of an item. It is intended to be used for directing requests to Resource Delivery Systems and/or Electronic Resolver Systems.

Three internal XML metadata formats:

and four external XML metadata formats:

The NISO OpenURL Maintenance Agency

- Was awarded to OCLC in 2006.
- Maintains the NISO OpenURL Registry.
- Maintains Implementation Guidelines.
- Maintains the openurl@oclc.org public listserv.
- Supports educational and promotional activities
- Guided by a standing Advisory Committee.
- Supports a permanent review panel.

Start with an idea or existing application that needs standardization

- Start with an idea that fits the OpenURL framework.
- Use the extensibility of the framework.
- Example idea: an application that returns information about libraries, hours of operation, calendar, etc.
Engage members of the community
- Subject matter experts
- Information and service providers
- Institutions, Libraries, etc.
- Special interest groups, NISO standards groups, etc.
- Technologists who can help you with creation of the registry entries.
- Discuss your idea on appropriate listservs including the OpenURL listserv.

Develop the registry entries
- Gain commitment from your community to follow through.
- Develop accompanying non-normative documentation.
- Use existing external standards where possible. Don’t reinvent the wheel.
- Develop the registry entries weighing alternatives for serializations, transport methods, character encodings, etc.
- Continue to engage the community throughout the process.
- Start discussions with the OpenURL Maintenance Agency.

Submit the registry entries
- Rules for submittal can be viewed at: http://alcme.oclc.org/openurl/docs/pdf/SubmittalProcess.pdf
- Contact for new submittals/questions: openurlagency@oclc.org.
- The MA supports the use of the OpenURL beyond the scholarly community.
- Register new namespaces with the info uri scheme at http://info-uri.info/registry.

There are three gates for this lightweight process:
- Gate 1 – Maintenance Agency Review
- Gate 2 – Review Panel Review:
- Gate 3 – Public Review and Trial Period:
- Review for technical correctness of the submittal
- Conducted by the Maintenance Agency.
- This review should take 1-4 weeks.
- The submitter will be notified about the outcome of the review.
- Successful submittals will automatically enter the next gate.
Gate 2 – Review Panel Review:

- Review by the Review Panel and community members specified by the submitter.
- This review is expected to take from 1-2 months.
- The submitter will be notified about the outcome of the review.
- Successful submittals will automatically enter the next gate.

Gate 3 – Public Review and Trial Period:

- The public review and trial period combined.
- Reviews will take from thirty days to six months.
- The submitter will be notified about the outcome of the reviews.
- The review panel including the submitting community will determine final disposition.
- Results will be posted to the OpenURL listserv.

The OpenURL Maintenance Agency:

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You can extend the OpenURL framework!