Forum on Library Statistics and Performance Measures: A Webography of Related Resources

Prepared by Linda Ferguson, Relicorp, Inc.

February 15-16, 2001, NISO sponsored a national invitational Forum on performance measures and statistics (http://www.niso.org/stats.html). The goal of the Forum was to gather information from the library and vendor community in preparation for the review of the current Library Statistics Standard (Z39.7-1995). Sixty-five persons representing a broad spectrum of the library and business community focused on issues related to measurement of library services and electronic resources. The full report of the meeting and the meeting presentations are on the NISO website at this url: http://www.niso.org/stats-rpt.html.

In support of the Forum the following webography was prepared as a guide to those organizations, library groups, and resources impacting and impacted by the need to "Measure the Information Age." This webography (with all links embedded) is on the NISO website at: http://www.niso.org/stats.html#webography.

Key Organizations and Resources


Centre for Research in Library & Information Management (CERLIM). EQUINOX: Library Performance Measurement and Quality Management System (http://equinox.dcu.ie/). International project to develop performance measures for electronic environments in libraries, and to develop a quality management and measurement tool for same.


European Commission, Telematics Applications Programme, Telematics for Libraries. CAMILE: Concerted Action on Management Information for Libraries in Europe (http://www.staff.dmu.ac.uk/~camile/dss.html). Projects include EQUIPSE (http://www.mmu.ac.uk/h-s/cerlin/projects/equipse.html), a 24-month joint project to develop a quality management and performance measurement system for all types of libraries; DECIDE; DECIMAL; and MINSTREL. The CAMILE site reports on the results of the four projects.

Florida State University, School of Information Studies, Information Use Management and Policy Institute (http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia/). Projects and publications from the Institute.


International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC). (http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia/). Information about the coalition members. See also Guidelines for Statistical Measures of Usage of Web-based Indexed, Abstracted, and Full Text Resources (http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia/webstats.html).

International Organization for Standardization. (http://www.iso.ch/). International federation to promote the development of standardization. See also SC 8 (http://www.iso.ch/8c46sc8/), the subcommittee “responsible for the standardization of library and publishing statistics and the evaluation of library performance.”


Library Research Service. (http://lrs.org/). Partnership between the Colorado State Library (http://www.state.co.us/cdelib/index_home.htm) and the Master of Library and Information Sciences Program in the College of Education at the University of Denver (http://www.du.edu/LIS/) to conduct research projects for all types of libraries and related associations.


University of Bath, UK Office for Library and Information Networking. eLib supporting studies and workshops managed by UKOLN. Hyperlinked listing of studies managed by UKOLN, including “Management information systems and performance measurement for the electronic library” by Peter Brophy and Peter M. Wynne. See also eLib homepage.

University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Information Management Research Institute (IMRI). Includes research by Indah Sidek, “The Impact of Implementing ANSI.”

Urban Library Council (ULC). Homepage of the ULC, including information on research and projects. See also Fast Fact Surveys, a collection of survey reports.

Academic and Research Libraries


Association of Research Libraries. ARL Statistics and Measurements Program. Top-level site for ARL programs, initiatives, and publications.

Association of Research Libraries, ARL New Measures Initiative. Links to New Measures Imitative projects supported by ARL Statistics and Leadership Committees, including LibQUAL+ and Measures for Electronic Resources (E-Metrics).


Cook, Colleen. SERVQUAL: A Bibliography. Comprehensive bibliography of articles as of October 1999 written about the SERVQUAL tool.


Cook, Colleen and Heath, Fred. SERVQUAL and the Quest for New Measures. ARL, 207, December 1999. Description and background of project to test SERVQUAL for use in research libraries.


National Center for Education Statistics. Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). A system based on a collection of surveys to collect institution-level data from postsecondary education providers.


Public Libraries


Bertot, J.C., McClure, C.R. Public Libraries and the Internet 2000: Summary Findings and Data Tables [PDF format]. 2000:


Hiott, Judith, presenter. Public Library Perspectives on Statistics in the Digital Age. Houston Public Library, Houston, TX, 1999. Overview and slides of the presentation.

Holt, Glen E., Elliott, Donald and Moore, Amonia. Placing a Value on Public Library Services. Project by the St. Louis Public Library to "study to apply economic measurements to value public investment in library services."


Public Library Association (PLA). Homepage of the PLA, a division of the ALA. Includes links to PLA publications and other resources.


School Libraries

American Association of School Librarians. Division of ALA. Site contains facts and figures on school media centers, and standards and guidelines resources.


Maryland School Assessment Performance Program (MSPAP). Library Media Skills, K-8, Learner Outcomes. Outcome-based evaluation program used by the state of Maryland to test students on the usage of public school media centers.

Special Libraries

Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA). Library Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions. Division of ALA. Excerpt from the publication.


Indiana State Library. 1995 Special Library Statistics. Includes operating expenditures and holdings data.

Ex Libris, Open Standards, and the Future

By Michael Kaplan, Director of Product Management, Ex Libris (USA), Inc.

The Ex Libris group is a worldwide supplier of software solutions and related services for libraries and information centers. The Company’s flagship product, ALEPH500™, is a market leader in the field of library automation for higher education as well as for public, national, and research libraries, consortia and national networks, and large corporations. Ex Libris has a full corporate presence in Australia, Germany, Israel, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, and the United States, in addition to a number of distributors throughout the world. Its staff consists of 180 employees worldwide (as of February 2000), with a core development team that includes both highly qualified librarians and expert software engineers.

As the role of libraries in the information world changes, so does the role of the automation systems they employ. Ex Libris has always believed that the library system is a building block within the larger campus and community environment, and this concept is reflected in our multi-tier client server architecture, open API, and adherence to both library and information industry standards. We believe the core ALEPH500™ system allows libraries to move confidently into the future, knowing that our open standards-based system will support whatever new developments lie ahead. It is worth noting that Ex Libris recognizes the importance of incorporating standards throughout the system, which in turn allow the library to operate the Library Management System as simply one element (albeit an important one) in their overall computing environment. We do not subscribe to the philosophy that openness and extensibility somehow diminish the need for or value of an LMS, but, on the contrary, that the adoption of open standards makes the system more valuable as the cornerstone of the overall digital library environment.

In addition to enhanced support for traditional library standards and requirements, such as enhanced EDI, ILL and Z39.50, Ex Libris is actively pursuing the future of information access through such leading edge tools as MetaLib, SFX and DigiToolLibrary. We are also actively working on development of an X server to provide XML communications, virtual union catalogs and virtual indexes, and other new projects, all with the goal of keeping information system power with librarians and libraries.

We’ve further shown our commitment to the library community by joining the American Library Association, CNI (Coalition for Networked Information), NASIG (North American Serials Interest Group), NAILLDD (North American Inter-Library Loan and Document Delivery), and NISO. Carl Grant, the President of Ex Libris (USA), was elected to NISO’s Board of Directors in 2000.

Ex Libris has also taken a leadership role in drafting the OpenURL specification—an emerging standard for interoperability between information resources and service components that offer localized services in an open linking framework. We were recently approached by NISO to submit the Open URL for standards certification. Many Information providers have now enabled SFX linking for their resources by adopting the emerging protocol OpenURL. To name a few: ISI, SilverPlatter ERL, EBSCO, Bell & Howell ProQuest, OCLC FirstSearch, Ovid, ArXiv.org, and SLAC-Spires (Stanford).

ALEPH supports TCP/IP, NISO Z39.50, and ISO 10160/10161 communication protocols. The ALEPH500™ system also supports the following network standards: Ethernet, Fast Ethernet, Token Ring, ATM, and FDDI. ALEPH adheres to CCITT, EIA, IETF, and the following IEEE standards: 802.2 and 802.3 Ethernet (10 and 100 megabit per second), HTTP, TCP/IP, FTP, SMTP, HTML, SGML and XML.

Our plan for future technological development includes work on XML standards, the Dublin Core Metadata elements, and integration of ALEPH500™ with ORACLE 8i. Other mission-critical work at Ex Libris is improving our already unparalleled openness to other applications and campus developments. The core product is already built on the concept of open APIs, but future development on the ALEPH500™ X-Server will allow access to the complete data and functionality of ALEPH500™ via standard protocols such as http. As a result, extending ALEPH500™ will become even easier in the future, which we believe will be timely for our libraries as they are asked to do much more with less.

These strategic business decisions based on our belief in and support of open standards were made with the interests of our customers and our company in mind. Ex Libris believes this combination of technologies and tools will further enhance the already strong ALEPH500™ product, ensure our continued growth, and the continued success of our customers.

Spiller, David. UK special library statistics: the challenge of collecting and analyzing data from libraries in the workplace. 64th IFLA General Conference, 1998. The difficulties of data gathering and surveying in special libraries; recommended methodologies.


Special Libraries Association. Information Services Panel Surveys. Series of surveys conducted by SLA. Data elements include technology usage and trends.
International Standard
Audiovisual Number

Draft International Standard 15706, International Standard Audiovisual Number, was approved by 88.24% of the 17 P-member countries that voted. However the comments on DIS 15706 included important new input from the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE) which accompanied negative votes from the member bodies for Canada and the U.S.A. Their comments proposed that, with some modifications, the ISAN could also be used as the root identifier for program identification within the broadcasting industry. TC 46/SC9/WG2 agreed that making these changes will enhance the usefulness of the ISAN by accommodating a greater spectrum of the audiovisual industry and its distribution chain, as well as prevent the possible development of competing identification systems for segments of the audiovisual industry.

Therefore it was decided that DIS 15706 should be revised and distributed for another two-month vote at the Enquiry stage. Voting members will focus comments during this second vote on the specific areas of change between the first and second DIS 15706. Deadline for response in the US: May 25, 2001.

Records Management Standard to be Launched


Representatives of the two North American National Member Bodies, Catherine Zongora (representing the Standards Council of Canada) and Diane Carlisle (representing NISO/ANSI and ARMA International), are working on arranging a launch ceremony and an appropriate conference session to mark the occasion.

Open Ebook Forum Summit 3:
Paris, March 19-21

Contributed by Rebecca Guenther. rguen@loc.gov, Library of Congress

The Open Ebook Forum (OEBF) is reaching out to other standards agencies and attempting to broaden internationally. To accomplish this goal it held its third summit in Paris in conjunction with the Ebook Europe conference and Salon du Livre (Paris Book Fair).

The OEBF has 142 members (66 principal members and 76 associate members), representing 21 countries, the majority in North America, but increasing numbers in Europe, Asia and the Pacific Rim. Goals of OEBF include functioning as an authoritative forum for the discussion of electronic books and creating standards that are internationally recognized for electronic publications and adopted. Working Groups produce output according to their charters.

Rights Management

Tom Diaz (Adobe Systems) spoke about digital rights management (DRM) and the interoperability of DRM systems. The 1999 Glassbook ebook reader used a prototype of a DRM specification. There are questions as to whether to follow copyright law or a licensing model. Because copyright law varies from country to country, rights and content need to be separated in this model. The Electronic Book Exchange (EBX) effort has looked at packaging the two together, it is looking to broaden beyond books. EBX has been mainly concerned with digital content read offline on handheld devices and laptops, and hasn't sufficiently addressed the issues of Web-based content. (Note that the EBX Working Group formally combined its operations with the OEBF last year.) Interoperability was defined in this context as the ability for a client to be able to exchange rights and content with a server made by a different vendor. It will be necessary to specify the minimum components to enable the client and server to negotiate information.

A Rights and Rules Working Group of the OEBF was established to continue the work of the EBX working group. The EBX work, (now in draft) includes: a standard set of rights; a standard set of data definitions for rights objects (vouchers); a standard protocol for rights exchange and enforcement in a distributed environment.

Identifiers

At the Identifiers Special Interest Group meeting on March 20, 2001, attendees included representatives from the International DOI Foundation, Questia, Whittaker (the UK ISBN agency), Mibrary, Wiley, Random House, McGraw-Hill, IFPI and ALA. Presentations on identifier issues were given by Thom Kozik (Mibrary) and Philippa Morell (IFPI).

Kozik explained that Mibrary is a commercial application for retailers and operates clearinghouses between the retailer and the client. They have a need to view content regardless of format, exchanging rights for different
formats. They support the DOI; the identifier includes the rights holder but not the format. Kozik was not in favor of an identifier based on ISBN because of its application in different ways by different publishers. Kozik sees the identifier as primarily a rights issue and considers the DOI as providing more flexibility than other identifiers.

Philippa Morrill reported on identifiers being developed for the recording industry as part of the work of MPEG21. This work is primarily concerned with identifying releases of sound recordings for electronic distribution; digital content can be packaged in different formats and used in a variety of contexts. She reviewed the identifier systems currently being used (ISRC, EAN) and the development of an identifier for the “IP bundle” (i.e. a bundle of intellectual property), a “Release ID” that includes the digital item and any components, the rights information, and associated metadata. Separate components have separate identifiers that can be linked to the Release ID. Morrell described the complex and multi-layered structure envisioned and the requirements that had been formulated for this identifier. IFPI/RIAA is advancing this Release ID as part of the MPEG21 multimedia framework (the digital object declaration work).

The Identifiers group discussed requirements for an electronic book identifier. It examined the specified requirements used for the Release ID work applicable to ebooks. Applicable requirements will be entered into the OEBF Requirements Database and analyzed. The group also discussed what identifiers are necessary within the Open Ebook Publication Structure for ebooks. It was considered necessary to identify the components (e.g. chapter 1, chapter 2), the publication (content plus metadata plus manifest—this is an element in OEBPS), and the content itself as a whole (e.g. chapter one through chapter whatever). It may also be necessary to identify the OEB package file, which describes the contents of the entire package.

**Metadata**

The Metadata Special Interest group (soon to be Working Group) met on March 20 and 21, 2001.

It was agreed that formal response to the AAP document on metadata standards was not necessary, since the changes suggested to ONIX were being incorporated into the proposed ONIX release 1.3.

David Martin (EdiTeur) briefed the group on ONIX developments. The standard is being adopted internationally by the book industry; recent adopters include agencies in Argentina, Germany, France, and Australia. Amazon has requested an extension for VHS and DVDs and EdiTeur is looking at development to accommodate serials in cooperation with subscription agents and library systems. There was some discussion about the changes being proposed in ONIX 1.3 to accommodate electronic books. Liisa McCloy-Kelley outlined the work-flow at Random House for its transmission of metadata (in ONIX). Random House sends weekly updates to its business partners (e.g. Overdrive, Versaware, Amazon, Bowker).

In order to provide feedback to EdiTeur, the group identified what elements were needed for description of ebooks. There was consensus on the following elements that should be incorporated into ONIX release 1.3:

- Internet Media Type (MIME)—the underlying format for encoding
- Version of that format
- Format description—free text (e.g. print optimized/screen optimized)
- Reading system (encompasses rendering hardware and software)

It will be necessary to register OEB as an Internet Media Type.

This discussion was meant to assist EdiTeur in a revision of the changes for Release 1.3, and does not imply endorsement of it as the metadata scheme for ebooks. Because of the modular metadata approach being developed, it is one of many schemes that may be used.

Bob Bruce (OEBF Executive Director) suggested that the group consider how-to cite ebooks and how to reference them. Karen Coyle noted that an analysis of ebooks was conducted at the University of California; she expects this to be available publicly soon. This report, Coyle noted, deals with structural issues, particularly of born digital items.

The Metadata Working Group met with the Publication Structure Working Group to determine its metadata needs and the specifications that might be in OEBPS 2.0. Currently the OEB Publication Structure specifies the use of Dublin Core metadata embedded in the OEB package. The group wants to pursue a modular and more flexible approach where metadata in various formats or structures can be pointed to from the OEB package.

The OEBPS version 2.0 will require two metadata elements in the OEB package: Dublin Core Title and Identifier. It was felt that a few elements were needed within the OEB package for identification purposes and for backwards compatibility with OEB 1.0 documents.

The OEB package uses a file that describes the OEB package (OPF); this is used to build the publication. The metadata-manifest lists digital assets; the OEBPS Working Group is looking at adding a new metadata manifest to allow for the modularization of metadata. After discussion between the OEBPS and Metadata Working Groups, it was concluded that the following elements need to be specified in the metadata manifest:
a metadata item ID (for linking purposes within the OEB package)

• a reference to the metadata if outside the publication
(original suggestion was for “href”; this was later revised to be a URI)

• a media type (of the metadata file; e.g. application/marc; text/html; etc.)

• an indication of metadata purpose (e.g. bibliographic, DRM, etc.)

There was much discussion about what this last element would be called; original suggestion was “role”, but since “role” is used in the specified Dublin Core metadata (for creators and contributors) in OEBPS 1.0, this was not considered a good choice. “Purpose” was considered a better term.

It was determined that the reference to the metadata may be to a file (e.g. onix.xml) or to a record in a database (identified by a URI, which would probably include a record number; this implies, for instance, establishing the LCCN as a namespace so that record numbers could be embedded as part of a URI). The use of a “purpose” element will allow the system to determine what pieces of metadata it needs and where they come from. It was agreed that the term “bibliographic” could be applied to the generally descriptive metadata expressed in schemes such as ONIX, MARC, or Dublin Core. Phillippa Morrell said that the recording industry considers its metadata “discography”, but that this is a subset of “bibliographic.” David Martin concurred that ONIX metadata can be called “bibliographic.”

The OEB package would also need to link to the namespace for a metadata scheme being referenced in the metadata manifest.

Example:

```xml
<metadata-item id=“n30”
  uri=“onix.xml”
  media-type=“text/xml”
  purpose=“bibliographic”/>
```

(This points to a file with metadata called “onix.xml.”)

The Identifier and Metadata groups will continue their work by conference call. The next OEB Summit will be held in San Francisco on June 18-21, 2001 at the end of the American Library Association meetings.

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**Meeting Calendar**

For additional information on any of the events listed contact the NISO office at nisohq@niso.org

**APRIL 2001**

April 2-3	SC AVZ39.50 Profile
Irving, TX

April 25-26	Workshop on Networked Reference Services
Washington, D.C.

April 30-May 2	NISO SC AT-Circ Protocol
Sheffield, UK

**MAY 2001**

May 3-4	SC9 WG 3:ISTC
Paris

**JUNE 2001**

June 10-13	SLA Annual Conference
San Antonio
Visit the NISO booth (Table Top K)

June 16-19	ALA Annual Conference
San Francisco
Visit the NISO booth, #239

June 17	NISO/BASIC Program
ALA, San Francisco
4:30pm, MCC 224/226

June 18	AVIAC
ALA, San Francisco
1:00pm - 2:00pm, Marriot Pacific C

June 18-21	Open Ebook Summit
San Francisco

June 28-29	SC AX (Open URL)
Reston, VA

**JULY 2001**

July 9	Standards Development Committee
New York, NY

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Information Standards Quarterly (ISSN 1041-0031) is published quarterly by the National Information Standards Organization, 4733 Bethesda Avenue, Suite 300, Bethesda, MD 20814 USA. Voice: 301-654-2512, fax: 301-654-1721, nisohq@niso.org URL: www.niso.org

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Standards Committee News

OpenURL Standard Committee Formed
In March, NISO announced the formation of a new committee to develop the OpenURL Standard. The Committee, chaired by Eric F. Van de Velde of California Institute of Technology, will use as its starting point the OpenURL syntax developed by Herbert Van de Sompel, Patrick Hochstenbach and Oren Beit-Arie. The detailed proposal is available at http://www.sfxit.com/OpenURL. This new standard will let information providers deliver services and products more directly by connecting information seekers to the appropriate copy of any chosen resource and passing along bibliographic or descriptive information about the resource in the form of metadata. The OpenURL can also take into account the user’s organizational context or starting point. A variety of appropriate related resources may also be made available using OpenURL syntax. Reports on the Committee’s progress will be featured on the NISO website (http://www.niso.org/commitax.html) and on the Committee website (http://library.caltech.edu/openurl). The committee will hold its first meeting June 28-29, 2001 at the CNRI offices in Reston, VA.

Members of the committee include:

- Eric F. Van de Velde, California Institute of Technology, Library Systems, (Email: evdv@library.caltech.edu)
- Ann Apps, MIMAS-Manchester Computing, University of Manchester
- Mary Alice Ball
- Oren Beit-Arie, ExLibris (USA), Inc.
- Karen Coyle, California Digital Library
- Todd Fegan, Bell & Howell Information and Learning
- Terence Ford, Getty Research Institute
- Tony Hammond, Academic Press
- Eric Hellman, Openly Informatics, Inc.
- Larry Lannom, Corporation for National Research Initiatives
- Richard Luce, Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Cliff Morgan, NISO SDC Liaison, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.
- Mark Needleman, Data Research Associates, Inc.
- Eamonn Neylon, International DOI Foundation
- Oliver Pesch, EBSCO Publishing
- Harry Samuels, Endeavor Information Systems, Inc.

Committee Observers:

- Albert Simmonds, OCLC, Inc.
- Herbert Van de Sompel, Cornell University

Digital Talking Book: Progress Report
The NISO Standards Committee on File Specifications for the Digital Talking Book Committee AQ, chaired by Michael Moodie, is currently awaiting the completion of SMIL 2.0 (Synchronized Multimedia Integration Language) by the W3C. They plan to spend the summer productively, building books, players, and production tools to the standard as it now exists, giving all aspects a good test and incorporating any needed changes. The committee will have the standard ready to submit to the NISO members for ballot by the time SMIL is complete.

Z39.50 Profile: Update
Standards Committee AV, chaired by Bill Moen (University of North Texas) has met three times, most recently April 2-3, in Dallas. Complete meeting reports are on the committee’s website, www.unt.edu/zprofile. Moen reports that the committee has made good progress in building consensus on many of the specifications in the profile and that the Committee expects to deliver a draft standard for ballot by mid-September 2001.

The committee is striving to achieve compatibility with the Bath Profile while addressing national requirements. A summary of the major differences between the national profile and the Bath Profile is at: http://www.unt.edu/zprofile/Profile/DifferencesBathNISOMay2001.htm.

The committee anticipates that the profile will continue to evolve over time and has identified the following new work items as integral to future development:

- Specify Functional Area A, Level 2, if not included in first version
- Define the use of proximity searching in Functional Area A
- Specify searching of holdings information in Functional Area B
- Specify a Functional Area for cross domain information retrieval (e.g., catalogs, museum, EAD, GILS)
- Specify a Functional Area for A&I database information retrieval
- Specify a Functional Area for full text information retrieval
- Specify a Functional Area for authorities information retrieval
- Address the need for indexing guidelines to support searches defined in the profile.
The NISO Standards Development Committee will work with the committee to outline the next steps that will build on this first piece of work.

New NISO Standards

Environmental Conditions for Exhibiting Materials
Environmental Conditions for Exhibiting Library and Archival Materials (ANSI/NISO Z39.79-2001), was published by NISO in March. This standard explains how to exhibit and display library and archival items including books, manuscripts, photos, and pamphlets in a manner that will minimize the wear and tear on the item. The Environmental Conditions standard will be useful to librarians and archivists balancing the desire to display important documents and materials with the need to protect these documents and materials. The standard is available for hard copy purchase or free download from the NISO website (www.niso.org).

Title Pages for Conference Publications
NISO recently announced the publication of a standard on Title Pages for Conference Publications (ANSI/NISO Z39.82-2001). This standard describes data elements that publishers, authors, and editors should use to create title pages or chief sources of information for conference publications in all subjects, languages, and formats and will be extremely helpful in assuring the communication of conference information to interested readers. It is intended to help preparers of title pages and chief sources of information to present all the details necessary for cataloging in a form that will facilitate retrieval. It is available for hard copy purchase or free download at www.niso.org.

Information About Preservation Products
NISO has made publicly available Guidelines for Information About Preservation Products (Z39.77-2001). This new standard identifies the information vendors should feature in catalogs and promotional literature describing products used to store, bind, or repair a variety of library holdings including books, pamphlets, sound recordings, videos, films, CDs, manuscripts, maps, and photographs. Librarians and archivists who use these products will benefit from these guidelines as they compare and evaluate products. More information about purchasing a hard copy or freely downloading this document is available on the NISO website.

Workshop on Networked Reference Services
On April 25-26, 2001 NISO sponsored an invitational workshop on Networked Reference Services to explore what aspects of digital reference might benefit from standardization. Libraries are increasingly offering online reference services and this is a natural area for collaboration among libraries if standards can be agreed to and used. Working in a structured setting thirty Workshop participants examined work that has already been done to normalize the reference process, identified key stakeholders, and outlined a timeframe and plan for development of a set of standards. Details on the workshop, as well as the Workshop presentations, are on the NISO website at: http://www.niso.org/netref.html. The Workshop report and recommendations will be featured on the NISO website and in the July 2001 ISQ.

NCITS Honors Joan Aliprand
The National Committee for Information Technology Standards, the national standards group that develops information technology standards, has honored one of NISO's key volunteers, Joan Aliprand, of the Research Libraries Group for her contributions to standards development. In October Joan received the NCITS Merit Award for her "exceptional ability to facilitate cooperation between formal standards groups and consortia in character set standardization efforts." Joan has been for many years one of NISO's key experts in the area of character sets. It is wonderful that her expertise is recognized and appreciated in NISO's neighboring information communities. Congratulations, Joan!

News from ANSI
On April 30, 2001 the New York office of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) relocated to 25 West 43rd Street, Fourth Floor, New York, NY 10036 USA.

The American National Standards Institute has nominated Oliver R. (Ollie) Smoot as its candidate for President-elect of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in 2002 A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Economics program, Smoot holds a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center and is an active member of the American Bar Association (ABA). He is the current chairman of the ABA Technical Standardization Law Committee and has been very active in international copyright law, representing ITI in five projects of the World Intellectual Property Organization to develop copyright as a legal protection for computer programs.

If elected, Smoot will serve as ISO President-elect in 2002 and succeed Mario Gilbert Cortopassi of Brazil as ISO President in 2003.
This is a capsule report on each active NISO Standards Committee or standard-in-development.
This list does not include current, approved standards not being revised.
To learn more about each activity go to: http://www.niso.org/standard.html

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AVAILABLE NOW TO UPDATE YOUR STANDARDS BOOKSHELF

**Z39.84-2000 Syntax for the Digital Object Identifier**
Defines the order and components of the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) the first identification system for intellectual property in the digital environment. The DOI provides a way to identify content in all media, plus link users to rights holders to facilitate e-commerce transactions.

**Z39.78-2000 Library Binding**
Binding is the first line of defense in library preservation and can be a major part of a library's preservation budget. Developed jointly by NISO and the Library Binding Institute, this ANSI/NISO/LBI standard describes the technical specifications and materials to use for first-time hardcover binding of serials and paperbound books intended for the rigors of library use. It also covers rebinding of hardcover books and serials. Following this standard will give you volumes that are sturdy, durable and flexible.

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