NISO Hosts International Standards Meeting

The 23rd Plenary Meeting of Technical Committee (TC) 46 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) will be hosted by NISO May 4-12, 1989, in Washington, D.C. TC 46 develops international standards used in libraries, archives, information agencies and documentation centers, and is the international counterpart to NISO.

“This marks the first time that the United States has hosted a Plenary Meeting of Technical Committee 46,” NISO chairperson Mary Ellen Jacob noted. “Meetings such as this point out how small our global information world is and the opportunities for technical cooperation.”

Twenty-two TC 46 units will hold 33 separate meetings during the meeting week. Meetings will be held at the Library of Congress in the Madison Building and at the Capitol Hill Hotel. More than a hundred persons from 28 countries will attend, including 28 U.S. representatives. U.S. representatives, attending as delegates or observers, include technical experts from OCLC, RLG, Data Research Associates, the Faxon Company, the National Library of Medicine, Library of Congress and other organizations.

Standards Action Expected

Of the many standards to be reviewed during the week, a number of items should move from Draft Proposal (DP) to Draft International Standard (DIS) stage or from DIS to approved International Standard (IS). Resolution of comments on draft proposals and movement to DIS status appear likely for: Indexes (DP 999); Paper Permanence (DP 9706/1); and Revision of ISBN (ISO 2108). Resolution of DIS comments or
other completion of work may lead the following to approval as International Standards: Data Elements/Information Retrieval (DIS 8459-2), International Library Statistics (DIS 2789), Book Production Statistics (DIS 9707), and Common Command Language (DIS 8777).

Units Meeting in May 1989
The following groups within TC 46 will be meeting in Washington during May 1989.
SC 3: Terminology (May 8-10)
SC 4: Automation in information & documentation (May 9-10)
SC 4/ad hoc: Common Command Language [DIS 8777] (May 9)
SC 4/WG 1: Character sets (May 8)
SC 4/WG 4: Application protocols (May 4-5)
SC 4/WG 6: Electronic publishing (May 8)
SC 4/WG 7: Data elements (May 8)
SC 8: Statistics (May 9)
SC 9: Presentation & description (May 8, 10-11)
SC 9/DIS 1086: Title leaves (May 10)
SC 9/DP.999: Establishment of indexes (May 7-9)
SC 9/ISO R30: Biblid (May 9)
SC 9/ISO 7154: Filing principles (May 8)
SC 9/WI 104: Serial holdings statements (May 10)
SC 9/WI 117: Citations to electronic documents (May 7 & 9)
SC 9/WI 121: Presentation of manuscripts (May 10)
SC 9/WI 122: Bar codes (May 9)
SC 10: Preservation (May 10-11)
WG 2: Country codes [ISO 3166] (May 9-11)
TC 46 Advisory Group (May 7 & 12)
TC 46 Plenary Meeting (May 11-12)
The next issue of ISQ will feature reports from the TC 46 Plenary Meeting and related meetings.

1988 TAPPI Paper Preservation Symposium
Timothy Pyatt

Last October 19-21, the TAPPI Paper Preservation Symposium was held in Washington, D.C. More than 200 people came to hear nearly 60 talks delivered in ten sessions. Those attending ranged from executives and research chemists in the paper industry, to library conservators and preservation administrators, to members of the U.S. Congress. Dr. Terry O. Norris, Past President of TAPPI, and Dr. Richard Smith, President of Wei T’o Associates, organized and co-chaired the symposium.

TAPPI, formerly known as the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, now works under the name TAPPI since it serves more than just the pulp and paper industry. TAPPI has more than 28,000 members in 76 countries. Its goals are to promote research, education and professional development and to further the application of science and technology in the pulp, paper, packaging, converting and allied industries.

The co-chairs opened the symposium by outlining the goals for the sessions:
That the participants be filled with admiration for the contributions of all people involved in creating a research library;

That they be determined to equal their professional standard for exceptional achievement;

That they be eager to start practical programs that will keep our cultural heritage on paper usable for hundreds of years.

Early sessions worked to put the issues into perspective by documenting the problem. Richard DeGennaro, New York Public Library, stated that "time is of the essence—at least 40 percent of the books in major research collections in the U.S. will soon be too fragile to handle—and cooperation is a necessity."

Anthony H. Liberatore, P.H. Glatfelter Co., gave a brief history of papermaking and made a strong case for the paper industry to switch to manufacturing alkaline paper. He stated that paper mills can actually produce alkaline paper more cheaply than acid paper, since it requires less water and generates less waste.

Rolland Aubey, Nekoosa Papers, Inc., spoke of the different specifications and test methods associated with papers used for permanent books, records and documents. He praised standards-writing organizations for helping to establish standards and tests to measure paper permanence.

Helmut Bansa, Bavarian State Library, spoke on West Germany's different approach towards setting a standard for permanent durable paper. DIN, the Deutsches Institut fur Normung (German Institute for Standardization) is working to establish a new standard by stating the qualities that permanent paper should have—as opposed to ANSI Z39.48-1984, which states the qualities that such paper should not have.

Representative George E. Brown, Jr., gave a paper urging that acid-free paper be used for federal documents. While Brown praised the Library of Congress for its concern to preserve its collections, he stated that LC's attempt to develop its own mass deacidification system was an error. Instead, Brown holds that LC should cooperate with the private sector to develop a safe and effective mass deacidification process.

Samuel B. Scaggs, U.S. Government Printing Office, explained GPO's organization and gave its perspective on the use of alkaline paper. GPO does not currently support a ban on the use of acid paper for GPO-produced documents because it believes that the supply and availability of alkaline paper is not sufficient for GPO's demands.

Richard Smith, Wei T'o Associates, outlined the current and proposed systems used for mass deacidification. Of the five systems described, Smith argued that his own system (Wei T'o Nonaqueous Book Deacidification System) was the most effective. After Smith delivered his prepared remarks, a representative from one of the other systems described in Smith's talk (Preservation Technologies' Bookkeeper Process) asked for the opportunity to speak and stated that Smith's claims were inaccurate and unfounded.

Several paper strengthening techniques were discussed. Parylene gas phase polymerization is one of the most promising. When paper is exposed to the parylene gas phase process it creates a new material—a parylene...
cellulose composite. A coating of parylene as thin as 2500 angstroms can double the tensile strength of paper. At present, the Getty Conservation Institute, the Canadian Conservation Institute and the Library of the National Academy of Sciences, Leningrad, are experimenting with parylene. Four other institutions plan to start working with parylene in the near future.

The symposium did fulfill its stated goals. There was some necessary repetition of the history and causes of paper deterioration, but—more importantly—many of the new technologies for preserving and strengthening paper were presented. While standards-writing organizations were praised for their efforts, work on fine-tuning standards for permanent durable paper will continue in this and other countries. Finally, the symposium pointed out the growing need for standards to cover deacidification processes and, in the near future, the need for standards to cover emerging technologies such as paper strengthening.

Related Alkaline Paper News

In January 1989 the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), together with the Commission on Preservation and Access and the National Humanities Alliance, sent a briefing package entitled Preserving Knowledge: The Case for Alkaline Paper to all U.S. academic library directors. In the package, Duane E. Webster, ARL Executive Director, urged that all library directors contact their U.S. Senators and ask them to cosponsor a Senate Resolution proposed by Senator Claiborne Pell (Rhode Island). The resolution asks that a National Policy on Permanent Paper be established. It is similar to Senate Joint Resolution 394 which Senator Pell introduced in the previous Congress.

The resolution requests that all Federal records, books and publications of enduring value be produced on acid-free paper (paper meeting the criteria set in ANSI Z39.48-1984). If passed, this resolution will set a new standard for government publications and will do a great deal towards insuring the preservation of our records for future generations.—Timothy Pyatt is Special Collections Librarian at the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery, University of Maryland Baltimore County.

New NISO Members

NISO welcomes two new voting members:

Gaylord Information Systems; voting representative Stephen Hofflich, P.O. Box 4901, Syracuse, NY 13221; alternate representative Mary Ghikas, 20251 Century Blvd., Germantown, MD 20874.


Message from the Chair

Mary Ellen Jacob,
Chairperson, NISO

Progress is always easier to measure in retrospect than as it's happening. This is certainly true of my tenure as Chairperson of NISO. NISO progress should be measured against our mission, objectives and strategies. These are:

NISO Mission

• Create and maintain all needed standards for library and information science, publishing, printing and book selling practices, and for library-related equipment.

• Participate in the development and review of relevant international standards.

NISO Objectives

1. Create and maintain standards as defined in mission statement.

2. Improve the standards-making process.

3. Promote the use of standards.

4. Provide and promote education about standards, the standards process and NISO.

NISO Strategies

1. Strengthen the financial base of NISO.

2. Improve and expand communications.

3. Strengthen the standards-making process.

4. Develop educational programs.
5. Develop a program of conferences and workshops.

6. Improve organizational support.

We have made considerable progress in achieving these directions. As you will note, and can see from other information in this newsletter, our standards activities are vigorous. We have balloted a number of new standards; we have formed a number of standards committees; and we have reaffirmed other standards. During this period NISO has begun an active publications program beginning with the Information Standards Quarterly and with its publication program for NISO standards through Transaction.

On the education front, Dean Toni Bearman, Chair of the Education Committee and NISO Board member, has developed a standards curriculum at the University of Pittsburgh. This has been reported on at several professional meetings and has set an outstanding example for other educators.

During the last several years we have had program meetings in conjunction with our annual meeting and have attracted other participants in addition to members. We will be pursuing this again in the fall of 1989 at our 50th Anniversary Celebration.

In May of this year we will be hosting the International Standards Organization Technical Committee 46 Plenary Meeting in Washington, D.C. This encompasses a week and a half of meetings of various sections and working groups as well as the Technical Committee itself. Many of NISO's committee chairs and members will be participating in these activities.

We have also begun a development program for NISO. We have an ambitious plan to establish an endowment that will provide significant income in addition to our membership and publication revenues to continue to support and expand NISO activities. At the moment our major source of income is membership fees, with smaller sums coming from grants and from publications. We expect these sources to grow in the future and we will actively seek endowment contributions from members and other interested organizations.

I am pleased to announce that we have received a significant contribution from Data Research Associates as well as contributions from OCLC and the Faxon Company. These are only the beginning and we encourage you to approach your parent organization or others you feel have a significant interest in standards to assist us with a much sounder financial base to enhance our current standards activity and to support the expansion of both our paid staff and our standards development activity.

One further item of considerable importance: you will soon be receiving ballots for election of new board members. There has been a substantial change over the last several years in the complexion and makeup of the board. We have been actively seeking board members who have a strategic vision of where standards development should go. Such people are often busy with heavy commitments on their time, but we feel their vision and their contacts have been instrumental in enabling NISO to move into a proactive role, both as a standards developer and as an information organization. We hope you will keep these facts in mind when you cast your ballots for new board members in the coming months.

I would like to take this opportunity to say what a pleasant and informative experience it has been to work with the NISO board, the NISO membership and the many volunteers on the standards committees. In addition to that, I would like to give a special vote of thanks to Pat Harris, our Executive Director, who has been a significant factor in enabling us to move forward on our mission and the objectives adopted by the board.

From the NISO Executive Director
Pat Harris

The winter months of the year rarely offer much excitement, but for NISO that has not been the case. On a number of fronts I can see that NISO is beginning to take on some new challenges and answer some organizational questions that will solidify NISO's role as a standards developer.

In January, I attended the Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association. Standards were a part of so many discussions, both in committee meetings and on the exhibit floor, that I came away enthused and exhilarated that standards were uppermost in everyone's mind. On reflection I concluded that NISO has its work cut out for it. And I was more than a bit sobered by the reality that to do the job right, NISO will need a broader base of
support. It is a simple fact of life that dollars make a difference. NISO's Board of Directors is addressing this issue: over the next six months the components of a major fund raising campaign will be outlined.

The goal of this effort is to involve all of the beneficiaries of NISO's standards in supporting the organization. The fund raising effort will allow for both individual, personal support and major gifts from businesses and organizations in the information field. Details of this plan will be announced at NISO's 50th Anniversary Celebration in September to ensure that NISO will be launched into its second half-century on a secure foundation.

NISO's base of standards is also being strengthened through publication activities and program development. One measure of NISO's productivity is our publishing output and 1989 will be a banner year! Five new NISO standards will be published: Interlibrary Loan Data Elements (Z39.63-1989), Electronic Manuscript Preparation and Markup (Z39.59-1988), Information Retrieval Protocol (Z39.50-1988), Patent Application Data (Z39.61-1987) and the East Asian Character Code (Z39.64-1988). In addition, the NISO American National Standard defining the ISBN (Z39.21-1988) has been revised and will be reissued.

The regular management of NISO's standards development program is directed by the NISO Standards Development Committee (SDC). The SDC monitors the work of NISO's standards committees and steers NISO's standards development efforts. At the Committee's February 1989 meeting the SDC, under the leadership of Chairperson Paul Peters, began to look ahead to identify standards projects that should be added to NISO's agenda. The Committee decided that in the next year the SDC membership will be expanded to include subject experts who will manage NISO's work in a number of special areas such as optical technologies, Open System Interconnection (OSI), library automation interests, library equipment and indexing. By involving experts in the field who have day-to-day experience with the application of existing standards, NISO's standards program will take on a more unified and cohesive structure and be more demand-driven.

NISO Standards Currently Available

The following NISO standards are available from Transaction Publishers. Terms and address appear at the end of this list. This list is in numeric order; an index follows the list.

Z39.2-1985 Bibliographic Information Interchange .................. $12.00
Z39.4-1984 Basic Criteria for Indexes .................. $14.00
Z39.5-1985 Abbreviation of Titles of Publications .................. $12.00
Z39.6-1983 Trade Catalogs .................. $10.00
Z39.7-1983 Library Statistics .................. $20.00
Z39.15-1980 Title Leaves of a Book .................. $10.00
Z39.16-1979 (R1985) Preparation of Scientific Papers for Written or Oral Presentation .................. $12.00
Z39.18-1987 Scientific and Technical Reports—Organization, Preparation and Production .................. $20.00
Z39.19-1980 Guidelines for Thesaurus Structure, Construction and Use .................. $12.00
Z39.22-1981 Proof Corrections .................. $14.00
Z39.24-1976 System for the Romanization of Slavic Cyrillic Characters .................. $10.00
Z39.25-1975 Romanization of Hebrew .................. $12.00
Ordering Information

All standards listed above may be ordered from Transaction Publishers, Department NISO Standards, Rutgers-The State University, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903.

Individuals must pay cash or use Visa, MasterCard or American Express. If using a credit card, include the card expiration date and account number, and sign the order. Institutions must use a purchase order or prepay. All sales are final, with no returns except for damaged standards or standards shipped in error. Transaction offers quantity discounts of 10 percent for 10 to 22 copies of a single standard, 20 percent for 25 or more copies of a single standard. Standing orders receive a 10 percent discount. Contact Transaction Publishers for more information. NISO standards are also available from ANSI.

Index to Standards

Abbreviations...Z39.5
Abstracts...Z39.14
Advertising...Z39.13, Z39.26
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ISSN...Z39.9
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Khmer...Z39.35
A special issue of *Book Research Quarterly* devoted to "Technical Standards for Books and Journals" has just been published by Transaction Publishers, the new publishers of NISO standards.

The Fall 1988 issue (Volume 4, Number 3) includes an introduction by Sandra K. Paul; "International Standards" by Patricia Harris; "The National Standards Scene: NISO and Related U.S. Standards Organizations" by Mary Ellen Jacob and Deborah L. Rings; "General Library Standards" by Paul Evan Peters; "Bibliographic Standards" by Beacher Wiggins; "Information Standards: Models for Future Development" by Michael B. Spring and Toni Carbo Beamman; "Telecommunication Standards" by Ray Denenberg; "Standards for Book and Serial Publishers" by Sandra K. Paul; and "Future Directions in Standardization" by Walt Crawford.

Single copies of the issue are available from Transaction Periodicals Consortium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903, for $15 each. A full-year subscription (four issues) is available for $30 to individuals, $50 for institutions. A new subscription can begin with the Standards issue, reducing the price of that issue to $7.50.

**Editor’s Notebook**

*Walt Crawford*

**Bad Apples?**

This second issue of *ISQ* reflects a high level of activity within NISO. As a staff member at a member institution, I can attest that we are seeing more standards that require review so that we can cast responsible votes. But as I was putting together the Standards Activity section, I noticed one section that is missing—and that has been missing throughout the history of *Voice of Z39*, as far as I can tell: **Standards Withdrawn**.

A surprisingly well-written and engaging report crossed my desk recently: *Enhancing Defense Standardization: Specifications and Standards: Cornerstones of Quality*. (A Report to the Secretary of Defense by the Under Secretary of Defense [Acquisition]), November 1988. One of the best chapters in the 49-page report has the title "Improving Specifications and Standards" and begins with a section "The Right Documents with the Right Requirements." Two sentences from that section struck me as possibly applicable to the more general field of standardization:

We tend to take comfort in the fact that there are thousands of documents that are not in disrepute, but what steps are being taken to correct the ones that are? As long as it is relatively easy to identify shortcomings in our specifications and standards, such documents will be used as examples to disparage the whole system.
## Standards Status: March 1, 1989

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<td>SC FF Computer Software Description</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>SC LL Exchange of Circulation Systems Data</td>
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<td>SC MM Environmental Conditions for the Exhibition of Library and Archival Materials</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>SC QQ Physical Preparation of Theses and Dissertations in Printed Form for Long-term Retention by Libraries and Archives</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>SC RR Adhesives used to Affix Labels to Library Materials</td>
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<td>SC SS Information to be Included in Ads [etc.] for Products Used for the Storage, Binding or Repair of Library Materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Development</td>
<td>SC TT Related standards for CD-ROM</td>
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In other words, one bad apple spoils the barrel. But perhaps there are no “bad apples” in the Z39 series—perhaps every single NISO standard works to, as the author continues, “install a high level of confidence that we are developing the right documents with the right requirements.” As an observer and writer in the standards arena, rather than a direct participant, I’d certainly like to think so.

The Voice and ISQ have carried statements urging that members fulfill their voting obligations and noting that, in some ways, abstaining is equivalent to voting no. Those statements will continue in the future. But voting members and commenters should also consider whether a standard is useful and is used. If it is not, it should either be revised or withdrawn. There is no shame in withdrawing a standard.

Standards Activity

These brief notes summarize standards activity since Information Standards Quarterly v. 1, no. 1.

Standards Being Balloted


Partial Results as of 2/24/89:
- 21 Yes
- 0 Yes with comments
- 1 No
- 3 Abstain


Partial Results as of 2/24/89:
- 19 Yes
- 1 Yes with comments (NLM)
- 0 No
- 3 Abstain


Partial Results as of 2/24/89:
- 13 Yes
- 0 Yes with comments

⇒ Z39.22-1981: Proof Corrections. This standard has been revised and will be balloted April 1-May 31, 1989. Results will appear in a future issue.


Partial Results as of 2/24/89:
- 12 Yes
- 1 Yes with comments (NLM)
- 0 No
- 2 Abstain


Standards Approved and Awaiting Publication


⇒ Z39.63-1989: Interlibrary Loan Data Elements. This standard has been approved by ANSI BSR and will be published in 1989. See page 13 for a discussion of this standard.

⇒ Z39.64-1989: East Asian Character Code. This standard was approved by ANSI BSR and will be published in 1989.

Standards Being Revised

⇒ Z39.7-1983: Library Statistics. SC UU has been formed and met in November 1988 to begin revisions on this standard. Members of SC UU are Mary Jo Lynch, ALA (co-chair); Peter Young, Faxon, Inc. (co-chair); Toby Brimsek, SLA; Jan Feye-Stukas, Library Development and Services; Dean Hollister, R.R. Bowker Co.; Richard Lyders, HAM-TMC Library; Marilyn Miller, Univ. of North Carolina at Greensboro; and Ken- don Stubbs, Univ. of Virginia. SC Co-chair: Mary Jo Lynch, American Library Associa-
Standards Committee Formation


⇒ SC QQ: Physical Preparation of Theses and Dissertations in Printed Form for Long-term Retention by Libraries and Archives. Lynn Jones, Assistant Head, Conservation Department, University of California Library, Berkeley, CA 94720, (415) 642-4946 will chair SC QQ.

⇒ SC RR: Adhesives used to Affix Labels to Library Materials. Jennifer S. Banks, Preservation and Collections Librarian, Room 14S-316, MIT Libraries, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, (617) 253-5664 will chair SC RR.

⇒ SC SS: Information to be Included in Advertisements, Catalogs, Promotional Materials and Packaging for Products Used for the Storage, Binding or Repair of Library Material. Wesley Boomgaarden, Head, Preservation Department, Ohio State University Libraries, 1858 Neil Ave. Mall, Columbus, OH 43210, (614) 292-6151 will chair SC SS.
Standards Recently Balloted


  **Results:**
  
  45 Approve
  4 Disapprove (SLA, AJL, ACS, LC)
  2 Abstain
  8 Comments (ASI, Faxon, MedLA, NLM, OCLC, ALA, RLG, ASIS)

- **Z39.30-1982: Order Form for Single Titles of Library Materials in 3-inch by 5-inch Format.** The standard was reaffirmed.

- **Z39.34-1977 (R1988): Synoptics.** The standard was reaffirmed.


  **Results:**
  
  34 Yes
  9 Yes with Comments
  5 No (LC, STC, AJL, MedLA, ALA)
  3 Abstain

  Comments have been sent to B. Tannehill for resolution.


  **Partial Results as of 2/22/89:**
  
  19 Yes
  0 Yes with comments
  0 No
  5 Abstain

Thesaurus Standard Revision: An Update

**Lennie Stovel**

Bella Hass Weinberg, associate professor in the Division of Library and Information Science at St. John's University and president of the American Society of Indexers, is the chair of NISO Standards Committee PP, which is revising Z39.19-1980, *Guidelines for Thesaurus Structure, Construction and Use*. In an article titled "Issues in the Revision of the Thesaurus Construction Standard" that appeared in the *Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science*, December/January 1989, pp. 26-27, Weinberg described some questions the committee planned to address during its deliberations. In subsequent meetings, the committee has made some decisions, which Weinberg explained in an interview.

One area of discussion related to the scope of the standard.

- **Should the standard apply to subject heading lists?** Such lists contain precoordinated terms while thesauri contain terms that represent a single concept, designed for post-coordination. Initially, the committee felt that the standard should not apply to subject headings, but subsequent work on definitions has kept the question open. The committee has found it hard to distinguish subject heading lists from thesauri, since current examples of each tend to include elements of the other.

- **Should the standard cover lists of proper names (personal, geographic) that include equivalence and associative relationships (see and see also references)?** The committee feels that the standard can apply to such authority files, although rules for establishing proper names are outside the scope of the standard. The standard will emphasize rules for formulating topical headings.

- **Should the standard cover controlled lists of special symbols such as chemical structures or the Research Libraries Group's CJK® (Chinese, Japanese, Korean) Thesaurus?** Yes, these are within the scope of the standard, although they will not be treated in detail.

- **Should the standard deal with multilingual thesauri?** No, multilingual thesauri—of interest primarily to the European information community—have special problems that warrant a separate standard. The revised Z39.19 will serve as a standard for monolingual thesauri in any single language.

A second area of discussion focused on specific words in the title of the current standard: "structure," "construction," and "use." The structural questions relate primarily to format of displays of thesaurus terms, which can range from an alphabetic display containing related terms and a single level of broader and narrower terms with each entry, as in the current standard, to a full hierarchical structure displayed separately, which is the most efficient in terms of space in a printed thesaurus. The committee will recommend a hierarchy of options, beginning with an alphabetic display and including full hierarchical display within the alphabetic structure, as an alternative to a
separate "tree" structure. For the first time in the life of this standard, screen displays will be specifically addressed. The committee is looking at what visual cues to structure are needed in an online context.

In regard to *construction*, the standard will continue to recommend procedures for thesaurus development. The current standard does not really cover the use of thesauri in manual or computer-assisted indexing; the word "use" will disappear from the title of the revised standard, to be replaced by "maintenance," which describes better what is covered. Today, there are numerous applications of thesauri besides indexing and searching—knowledge bases, hypertext, etc. The standard will not legislate use, but will emphasize structure.

In addition to Weinberg, the committee members are: Ron Buchan, NASA Scientific & Technical Information Facility; David Liston, Zenith, Inc., who served on the committee that prepared the original Z39.19 standard; Toni Peterson, the Art and Architecture Thesaurus; Caroline Reyes, H.W. Wilson Co.; Peri Schuyler, NLM (head of MeSH), and Hans Wellisch, professor emeritus of the University of Maryland. Observers have attended the committee’s meetings and are participating in the background work.

The British and ISO standards for monolingual thesauri (BS 5723:1987 and ISO 2788-1986) are being closely studied, but Z39.19 will look different from either of them. Weinberg’s BASIS article, papers she has delivered, and a NISO press release have generated comments on the standard and interest in the revision. The committee’s next meeting is scheduled for March 1989; a draft of the revised text should be ready by this fall.—*Lennie Stovel, a Library Systems Analyst at The Research Libraries Group, Inc., is Associate Editor of ISQ.*

**ILL Data Elements Standard Approved**

*Mary E. Jackson*

The American National Standards Institute's Board of Standards Review has given final approval to NISO Z39.63-1989, the *Interlibrary Loan Data Elements* standard. This standard defines the bibliographic elements necessary for successful transmission of an interlibrary loan request from one library to another. This standard was developed from the four-part paper ALA Interlibrary Loan Request Form, in wide use since the early 1950s.

Standards Committee AA, established late in 1982, was charged to begin with this paper ILL form, *a de facto* standard, and develop a standard that could be used in any medium—paper, electronic, etc. Members of SC AA include Shirley Baker, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Virginia Boucher, University of Colorado, Boulder; Olive C.R. James, San Francisco State University; Thomas Kilpatrick, Southern Illinois University; Ruth M. Kirk, University of Washington, Seattle; Linda Miller, Library of Congress; and Mary Jackson, Chair, University of Pennsylvania.

The core of the ILL data elements standard is a glossary which names and defines the data elements used in the transmission and response of an ILL request. The glossary defines each term, lists the level of inclusion required for transmission and includes additional explanatory text about the element. Also included in the glossary are definitions for the range of negative answers to an ILL request.

A revised version of the ALA Interlibrary Loan Request Form appears as an appendix to the standard. This revision was approved by the Executive Board of ALA’s Reference and Adult Services Division at its meeting on January 11, 1988. The revised ILL forms have been made available to, and may be purchased from, library supply houses.

In addition to the revision of the paper ILL form, the NISO Interlibrary Loan Data Elements standard has resulted in agreement to the types and definitions of negative answers used by several automated ILL messaging systems in the U.S. Definitions that appear in the NISO ILL Data Elements standard have been closely compared with definitions in the ILL service definition and protocol specification being developed by TC 46/SC 4/WG 4.

Because there were no standards for interlibrary loan, many different forms and formats have developed and been accepted. Paper forms, TWX formats, electronic mail formats, telefacsimile formats and several online formats are currently being used to transmit ILL requests in the U.S. By standardizing the content and arrangement of the interlibrary loan request form, future revisions of these varying formats should reflect the formats which appear in NISO Z39.63-1989.—*Mary E. Jackson heads the Interlibrary Loan Department, Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania.*
The Common Command Language standard (Z39.58) has once again been revised and sent out for ballot. The balloting period is March 1 to May 31, 1989. The members of Standards Committee G have worked diligently to produce a clearer, more concise revision of this standard that accommodates previous negative votes and comments.

Comparing the July 1987 draft to the current draft, the most prominent changes are editorial. The 1989 draft has tightened up its definitions, is more consistent in its shalls and shoulds, and has put section 5—"Summary Descriptions of Primary Commands"—in alphabetical order. The 1989 draft also revamps examples in Appendix 1, providing a brief but logically consistent overview of the commands.

Non-editorial changes include relaxed requirements for immediate adjacency of proximity operators (sections 4.12 and 5.75) and an extended scope to include computer-based retrieval systems (sections 1 and 2.1).

In some sections, modifications or additions clarify what the standard is and is not meant to cover. Three examples comparing the 1987 and 1989 drafts appear below.—D.L. Rings is an Information Analyst at OCLC.

**Z39.58: 1987 Draft**

**Section 2.1**

Scope. This standard applies to all online interactive information retrieval systems which use a command language for user-system interaction, irrespective of the nature of the data or databases involved (e.g., bibliographic, textual, numeric, or chemical, etc.)

**Sections 3.5.1 & 3.5.2**

Spaces. Spaces are significant and are used to separate components of a command expression. For example, a space must appear after a command name when it is followed by a command specification. Spaces are also used to separate qualifiers and operators from search terms. A single space is used as a separator in the examples in this standard. However, a system conforming to this standard shall accept multiple spaces as separators as well.

Commas. The comma (,) may also be used as a separator between two like command components within a command expression and is equivalent to a space. The comma shall be used to separate qualifiers in a FIND command specification. Generally, the system shall accept any number and any combination of spaces and commas as a separator; for example, (space comma space) shall be interpreted the same as (space) or (comma) between two components of a command expression.

**Section 4.5**

*database:* a related set of files or records.

**Z39.58: 1989 Draft**

**Section 2.1**

Scope. This standard applies to all online interactive information retrieval systems that use a command language for user-system interaction, irrespective of the data or databases involved (e.g., bibliographic, textual, numeric, or chemical). It does not apply to text processing, spreadsheet, or database management systems, or to other non-retrieval-based systems.

**Section 3.5.1**

Spaces and commas. Spaces are significant and are used to separate components of a command expression. A space shall appear after a command name when it is followed by a command specification. A space shall be used to separate qualifiers from search terms and operators from search terms. A space shall also be recognized as a separator between like components, such as field labels, within a command expression.

Commas are equivalent to spaces. The treatment of commas that occur within the text of data fields, such as within author fields that use inverted names, is implementation-specific and is not governed by this standard.

**Section 4.5**

*database:* a set of files that can be made accessible by computer.
CD-ROM Standards: Beyond ISO 9660

Standards that will build on the basic format for CD-ROM volume and file structure (defined in ISO 9660) are now being written by NISO Standards Committee (SC) TT. SC TT will define the content and format for the following files specified in ISO 9660:

- Publisher Identifier
- Data Preparer Identifier
- Copyright File Identifier
- Abstract File Identifier
- Bibliographic File Identifier

The Standards Committee will also identify data elements that CD-ROM producers should print on disc labels, materials accompanying the disc and packaging.

Members of SC TT include Clifford Lynch, University of California; Anne Hudson, DePaul University; John Nairn, Reference Technology; Patrice Lyons, Haley, Bader and Potts; and David Roh, New England Journal of Medicine. The SC chair is Dan Iddings, RMG Consultants, Inc., P.O. Box 5488, Chicago, IL 60680, (312) 321-0432.

All committee meetings will be open to interested parties, and SC TT solicits input from all sectors of the optical disc and information community. The first meeting was held in March 1989; it is expected that a first draft will be distributed for comment in early 1990.

News and Events

Brief notes on meetings, non-NISO standards and other items that may be of interest to ISQ readers.

Preserving Serial Literature

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), with the support of the Council on Library Resources (CLR), is sponsoring “Managing the Preservation of Serial Literature: An International Symposium”, to be held May 22-24, 1989, at the Library of Congress.

The symposium will address deterioration of serial literature in library collections and the special challenges posed by the unique nature of serial literature. Issues to be covered include providing access while preserving the literature; integrating preservation into collection development policies; the impact on materials of storage and housing; potential new treatments from emerging technologies; preserving serial literature in secondary format; international standards for preservation microfilming and microform publishing; and emerging technologies for facsimile transmission and retrieval.

All sessions will be plenary. Simultaneous translation will be provided in French, German and Spanish.

Registration is $150 and covers the program, coffee breaks, a catered lunch, an evening reception and instructional materials. Participants must make their own housing and travel arrangements. For registration and program information write to: IFLA Serials Preservation Symposium, IFLA Core Programme on Preservation and Conservation, c/o Library of Congress, Room LM-G07, Washington, DC 20540.—Library of Congress press release

Better Use of Video Terminals

The new American National Standard for Human Factors Engineering of VDT Workstations (ANSI/HFS 100-1988) is designed to help make operators of Visual Display Terminals more comfortable, thus more efficient.

Developed by the Human Factors Society, the 90-page standard covers not only terminals—screen illumination and contrast, viewing distance, keyboard layout, cursor control and the like—but also VDT furniture, including stand and seat, and such other factors as office lighting, noise levels and temperature. It is designed for those responsible for setting up VDT work stations and includes techniques for measuring compliance. ANSI/HFS 100-1988 is available for $25 from ANSI's Sales Department.—ANSI Reporter

Indexing in the '90s

The 21st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Indexers, May 19-20, 1989, in San Francisco, marks the first time the meeting has been on the West Coast. Friday (May 19) sessions will focus on trends in traditional publishing and electronic publishing, including online and CD-ROM, and will include a discussion of hypertext as a possible indexing tool for the 1990s.

Saturday sessions will concentrate on back-of-the-book indexing of various types and will include a panel discussion by developers of indexing software. A discussion of the implications of Z39.59-1988 (Electronic Manu-
New ANSI Officers Named

Manuel Peralta has been selected to succeed Donald L. Peyton as the president of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) effective January 1, 1989. Peralta was previously an Associate Administrator with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Donald Peyton retired after serving as ANSI president for twenty-two years.

James N. Pearse, Leviton Manufacturing Company, was elected Chairman of the ANSI Board beginning January 1, 1989. He replaces George S. Wham, Good Housekeeping. Albert S. Dimoff, Emerson Electric Company, was elected ANSI Vice-Chair.—Standardization and Data Management Newsletter

OCLC to Operate Electronic Publishing Special Interest Group (EPSIG)

The Association of American Publishers (AAP) has named OCLC to operate and administer EPSIG, which has as its goals to promote the adoption and proliferation of ANS Z39.59-1988 (Electronic Manuscript Preparation and Markup), organize and present tutorials and technical programs, provide an information clearinghouse for related documents, provide electronic mail to members, provide a toll-free help line for advice and assistance with the standard, publish a quarterly newsletter, publish and sell current and future EPSIG manuals and coordinate standards input from members as revisions are required.

Subscribing membership in EPSIG costs $25; regular membership is $200, corporate membership is $500 and participating membership is $1000. All members receive the EPSIG News. For further information, contact EPSIG (MC278) c/o OCLC, 6565 Frantz Road, Dublin, Ohio 43017-0702.—EPSIG News