2005 Year in Review

A Year of Change
by Pat Stevens

2005 was a watershed year for NISO. We took major strides in the ongoing process of strengthening the NISO standards process so that NISO can meet the demanding requirements and timelines of the digital information world, even as we completed a number of multi-year projects. In addition to new standards such as OpenURL, there were a number of significant revisions to existing NISO standards. In every case, significant revisions were needed to meet the requirements of working with electronic content in a networked environment. Looking forward, we see that technology will continue to reshape the information environment and NISO remains committed to keeping its standards relevant against this backdrop of continual change.

This environment also requires that NISO examine and change the way in which NISO works. Last year the NISO Board issued a Strategic Directions document following a detailed review and evaluation of the organization, including the constituencies served, products and services, relationships with other organizations, role in the broader community, and internal processes and business structures.

NISO has updated its mission statement to read:

NISO fosters the development and maintenance of standards that facilitate the creation, persistent management, and effective interchange of information so that it can be trusted for use in research and learning.

The NISO Board and staff are actively engaged in the first steps towards bringing NISO’s By-laws and Operating Procedures more closely into line with the guiding principles expressed in the Strategic Directions document:

• Working with intersecting communities
• Using a strategic map for direction setting
• Working across the full standards lifecycle
• Ensuring efforts are sustainable

The Board will present a set of proposed changes to the membership in the second quarter of 2006. This process involves you. Please read the documents available on the NISO Strategic Planning page (http://www.niso.org/members/secure/StrategicPlan.html). These documents will help you engage with other members of our community around the question of how NISO can best work towards the fulfillment of its mission. Look for updates on the process in upcoming issues of Information Standards Quarterly and our e-newsletter, Newsline.
NISO Activities in 2005

Strategic Direction
As part of a NISO strategic planning effort, a Blue Ribbon Panel of eleven experts from industry, academia, and the library community was chartered to make recommendations to the NISO Board on NISO’s future standards development role, constituency, relationship with other organizations, organizational structure, and business practices. The Panel reported their recommendations to the Board in April 2005, focusing on three needs: a changed definition of the NISO constituency, an over-arching synthesized framework, and sufficient funding to balance resource needs. The Board responded to the panel’s recommendations and developed a strategic direction document in June 2005.

As first steps in implementing the strategic direction, a review of the current standards development processes was undertaken (see separate story on p. 9) and a team was chartered to begin development of a framework or “strategic map” to provide context for all NISO products and initiatives.

The reports of the strategic planning effort are available on the NISO website at: http://www.niso.org/members/secure/StrategicPlan.html

New and Revised Standards
NISO had an active year of standards publication in 2005 with seven standards either newly issued or revised.

Information Services and Use: Metrics & statistics for libraries and information providers (ANSI/NISO Z39.7), revised in 2004, was re-engineered into a searchable data dictionary in 2005. This online database format set a precedent among NISO and American National Standards, enabling key word searching within the standard and more accessible viewing of metrics details. The data elements in the standard are mapped to the specific surveys that collect and report that data.

The much anticipated OpenURL Framework for Context-Sensitive Services (ANSI/NISO Z39.88-2004) received ANSI approval in April 2005. The standard defines an architecture for creating a context-sensitive networked service environment that supports reference linking. OpenURL linking has been one of the fastest growing services among libraries and content providers and is now deployed in Google Scholar.

June saw the publication of Bibliographic References (ANSI/NISO Z39.29-2005), which provides rules, guidelines, and examples for the creation of bibliographic references to print, audiovisual, and electronic materials. This revision incorporates substantive changes to accommodate electronic and multimedia information.

Scientific and Technical Reports – Preparation, Presentation and Preservation (ANSI/NISO Z39.18-2005) was approved by ANSI in July. While continuing the goal of fostering uniformity in reports for ease of information retrieval, the new edition recognizes the need for diversity in presentation in a digital environment and includes guidelines to support permanent access to digital documents.

ANSI/NISO Z39.86-2005, Specifications for the Digital Talking Book, was revised ahead of the normal five-year schedule to address changes in technology and referenced specifications. The standard is available in both PDF and HTML formats.

In September, The Syntax for the Digital Object Identifier standard (ANSI/NISO Z39.84-2005) was revised as part of its five year review to address compliance with updates in the Unicode standard, clarify issues around case sensitivity of the DOI string, and exclude certain control characters from use in the DOI syntax.

The 4th edition of Guidelines for the Construction, Format, and Management of Monolingual Controlled Vocabularies (ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005) was published in October. This major revision was renamed to reflect the expanded scope to four types of controlled vocabularies—Lists, Synonym Rings, Taxonomies, and Thesauri—and was written for a wider audience and for applications beyond traditional abstracting and indexing.

Maintenance Agencies
To support several of the newly published standards, NISO appointed two new maintenance agencies and is seeking a third.

The American Library Association (ALA) has assumed responsibilities as Maintenance Agency for Information Services and Use: Metrics & statistics for libraries and information providers – Data Dictionary (ANSI/NISO Z39.7-2004). ALA will serve for a period of five years, during which time they will spearhead efforts to keep the standard forward-looking. A key part of this work involves integration of library performance indicators to the standard. The ALA Z39.7 website is available at: http://www.al.org/ala/orc/ansinisoz397/nisorz397.htm

The DAISY Consortium, an international group dedicated to making digital talking books available worldwide, will serve as the Maintenance Agency for Specifications for the Digital Talking Book (ANSI/NISO Z39.86-2005). The Consortium was formed in May 1996 by talking book libraries to lead the worldwide transition from analog to Digital Talking Books. DAISY, which stands for Digital Accessible Information SYstem, was the name of a standard that preceded the ANSI/NISO version. The current version will be informally known as the NISO/DAISY standard. Details on DAISY’s activities are at http://www.daisy.org/z3986/
A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued to identify organizations interested in serving as the official Maintenance Agency of the OpenURL Framework Registry, created in conjunction with the The OpenURL Framework for Context-Sensitive Services standard (ANSI/ NISO Z39.88-2004). NISO is currently reviewing the proposal responses and expects to appoint a maintenance agency shortly.

**Draft Standards for Trial Use**

The trial use period for NISO’s Question/Answer Transaction Protocol (NISO Z39.90), known informally as NetRef, was extended through December 31, 2006 to encourage more field testing of the protocol.

Two new draft standards for trial use were issued by the Metasearch Initiative task group on Collection and Service Descriptions: NISO Z39.91, Collection Description Specification, and NISO Z39.92, Information Retrieval Service Description Specification. While each specification can be implemented independently of the other, the two specifications are inter-related—a collection is made available by one or more services—and will ideally be used together in field implementations. The trial use period for both standards ends on October 31, 2006. (See below for more on the Metasearch Initiative.)

Copies of the draft standards can be downloaded from: [http://www.niso.org/standards/dsftu.html](http://www.niso.org/standards/dsftu.html)

**Ballots**

Two standards were evaluated as part of their five-year reviews: Library Binding (ANSI/NISO Z39.78-2000) and Holdings Statements for Bibliographic Items (ANSI/ NISO Z39.71-2005). The Library Binding standard was reaffirmed and the Holdings Statement standard is undergoing a minor revision.

The Data Dictionary for Technical Metadata for Digital Still Images, a joint NISO and AIIM standard (NISO Z39.87 / AIIM-20) was substantively revised following its trial use period and balloted in 2005. Comments received from the ballot necessitated a further revision and a second ballot is planned for the first quarter of 2006. The standard defines a set of metadata elements for raster data images with the goal of improving the long-term management of and continuing access to digital image collections.

**Registrations**

NISO continued its registration of worthy specifications developed outside of the formal consensus process with the March 25, 2005 registration of Open Digital Rights Language (ODRL), version 1.1. ODRL is an XML language and schema for expressing rights and permission information of physical or digital content resources. The specification uses a model containing three core entities—Assets, Rights, and Parties—and includes a data dictionary of all the core elements of the language.

For more on ODRL, visit: [http://www.odrl.net/](http://www.odrl.net/). For a list of all NISO registrations, go to: [http://www.niso.org/registration/registration_approved.html](http://www.niso.org/registration/registration_approved.html)

**Metasearch Initiative**

NISO’s Metasearch Initiative (MI) released in 2005 its first round of recommendations for addressing the challenge of metasearch—the ability to search multiple heterogeneous resources simultaneously through a single query form and receive merged results. The three task groups on Access Management, Collection and Service Descriptions, and Search/Retrieve completed their initial charters and published these reports and recommendations:

- **Ranking of Authentication and Access Methods Available to the Metasearch Environment**
  Provides an evaluation and ranking of existing authentication methods, as they could be used in a metasearch environment, and recommends metasearch-related authentication best practices in today’s environment.

- **NISO Z39.91-2005, Collection Description Specification**
  This draft standard for trial use defines a means of describing collections, where a collection is defined as an aggregation of items. It takes the form of a Dublin Core Application Profile and specifies an XML binding for serializing such descriptions for interchange between applications.

  This draft standard for trial use defines a method of describing Information Retrieval oriented electronic services, including but not limited to those services made available via the Z39.50, SRU/SRW, and OAI protocols.

- **NISO Metasearch XML Gateway Implementors Guide**
  Describes the NISO Metasearch XML Gateway (MXG) protocol, which provides an immediate, low entry barrier method for information service providers to expose their content and services to a metasearch engine.

- **Results Set Metadata**
  Defines a core set of metadata elements that provide information about a result set at both the aggregate level and the individual record to be used by content providers to provide better quality of information returned to searchers.

- **Citation Level Data Elements**
  Defines a minimum set of required citation level data elements to overcome the current lack of standardization in the way a citation is formatted in a record returned by a metasearch engine.
The MI work is continuing with follow-ups to the initial recommendations, collaborative work with related efforts such as Shibboleth and ZeeRex, and review of outstanding issues that require additional action.

Metasearch Initiative official webpage:  
http://www.niso.org/committees/MS_initiative.html

**JWP on Exchange of Serial Subscription Information**

The NISO / EDItEUR Joint Working Party on the Exchange of Serial Subscription Information released version 1.0 of the ONIX for Serials transaction format, *Serial Online Holdings (SOH)*, and completed a draft *Serial Release Notification (SRN)* transaction format.

The *Serial Online Holdings (SOH)* format version 1.0 was tested and released for general use, providing a uniform way to convey information about online serial resources from the supplier—the publisher, hosting services, and publication access management services or agents—to the end user in a subscribing library.

The *Serial Release Notification (SRN)* message format was developed to enable a publisher or intermediary to announce the release of a serial issue or contribution unambiguously and as concisely as possible. Recipients of SRN messages can use this standard message in a variety of ways that add efficiency and value to their services. Version 0.9 of the SRN is currently being field tested.

The SOH and SRN are available at the EDItEUR website:  
http://www.editeur.org/  (Select ONIX for Serials.)

**Workshops**

NISO held a pre-standards invitational workshop on *Digital Rights Expression* on May 18-19 in Denver, Colorado, to identify issues and standards needs related to rights expression. The 50 participants from libraries, the distance learning community, publishing and content aggregators, and technology vendors developed over 15 proposals for follow-up efforts that are currently being further refined and prioritized. The workshop report is available from:  

NISO also conducted three educational workshops. *OpenURL and Metasearch* was a combined workshop, held September 19-21 in Washington, DC, to share the latest information on the recently published OpenURL standard and the recommendations of the Metasearch Initiative task force. Attendees praised the quality and knowledge of the speakers and emphasized the benefits and networking opportunities from the diverse participants. Presentation slides from the OpenURL/Metasearch workshop are available at:  

The Center for Digital Knowledge at the University of North Texas co-sponsored with NISO a *Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)* Institute held October 25-26 in Denton, Texas that featured a “round-up” of leaders in the RFID technology sector and representatives of the library and book community. The Institute focused on the state of RFID technology and standards, reported on RFID applications in different library and business settings, and examined privacy and security issues associated with RFID. Some 63% of the library attendees stated they would be more likely to implement RFID as a result of the workshop. A NISO RFID working group was initiated to follow-up on RFID standards needs and opportunities in the library and book sector. Slides and streaming videos from the RFID Institute are available from:  

**New Initiatives**

NISO began several new initiatives in 2005.

In partnership with the U.K. Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP), NISO convened a working group to examine the problems associated with the proliferation of different *Versions of Journal Articles*. A technical working group will develop and analyze use cases, identify preferred vocabulary for the most common life cycle stages of article versions, develop appropriate metadata for identifying variant versions, and recommend practical systems for implementing the metadata by authors, repository managers, and publishers. Committee website:  

The independent Vendor Initiative for Enabling Web Services (VIEWs) was transferred to NISO and reconstituted as the NISO *Web Services and Practices* working group. VIEWs began eighteen months ago as a vendor initiated activity to leverage libraries’ expertise in understanding, processing, and delivering information with Web Services. The NISO working group will produce a *Web Services Best Practices* document for assessing new and ongoing web service applications, and provide *Web Services Interoperability Mechanisms* that can be used to test specific instances of inter-vendor web service interoperability. Committee website:  
http://www.niso.org/committees/Services/Services_comm.html

NISO, the Digital Library Foundation (DLF), EDItEUR, and Publishers Licensing Society (PLS) have formed a *License Information Exchange Standard Working Group* to develop a single standard for the exchange of license information between publishers and libraries. As its initial charge, the group will make recommendations regarding the further development of standards relating to electronic resources and license expression, including but not limited to the existing ERMI and EDItEUR work, and will actively engage in the development of the ONIX license messaging specification. Committee website:  
http://www.niso.org/committees/License_Expression/LicenseEx_comm.html
NISO has agreed to sponsor and formalize the work of an ad hoc group that is developing a standard data container for moving Project COUNTER usage statistics into a digital repository. The official NISO standards committee, called Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative (SUSHI) is developing an automated request and response protocol based on a web services model for downloading XML versions of the data into an electronic repository. The group expects to issue the protocol as a NISO Draft Standard for Trial Use in early-2006. A NISO invitational workshop to discuss the trial use and broadening of the protocol beyond COUNTER statistics is planned for later in the year. Committee website: http://www.niso.org/committees/Usage_Statistics/UseStats-comm.html

Additionally, two task groups are following up on the Digital Rights Expression and RFID pre-standards workshops (see above). Further committees are expected to be assigned to implement the proposed follow-up activities from these workshops.

ISO Information and Documentation Technical Committee 46

Country Codes Standards

ISO TC 46 is in the process of updating Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions (ISO 3166). Part 1 of this standard identifies country codes and part 2 identifies country subdivision codes. When approved, this standard will become the sixth edition, superseding the 1997 version and will comprise a consolidation of all changes to the country codes lists as agreed to by the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency at the time the revision was produced. In 2005, both parts of the standard were balloted at the Draft International Standard (DIS) stage. Comments on the Part 1 ballot are being reviewed. The ballot for Part 2 closes in February 2006.

Technical Interoperability Subcommittee 4

A new standard, ISO 21127:2005, Information and documentation – A reference ontology for the interchange of cultural heritage information, was approved for publication. This International Standard was developed to provide a common formal language to enable information exchange and integration between database applications and documentation systems that are used by cultural heritage organizations such as museums, libraries, and archives. The standard is expected to be available for sale from ISO in early 2006.

A project was initiated to develop a standard for MarcXchange. The standard will define a generalized XML-based alternative of the ISO 2709 Format for Information Exchange to support working with MARC data in an XML environment. The resulting MarcXchange schema will be an extension to ISO 2709 and allow the data to be easily re-used for other purposes, such as Dublin Core metadata. A draft standard, ISO/DIS 25577, Information and documentation – MarcXchange was submitted to ISO and is expected to be circulated for ballot in the first quarter of 2006.

One of the most important standards for interchanging bibliographic record data, ISO 2709, Format for Information Exchange, was revised and issued for Draft International Standard ballot in 2005. The changes introduced in the revision clarify the use of Unicode with UTF-8 encoding. The revision ballot closes in January 2006.

Currently under development is ISO 2146, Registry Services for Libraries and Related Organizations. An earlier draft was based on the IPIG Schema and still had many data elements relevant only to resource sharing services. The current version has now been fully generalized and is being readied for a committee draft ballot.

Quality - Statistics and Performance Evaluation Subcommittee 8

The second edition of ISO 9230, Price indexes for books and serials purchased by libraries, was balloted as a Draft International Standard. The vote was positive and the committee is now discussing comments received with the ballots.

A revision to International library statistics (ISO 2789) was approved and is in the process of being prepared by ISO for publication. This fourth edition resolves some problems in the practical application of the third edition and addresses developments in electronic library services.


Identification and Description Subcommittee 9


With the ISBN standard behind them, SC9 is losing no time in revising the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), ISO 3297. A committee draft of the revision was issued for ballot ending in January 2006. The revision contains important changes expanding the scope to
encompass continuing resources and introduces the new concept of the Medium-Neutral ISSN.

Three documents related to the Version Identifier for Audiovisual Works (V-ISAN) were issued for ballot. The normative requirements concerning the structure and use of the V-ISAN identifier will become part 2 to the International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN) standard (ISO/CD 15706-2). An Amendment to the ISAN standard (ISO 15706:2002 DAM1) clarifies the distinctions between the two parts. The standard and the amendment were approved and reissued for DIS ballots ending in 2006. The ISAN International Agency has agreed to be the Registration Authority for the V-ISAN as well.

The International Standard Text Code (ISTC), ISO/DIS 21047, is a new standard that defines a unique, international identifier of individual textual works. It was approved with comments in 2005. The comments were submitted to the future Registration Authority consortium for a response which will be included in the final voting report. The pending recommendation is to submit the DIS with minor editorial changes directly to publication.

A proposal to revise ISO 10957:1993, the International Standard Music Number (ISMN) was approved and a revision to ISO 690, Bibliographic References, was initiated. Committee drafts of both are projected for May 2006.

Archives / Records Management Subcommittee 11

The long-awaited PDF-Archival standard, ISO 19005-1, Document Management – Electronic Document File Format for Long-term Preservation — Part 1: Use of PDF 1.4 (PDF/A-1), was published in October. This new standard defines a file format based on Adobe’s PDF that provides a way to represent electronic documents in a manner that preserves their visual appearance over time, independent of the tools and systems used for creating, storing, or rendering the files. ISO 19005-1 was prepared by ISO Technical Committee 171, Document management applications, Subcommittee 2, Application issues. TC46/SC11 has a liaison to this committee and participated in the standard’s development.

Following its approval as a Final Draft International Standard, ISO 22310, Information and documentation – Guidelines for stating records management requirements in standards was submitted to ISO for publication and is expected to be available in early 2006.

SC 11 approved 5 new work projects in 2005:

- Revision of ISO 23081-2, Records management process analysis for recordkeeping, as an ISO standard
- Revision of ISO 15489-1, Records management – Part 1: General
- Revision of ISO/TR 15489-2, Records management – Part 2: Guidelines
- Revision of ISO 23081-2, Records management process analysis for recordkeeping, as an ISO standard
- A new standard tentatively titled, Requirements for long-term preservation of electronic records

A new working group on Digital Records Preservation (WG7) was established to address standardization of strategies and policies for long-term preservation of digital records to ensure their continued authenticity, reliability, access and usability.

Related Standards Activities

NCIP Maintenance Agency and Implementation Group


The NCIP Implementation Group held a face-to-face meeting, October 3-4, 2005 in San Jose, California, to provide updates on implementation experiences with NCIP and to discuss maintenance improvements to the protocol. All vendor member organizations present reported active testing and most reported live implementations of NCIP.

Copies of the profiles and notes from the implementation group can be found on the NCIP Forum website: http://www.cde.state.co.us/ncip/

Dublin Core

March 2005 marked the tenth anniversary of the Dublin Core (ANSI/NISO Z39.85), a standard that began its development at a workshop that took place in Dublin, Ohio, in March 1995. March also marked the release of the The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) Abstract Model. Three new Dublin Core guides were published by the Dublin Core Management Initiative (DCMI) in 2005: Using Dublin Core, the official user guide for implementing the metadata element set; Guidelines for Encoding Bibliographic Citation Information in Dublin Core Metadata, which defines how to capture bibliographic citation information within a Dublin Core description; and Element Refinement in Dublin Core Metadata, describing the concept and consequences of “element refinement” — when one property is used to “refine” a second property. In December, the DCMI Usage Board, together with the Network Development and MARC Standards Office of the Library of Congress, announced the availability of a sub-set of MARC Relator terms. Documents are available from the DCMI website: http://www.dublincore.org/
Digital Object Identifier (DOI)

The International DOI Foundation announced the appointment of the first registration agency for data sets. Following the completion of a pilot project, the German National Library of Science and Technology (TIB) was authorized as an official DOI Registration Agency assigning DOIs to scientific data sets. Such data sets are frequently referenced in journal literature and technical reports but have not been easily accessible for other researchers. Over 275,000 datasets were registered by TIB by the end of 2005. For more on use of the DOI, visit the International DOI Foundation website: http://www.doi.org/

COinS – HTML implementation of OpenURL

An ad hoc community developed a specification to support the publishing of OpenURL references in HTML. Dubbed COinS (ContextObjects in Spans), it builds on the ContextObject citation metadata package in the NISO OpenURL standard and defines the simplest convention necessary to make use of an OpenURL embedded in an HTML document. The COinS syntax is especially useful when the fulltext is part of a licensed service to which the library subscribes, allowing the user to get immediate access online without having to research the library’s website to find the referenced material. Obtain the COinS specification at: http://www.openly.com/coins/

Z39.50 International: Next Generation (ZING)

The June 22-23 ZING (Z39.50 International: Next Generation) Information Forum in Chicago, Illinois, marked the official transition and name change from ZIG (Z39.50 Implementors Group) to ZING. Presentations were made updating attendees on the SRW (Search and Retrieve Web Service), SRU (Search and Retrieve URL Service), and CQL (Common Query Language) specifications; the ZING Update model; and ZeeRex, an Explain mechanism for SRU/U. Six changes to the Common Query Language (CQL) “relations” were approved, along with the addition of a “regular expression” relation modifier and a minor change to the conformance section. Also approved were the addition of “record identifier” as an optional element in the record structure and changing the XQuery parameter from mandatory to optional. Forum attendees initiated discussion on whether the SRW/SRU and CQL standards should be taken through a more formal standardization process in NISO or ISO. For updates on the ZING standards and activities, visit: http://www.loc.gov/z3950/agency/

INFO URI Scheme

The NISO sponsored INFO Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) scheme received IETF approval as an RFC (Request for Comment). INFO URI solves problems with identifying information assets, including documents and terms from classification schemes. The scheme is a consistent and reliable way to represent and reference such standard identifiers as Library of Congress Control Numbers on the Web so that these identifiers can be “read” and understood by Web applications. INFO URI was developed to address an identification problem that was revealed during the NISO development of the OpenURL standard. INFO URI is available online at: http://info-uri.info/

PReservation Metadata: Implementation Strategies (PREMIS)

The PREMIS (PReservation Metadata: Implementation Strategies) Working Group issued their final report, Data Dictionary for Preservation Metadata, “a comprehensive guide to core metadata for supporting the long-term preservation of digital materials.” The Data Dictionary began a period of trial use in May 2005. It is expected to remain stable for at least a year, after which revisions may be made based on results of implementation. The three-part report is available as a single document or as separate downloads from: http://www.loc.gov/standards/premis/

A PREMIS Maintenance Activity has been established to maintain, support, and coordinate future revisions to the PREMIS data dictionary. The PREMIS working group, jointly sponsored by OCLC and RLG, was composed of international experts from institutions that had developed or were currently developing digital preservation capacity.

Publishing Requirements for Industry Standard Metadata (PRISM)

The Publishing Requirements for Industry Standard Metadata (PRISM), an IDEAlliance working group, issued a modularized version of the specification, an updated version (PRISM 1.3), and a draft version of the PRISM Digital Image Management Metadata Encoding Guidelines Specification. The PRISM specification defines a set of XML metadata vocabularies that help to automate the repetitive tasks performed by systems that access, manage, track and re-purpose content. The modularized version of the specification will more easily allow it to be extended for different metadata vocabulary applications. The new version incorporates enhanced support for XML/RDF. The PRISM specification is available from: http://www.prismstandard.org/

Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources (COUNTER)

Release 2 of the COUNTER Code of Practice for Journals and Databases was published in April 2005 allowing vendors time to update their processes before it became effective on January 1, 2006. New features in the updated spec include: inclusion of new “Publisher” and “Platform” fields, a modified Journal Report 1, a more detailed specification for consortium level reporting, and a new appendix on the auditing process.
COUNTER also released a Draft Code of Practice for Books and Reference Works. Following a lengthy comment period, the final version of this code will be released in early 2006.

For COUNTER information, visit: http://www.projectcounter.org/

Shibboleth

The Shibboleth project issued version 1.3 of its specification, providing the first full alignment and interoperability with the SAML 1.1 specification. Shibboleth is an open standards-based solution for authenticating users between organizations in a secure manner that preserves users’ privacy. Shibboleth utilizes Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) for the message and assertion formats, and protocol bindings. Additional features included in the new release are: the use of federation metadata encoded using the SAML v2.0 specification, revamping and extension of the trust validation support, usability in the CredentialService role defined in the US Federal E authentication Initiative, and multi-federation support in the IdentityProvider component. Shibboleth specifications can be accessed from: http://shibboleth.internet2.edu/

The design of the next version of Shibboleth, v 2.0, is underway, with participation and input from NISO’s Metasearch Initiative (MI) Access Management task group. The MI group is interested in extending the Shibboleth specification to support the needs of a metasearch environment.

Open Archives Initiative (OAI)

The Open Archives Initiative (OAI) has issued Conveying Rights Expressions about Metadata in the OAI-PMH Framework, a specification defining how rights information metadata should be included in response to Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH) requests. OAI also published Guidelines for Encoding Identifiers in Dublin Core And IEEE LOM Metadata, defining how to encode a number of commonly used identifiers in Dublin Core (DC) metadata and IEEE Learning Object Metadata (LOM). Both OAI documents are available at: http://www.openarchives.org/

IMS Global Learning Consortium

The IMS Global Learning Consortium released 3 final and 3 draft specifications for use in e-learning applications.

Final specifications:
- Learner Information Package, version 1.0.1
- Question and Test Interoperability, version 2.0
- Meta-data, version 1.2.4

Draft specifications:
- General Web Services, version 1.0
- Tools Interoperability Guidelines, version 1.0
- Content Packaging, version 1.2

Additionally, a set of Application Profile Guidelines were released. All the specifications are available from: http://www.imsproject.org/

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Ringgold, Inc.: Improving Library Supply Chain

by Cynthia Hodgson

Ringgold, Inc., headquartered in Beaverton, Oregon, is on a mission to improve the library procurement marketplace. Originally focused on library software procurement under its previous name, OpenRFP, the company was renamed Ringgold following its acquisition of Biblio Tech, Ltd. and Information Power, Ltd. Accompanying the new name is an expanded vision of the company’s role in the library supply chain. In addition to its OpenRFP library software procurement services, Ringgold also offers library technology newsletters, an e-directory of suppliers, and several database services for publishers. “Our objective,” states Ringgold chairman Ralph Shoffner, “is to improve the market efficiency and effectiveness of the library supply chain through communications and information.” Standards play a significant role in Ringgold’s mission as demonstrated in their OpenRFP product, a forum for library system vendors to supply detailed information about their library software. The underlying OpenRFP database contains over 1700 functional descriptions of potential system requirements. Included in those functional descriptions are the relevant library standards from NISO, MARC, and ISO. Vendors post an indicator of whether their product satisfies the specified function, while optionally providing comments about how their product supports that feature. This information is available through a public web portal (www.openrfp.com) that is both searchable and browseable.

The real value of OpenRFP, however, is in the private areas where vendors can post detailed information about the functionality of their products and control which libraries or consultants may see these details. Libraries can also obtain a private area to post their specific procurement requirements and open their information to any or all vendors in the system. The vendors can then post detailed responses, specific to the individual libraries. Ringgold has supplied spreadsheets of functional descriptions to over a dozen libraries in six countries and worked closely with four libraries through the procurement process. “In every case,” according to
Shoffner, “the library has included a vendor or vendor product that hadn’t been previously considered.” The futuristic goal of OpenRFP is electronic procurement. However, for those organizations where regulations still require paper documentation, Ringgold can export spreadsheets of the functional specs and import the vendor responses in order to complete the response analysis.

Ringgold maintains a “vendor neutral” role, identifying functions and relevant standards but not evaluating whether vendors conform to them or what “best practice” may be. While advocating the use of standards, the company has not previously taken an active role in standards development. However, expansion into publisher services through the Information Power acquisition is causing Ringgold to take a more pro-active role in the standards area of institutional identifiers. Ringgold maintains a database of institutions that subscribe to journals, currently numbering some 40,000 institutions in 20 countries. Development of this database uncovered a number of issues including the lack of a single unique identifier and no standard metadata definitions to accompany the available identifiers.

On January 20, Ringgold jointly announced with the British Library, HighWire Press, Swets Information Services, B.V., and a group of HighWire-affiliated publishers, the formation of a year-long pilot project to make recommendations on how to improve the use of institutional identifiers for more effective product delivery through the supply chain. Existing standards such as SAN (ANSI/NISO Z39.43), ISIL (ISO 15511), and the MARC Code List for Organizations will be evaluated as part of the project. “A key issue,” Shoffner explains, “will be defining the standard metadata needed in support of the institutional identifier.” The full press release about the project is available from www.journalsupplychain.org.

For more information on Ringgold, Inc., its products and services, visit the company’s website:
www.ringgold.com

NISO NEWS AND NOTES

NISO Strategic Direction Featured at ALA Midwinter

The NISO Board engaged NISO members and the broader community in a discussion of NISO’s strategic direction at three sessions during ALA Midwinter: the LITA Standards Interest Group, the NISO AVIAC meeting, and the NISO Standards Roundtable. These discussions are the first step towards revising NISO’s By-laws and Operating Procedures in a way that allows NISO to be optimally effective in today’s changing environment.

Board members highlighted NISO’s new mission statement, the guiding principles underlying NISO’s new strategic direction, and the products and services NISO provides, which include:

- Standards that provide reliable guidance. Besides NISO’s traditional Z39 standards, NISO offers profiles, best practices, guidelines, and technical reports.
- Leadership provided through the strategic standards map, white papers, intelligence scans, and advocacy.
- Supporting services that are intended to broaden and enhance NISO standards reach such as a replicable standards process, education programs, and standards maintenance.

The NISO Board also discussed the recommendations contained in a newly issued report the Board commissioned from Roy Tennant, User Services Architect for the California Digital Library. The report affirmed the Board’s decision to operate from a strategic standards map and recommended:

- Holding a substantial annual meeting.
- Creating a new standards development path that anyone can use.
- Replacing the current Standards Development Committee with standing committees in the main areas of standards-related work identified through the proposed “architectural overview.”
- Establishing a “pool” type balloting procedure where members would register their area(s) of interest and vote only on standards applicable to those areas. (Currently, all NISO members vote on all standards that have reached the balloting phase of processing.)
- Expanding the NISO Patent Policy.
- Establishing a new pathway into the standards process such as the option of submitting a “Discussion Document” as a first step to standardization.
- Hiring a Standards Coordinator.

Tennant’s report results from a four-month study of NISO internal operations as well as the structure, policies, and processes of other standards development groups.

The Board is working to prepare recommendations for membership approval that would implement many of the specific recommendations. Other recommendations are dependent upon the Board identifying funding sources to support implementation.

Review NISO’s Strategic Planning documents at:
http://www.niso.org/members/secure/StrategicPlan.html
NISO Welcomes Three New Members

Three new organizations have joined NISO as voting members: Baker Robbins & Company, Factiva, and Swets Information Services.

Baker Robbins & Company (www.brco.com) is an independent technology consulting firm “dedicated to developing and implementing innovative solutions” to help their clients achieve critical business objectives. With offices in Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and London, the firm emphasizes their vendor objectivity in delivering the best technology solutions for their clients’ specific business needs and unique culture. Diane Carlisle is the company’s voting representative to NISO.

Factiva® (www.factiva.com), a Dow Jones & Reuters Company, provides “essential business news and information together with the content delivery tools and services that enable professionals to make better decisions faster.” One of the company’s newest product lines, Factiva Taxonomy, was created following the acquisition of Synapse, a former NISO member. Trish Yancey is the primary NISO representative; Dave Clarke is the alternate.

Swets Information Services (informationservices.swets.com) is the “premier outsourcing and facilitating partner for the acquisition, access and management of scholarly business and professional information.” Swets provides libraries and other customers with a single point of contact for managing their subscriptions, both print and electronic. The company also provides subscription-related content databases and searching as well as an OpenURL link resolver. The primary NISO voting representative is Tina Feick and William Hoffman is the alternate.

NISO STANDARDS IN PRACTICE

DCMI Announces New Mission and Approach

Following the ten year anniversary of the Dublin Core, the Dublin Core Management Initiative (DCMI) Directorate and Board of Trustees developed a new vision for the future of the organization to form the basis for the work in the coming years. The new mission statement reflects that change from functional resource discovery to a broader resource description approach.

As part of the new approach, the DCMI expects to expand beyond the focus on the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set to provide more services to developers of metadata systems including reviews of Application Profiles and specifications of the use of DC metadata against the DC Abstract Model. Additionally, the procedures for the creation and maintenance of individual terms for the DCMI Namespace will be revised.

New procedures and detailed implementation plans for the new vision are expected to be available in the second half of 2006.

Bepress and Ex Libris Implement NISO MXG

The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress) has completed the first implementation of the NISO Metasearch XML Gateway (MXG) by integrating their ResearchNow Full Access database with the Ex Libris MetaLib library portal and metasearch engine.

Chris Roberts, Product Manager for MetaLib KnowledgeBase at Ex Libris said, “The use of the NISO MXG protocol by bepress made for quick and simple communications between the products of our two companies and, technically, the integration went very smoothly. Ex Libris applauds the efforts that have gone into the development of the NISO MXG protocol and looks forward to many more such straight-forward integrations.”

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

BISG Launches ONIX Users Directory

The Book Industry Study Group (BISG) has developed an online ONIX Users Directory to provide up-to-date information on the companies that use ONIX for Books a standard format for exchanging book information. The information which can be traded in an ONIX record goes beyond the standard bibliographic data and can include such items as synopses, reviews, and author biographies that can be utilized by trading partners to help market the book.

Over 50 companies are currently listed in the directory; among them are publishers, wholesale and retail booksellers, and distributors.

Access the ONIX Users Directory at: www.bisg.org/ondx/oximplementers_directory.html
STATE OF THE STANDARDS 2006

This comprehensive report on NISO's standards and initiatives appears in the January issue of ISQ to keep you informed of the scope and status of NISO's program on an annual basis. If you have questions about any of the standards or development programs, contact the NISO office by phone (301-654-2512), via email (nisohq@niso.org), or visit the Standards section of the NISO website (www.niso.org).

In Development

Listed below are the NISO working groups that are currently developing new or revised standards, reports, or best practice recommendations. Refer to the NISO website, Newsline, and Information Standards Quarterly for updates on the working group activities. 

DSFTU stands for Draft Standard for Trial Use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORKING GROUP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data Dictionary – Technical Metadata for Digital Still Images</td>
<td>Z39.87-200X (AIIM 20-200X) standard in revision following a 2005 ballot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Chairs: Robin L. Dale, Oya Rieger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Identifiers</td>
<td>Pre-standards research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair: R. P. Channing Rodgers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Rights Expression</td>
<td>Pre-standards research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Denise Troll Covey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange of Serial Subscription Information</td>
<td>Field testing Serial Release Notification (SRN), v 0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Working Project with EDItEUR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Chairs: Priscilla Caplan, Richard Gedye</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>License Expression</td>
<td>In development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint project with DLF, EDItEUR, and PLS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Chairs: Nathan Robertson, Alicia Wise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metasearch Initiative TG1, Access Management</td>
<td>Working with Shibboleth project to incorporate metasearch requirements into the next version of the Shibboleth specification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Mike Teets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metasearch Initiative TG2, Collection and Service Descriptions</td>
<td>Z39.91-200X, Collection Description Specification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Juha Hakala</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z39.92-200X, Information Retrieval Service Description Specification</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Issued as DSFTU through October 31, 2006</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metasearch Initiative TG3, Search / Retrieve</td>
<td>Field testing the NISO Metasearch XML Gateway (MXG) protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Chairs: Katherine Kott, Sara Randall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networked Reference Services</td>
<td>Z39.90 - 200X, Question/Answer Transaction Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Sally H. McCallum</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>DSFTU extended through December 31, 2006.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFID</td>
<td>Pre-standards research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Vinod Chachra</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative</td>
<td>In development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Chairs: Adam Chandler, Oliver Pesch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Versions of Journal Articles</td>
<td>In development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint project with ALPSP</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Cliff Morgan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Web Services and Practices</td>
<td>In development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Chairs: Candy Zemon, Ian Davis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Revision

The following standards are published and approved NISO standards that are now at some stage of revision. Refer to the NISO website, Newsline, and Information Standards Quarterly for updates on committee activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESIGNATION</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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</thead>
</table>
Published and Approved NISO Standards

The following NISO standards are approved and published. Information noted includes: the designation of the standard, its title, and the year when the standard is scheduled for its next fiveyear review. The notation R, e.g. R2002, indicates that the standard was reaffirmed in the specified year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESIGNATION</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>FIVE YEAR REVIEW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.7-2004</td>
<td>Information Services and Use: Metrics and statistics for libraries and information providers—Data Dictionary</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.20-1999</td>
<td>Criteria for Price Indexes for Print Library Materials</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.29-2005</td>
<td>Bibliographic References</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.53-2001</td>
<td>Codes for the Representation of Languages for Information Interchange</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.71-1999</td>
<td>Holdings Statements for Bibliographic Items</td>
<td>In revision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.78-2000</td>
<td>Library Binding</td>
<td>Reaffirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.82-2001</td>
<td>Title Pages for Conference Publications</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.84-2005</td>
<td>Syntax for the Digital Object Identifier</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Balloted in 2005 for reaffirmation. Insufficient votes for any action.
Withdrawn NISO Standards

In accordance with ANSI procedures all American National Standards that are not revised or reaffirmed within ten years following ANSI BSR approval are automatically administratively withdrawn. A list of withdrawn standards is available on the NISO website (www.niso.org/standards/withdrawn.html). Copies of these standards are available from the NISO office.
NISO MEMBERS, VOTING REPRESENTATIVES, AND ALTERNATES 2006

3M
Susan Boettcher, Roger D. Larson (Alt)

American Association of Law Libraries
Robert L. Oakley, Mary Alice Baish (Alt)

American Chemical Society
Matthew Toussant

American Library Association
Betty Landesman

American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T)
Matthew Toussant

American Society of Indexers
Judith Gibbs

ARMA International
William Millican

Armed Forces Medical Library
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Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA)
Pat Fragola

Association for Information and Image Management (AIIM)
Betsy A. Fanning

Association of Information and Dissemination Centers (ASIDIC)
Margie Hlava

Association of Jewish Libraries
Caroline R. Miller, Elizabeth Vernon (Alt)

Association of Research Libraries
Duane E. Webster, Julia Blixrud (Alt)

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Paul Cope

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Diane Carlisle

Barnes & Noble, Inc.
Douglas Cheney

Book Industry Communication
Brian Green

California Digital Library
Daniel Greenstein, John Kunze (Alt)

Cambridge Information Group
Matthew Dunie

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Douglas Karp, Frank Palazzo (Alt)

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Susan Campbell, Ann Armbrister (Alt)

Colorado State Library
Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Steve Wrede (Alt)

Copyright Clearance Center
Heather Reid, Tracey Armstrong (Alt)

CrossRef
Edward Pentz, Amy Brand (Alt)

DAISY Consortium
George Kerscher, Markus Gylling (Alt)

EBSCO Information Services
Gary Coker, Oliver Pesch (Alt)

Elsevier
Paul Mostert

Endeavor Information Systems, Inc.
Sara Randall, Shelley Hostetler (Alt)

Ex Libris, Inc
Jenny Walker, James Steenbergen (Alt)

Factiva
Trish Yancey, Dave Clarke (Alt)

Fretwell-Downing Informatics
Robin Murray

Gale Group
Katherine Gruber, Justine Carson (Alt)

Geac Library Solutions
Eric Conderaerts, Eloise Sullivan (Alt)

H.W. Wilson Company
Ann Case, Patricia Kuhr (Alt)

Helsinki University Library
Juha Hakala

Index Data
Sebastian Hammer, David Dorman (Alt)

Inera Inc.
Bruce Rosenblum

INFLIBNET Centre
T A V Murthy, Rajesh Chandrakar (Alt)

Infotrieve
Jan Peterson

Innodata Isogen, Inc.
Carolyn Muzyka

Innovative Interfaces, Inc.
Gerald M. Kline, Betsy Graham (Alt)

The International DOI Foundation
Norman Paskin

Ithaka/JSTOR/ARTstor
Evan Owens, Bruce Heterick (Alt)

John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
Eric Swanson, Clifford Morgan (Alt)

Library Binding Institute
Debra Nolan

The Library Corporation
Mark Wilson, Wayne Hicks (Alt)

Library of Congress
Sally H. McCallum

Los Alamos National Laboratory
Richard E. Luce

Lucent Technologies
M.E. Brennan

Medical Library Association
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MINITEX
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Modern Language Association
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MuseGlobal, Inc.
Kate Noerr, Clifford Hammond (Alt)

Music Library Association
Mark McKnight, David Sommerfield (Alt)

National Agricultural Library
Eleanor G. Frierson, Gary K. McConaughy (Alt)

National Archives and Records Administration
Nancy Allard

National Library of Medicine
Barbara Rapp, Betsy L. Humphreys (Alt)

National Security Agency
Kate Dolan

NFAIS
Marjorie Hlava

OCLC, Inc.
Thomas Hickey

Openly Informatics, Inc.
Eric Hellman

Paratext
Robert Asleson, Eric Calaluca (Alt)

Polaris Library Systems
Candy Zemon, Paul Huf (Alt)

ProQuest Information and Learning
Christopher Rennie, Carol Brent (Alt)

Random House, Inc.
Laurie Stark

Recording Industry Association of America
Bruce Block, Carlos Garza (Alt)

Ringgold, Inc.
Ralph Shoffner, Donald Chvatal (Alt)

RLG
Lennie Stovel

Sage Publications
Carol Richman, Richard Fidczuk (Alt)

Serials Solutions, Inc.
Michael Showalter, Peter McCracken (Alt)

SirsiDynix
Greg Hathorn, Slavko Manojlovich (Alt)

Society for Technical Communication (STC)
Frederick O’Hara, Annette Reilly (Alt)

Society of American Archivists
Lisa Weber

Special Libraries Association (SLA)
Julie-Mae Stanley

Swets Information Services
Tina Feick, William Hoffman (Alt)
Descriptive Metadata for Copyright Status
by Karen Coyle. First Monday, 10(10), October, 3, 2005
Proposes a small set of descriptive data elements that should accompany digital materials to inform potential users of the copyright status of the item.
http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue10_10/coyle/

Google Scholar Versus Metasearch Systems
by Tamar Sadeh. HEP Libraries Website, Issue 12, February 2006
Compares library metasearching systems to Google Scholar and provides the pros and cons of each, concluding that a locally controlled and branded library system is still necessary.
http://library.cern.ch/HEPLW/12/papers/1/

IEEE Standards in Education [website]
An online standards education portal of materials developed by IEEE as well as links to content from various standards development organizations. Includes tutorials, case studies, glossary, lists of standards bodies, and news features.
http://www.ieee.org/standardiseducation

New Frameworks for Resource Discovery and Delivery
Makes four assertions about the roles of libraries in resource discovery and delivery workflows. Mentions use of standards such as OpenURL, NCIP, Z39.50 Holdings Schema, DCMI Collection Description Application, and the forthcoming ISO 2146 on Registry Services.

Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources
Summarizes findings of an international study on information consumers’ relationship with and use of libraries. Results confirm that while the library is used it is not the first or only stop for information seekers. Includes respondents’ advice to libraries.
http://www.oclc.org/reports/2005perceptions.htm

Requirements for Digital Preservation Systems: A Bottom-Up Approach
Reverses the top-down approach of the OAIS reference model standard, ISO 14721, and defines digital preservation system requirements based on what the system should not do, in terms of losing data or delaying access.
http://www.dlib.org/dlib/november05/rosenthal/11rosenthal.html

Rethinking How We Provide Bibliographic Services for the University of California
by The University of California Libraries Bibliographic Services Task Force. Final Report, December 2005
Recommends major changes in the library’s bibliographic systems. Addresses how to enhance search and retrieval, rearchitecting the OPAC, and the adoption of new cataloging practices.
http://libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/sopag/BSTF/Final.pdf

What We’ve Learned from Doing Usability Testing on OpenURL Resolvers and Federated Search Engines
by Frank Cercone. Computers in Libraries, 25(9), October 2005
Discusses usability issues in federated searching and OpenURL linking that go beyond the need for a simple interface design.
http://www.infotoday.com/cilmag/oct05/index.shtml

Where Learners Go
by Joan K. Lippincott. Library Journal.com, October 1, 2005
Proposes techniques that librarians can take to strengthen the library role in online learning, such as the use of RSS feeds, more visual cues, promotion of education lectures on video, creating collections of digital learning objects that faculty can use to create e-courses, providing content formatted for mobile devices, hosting blogs, and integrating links to library content in course management systems.
http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6261428.html

February 2006

February 6-10 ISO TC46 Plenary and Subcommittee Meetings
Chiang Mai, Thailand

February 8 SC4 Technical Interoperability Plenary

February 9 SC9 Identification and Description Plenary

February 10 TC 46 Plenary

March 2006

March 13-14 NISO Roundtable on Digital Identifiers
Lister Hill Center at the
U.S. National Library of Medicine
Bethesda, MD

March 30-31 NISO Board of Directors Meeting
Washington, DC

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