2006 Year in Review

Introduction

Last year marked some major changes as NISO began implementation of its new strategic direction with the appointment of a new director, hiring the first ever Standards Program Manager (see page 7), the development of an overarching architectural framework, and the design of a new committee structure. (See the April 2007 issue of ISQ for more on the framework and the new committees.)

Along with these changes, NISO continued its core work of developing standards and announced a new series of Recommended Practices. An initiative on RFID for Library Applications was convened and ongoing initiatives made significant progress. Educational programs were a highlight in 2006 with the first ever NISO webinars, an invitational workshop on Digital Identifiers, and two topic-related seminars on Managing Electronic Collections and Discovery to Delivery.

NISO continued its active involvement in international standards with the ISO Technical Committee 46 on Information and Documentation. A number of new standards and revisions were advanced, including a major revision to the ISSN standard. And NISO continues to do more outreach with other standards organizations, exemplified by an agreement with COUNTER that will ensure synchronized linkages of the COUNTER Codes and NISO’s SUSHI schemas.

Change has become a permanent way of life in NISO. Watch for updates on the strategic direction implementation and ongoing committee activities in future issues of Information Standards Quarterly and our e-newsletter, Newsline.

NISO Activities in 2006

New Managing Director

The NISO Board appointed Todd Carpenter as the organization’s new Managing Director, effective September 1, 2006. In addition to managing NISO’s operations, Carpenter will be responsible for implementing the new strategic direction.

“NISO’s new strategic plan calls for a new leader with a deep understanding of our members’ needs as well as their existing practices and priorities,” said Carl Grant, President and COO of VTLS and NISO’s Board Chair. “We believe Todd has the acumen we need and the vision to ensure that NISO’s contributions to the NISO community remain valuable.”
Standards Published

NISO published three standards in 2006, one in each category of new, revised, and reaffirmed—all were ANSI approved. An additional standard was issued as a draft for trial use.

The Data Dictionary – Technical Metadata for Digital Still Images (ANSI/NISO Z39.87) was a new standard that defined a set of metadata elements for raster digital images to enable users to develop, exchange, and interpret digital image files. The dictionary was designed to facilitate interoperability between systems, services, and software as well as to support the long-term management of and continuing access to digital image collections. An accompanying XML schema maintained by the Library of Congress, called MIX-Metadata for Images in XML, was updated to match the standard.

Holding Statements for Bibliographic Items (ANSI/NISO Z39.71) was revised in 2006 to address minor updates, corrections, and editorial clarifications that were identified during the five-year review of the standard. It specifies display requirements for holdings statements for bibliographic items to promote consistency in the communication and exchange of holdings information.

The Standard Address Number (SAN) for the Publishing Industry (ANSI/NISO Z39.43) was reaffirmed following its five year review. The SAN is a seven-digit numeric identifier used to identify organizations and businesses interacting with the publishing industry.

The Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative (SUSHI) Protocol (NISO Z39.93) was issued as a Draft Standard for Trial Use after a mere 14-month development cycle. The SUSHI protocol provides an automated mechanism utilizing a web services approach for the request and retrieval of COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of NeTworked Electronic Resources) usage statistics. The SUSHI trial period runs from September 20, 2006 through May 20, 2007. A number of data providers and ERM system vendors have already committed to implementing SUSHI.

Free electronic copies of all NISO standards are available from: www.niso.org/standards/.

Recommended Practices Series

NISO initiated a new series of documents called Recommended Practices (RP) that are intended to provide guidance in emerging areas where formalized consensus standards may inhibit innovation. They represent a leading edge, an exceptional model, or proven industry practice. Unlike standards, all elements of Recommended Practices are discretionary and may be used as stated or modified by the user to meet specific needs. “The creation of the RP series is part of NISO’s larger strategy to develop a more robust and flexible standards development process,” said Todd Carpenter, NISO’s Managing Director.

The first publication of the new series, Best Practices for Designing Web Services in the Library Context (NISO RP 2006-01) outlines the actual and potential uses of web services in a library context and recommends a set of best practices in support of interoperable digital library services.

An updated edition of the NISO Metasearch XML Gateway (MXG) Implementers Guide (NISO RP 2006-02) was also published. The previous edition focused on the nuts and bolts of the MXG protocol. The new edition adds key information needed by implementers on prerequisites and decision points and further explains the three levels of implementation.

Several previously issued documents were reassigned as Recommended Practices. A complete list and free downloads of the RPs are available from: www.niso.org/standards/std_resources.html#practices.

Maintenance Activities

OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) assumed responsibility as the Maintenance Agency for The OpenURL Framework for Context-Sensitive Services (ANSI/NISO Z39.88) for a period of five years. A critical adjunct to the standard is the OpenURL Registry, which contains all the identification information for the components of an OpenURL ContextObject. The primary responsibility of the maintenance agency is to manage this OpenURL Registry by offering online web access, establishing procedures to update the registry, and providing marketing, advocacy, and education about the standard.

NISO and Project COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of NeTworked Electronic Resources) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote harvesting of COUNTER reports via the web service protocol developed by NISO’s Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative (SUSHI). Under the agreement, NISO’s SUSHI program will assume responsibility for the maintenance of the XML schema versions of the COUNTER Codes of Practice and host the schemas on the NISO SUSHI website. The agreement ensures that the COUNTER XML schemas and the SUSHI protocol versions will be in sync.

The DAISY Consortium, the maintenance agency for Specifications for the Digital Talking Book (ANSI/NISO Z39.86) issued maintenance updates to two XML Document Type Definitions (DTD) that accompany the standard. The dtbook DTD was updated to resolve several issues submitted by implementers, and the new DTD for dtbxml corrected a minor issue.

Ongoing Initiatives

The Versions of Journal Articles Working Group launched in partnership with the U.K. ALPSP (Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers) is examining the problems associated with the proliferation of different versions of journal articles. The group
completed its first set of recommendations to their Review Group in March and issued revised recommendations in December. The recommendations include terms and definitions for the journal article version stages, a set of use cases, and a relationships diagram.

The License Expression Working Group, cosponsored by NISO, the Digital Library Federation, EDItEUR, and Publishers Licensing Society, are developing a single standard for the exchange of license information between publishers and libraries. They completed a mapping of the ERMI and ONIX licensing schemas and drafted basic guiding principles to the collaborative development of license expressions.

The Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative (SUSHI) issued a draft standard for trial use (NISO Z39.93) through May 2007; numerous trial implementations are underway. Accompanying the standard, a SUSHI XML schema and WSDL (Web Services Description Language) were developed as well as the XML payload schema for COUNTER Code of Practice for Journals and Databases, Release 2.

A new working group, RFID for Library Applications, was established in 2006 to develop a set of recommended practices. They have agreed to work with EDItEUR in seeking a standardized AFI (Application Family Identifier) code for library applications from the ISO working group on Radio frequency identification for item management (IEC JTC1/SC31/WG4). A working draft of the NISO recommendations document was developed addressing privacy issues, interoperability, security, and a data model identifying mandatory and optional data elements.

The activities of each working group can be followed from their webpages: www.niso.org/committees/.

Educational Programs

NISO convened an invitational Roundtable on Digital Identifiers in March, calling together experts to explore issues and identify potential standards needs. The group recommended several areas for further action by NISO. The Roundtable’s final report is available from: www.niso.org/news/events_workshops/ID-06-wkshp.html.

NISO’s first ever webinar was a three part series on the Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative (SUSHI). Part 1, Introduction to SUSHI for Librarians and Content Providers, gave background on the need for an automated method to move COUNTER reports into an Electronic Resource Management (ERM) system that resulted in the formation of the initiative, reviewed Project COUNTER and the COUNTER Code of Practice usage reports, and described the SUSHI project. Part 2, SUSHI: The Technology Unveiled, focused on the technical aspects of the SUSHI protocol with a description of web services— the chosen architecture for SUSHI—and of the components of the protocol: request message, response message, and COUNTER payload. The roles of client and server in the use of the protocol, handling of security, and how the protocol could be used with an ERM system were reviewed. The third and last part was a technical session directed towards developers and implementers and discussed the details of implementation, common errors and how to avoid them, as well as exception handling. Recorded versions of the webinars and copies of the slides can be downloaded from: www.niso.org/committees/SUSHI/SUSHI_press.html#webinar.

A three-day Managing Electronic Collections seminar was held in Denver in September on topics ranging from usage statistics to repositories and from electronic resource management (ERM) systems to licensing terms. Highlights included: what the millennial generation is and how you can make your information systems attractive to their unique information-using behaviors; why you need to issue COUNTER reports if you are a content provider and why you’ll want to add SUSHI to the mix; how “frequentists” impact the assessment of your e-resources; why an ERM system could become more important to your library than your ILS; why License Expression is the next “big thing”; how web services can be used to inexpensively integrate seemingly unrelated applications and add new features to your information resources; and why standards are even more important than ever and where the standards “gaps” are. Presenters’ slides can be downloaded from: www.niso.org/news/events_workshops/Collections-06-Agenda.html. Or hear the speakers’ actual presentations by purchasing the downloadable audio files at: www.niso.org/news/events_workshops/Collections-06-wkshp.html#audio.

In November, a Discovery to Delivery seminar was held in Beltsville, Maryland, on innovative ways to more fully use existing standards such as OpenURL and to implement leading edge technologies to improve access to and delivery of electronic information resources. (See the separate article on page 8 of this issue for a report on this seminar.) Presenters’ slides can be downloaded from: www.niso.org/news/events_workshops/D2D-06-Agenda.html. Or view the speakers’ actual presentations by purchasing the downloadable video files at: www.niso.org/pdfs/D2DVideoOrderForm.pdf.

ISO TC 46 on Information and Documentation

Country Codes

A new edition of Part 1 of the Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions standard (ISO 3166) was published. This part identifies the various country codes; the new edition comprises a consolidation of all changes to the lists agreed to by the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency and published in the ISO 3166 Newsletter up to V-10. A draft of the revised edition of
Part 2, identifying country subdivision codes, was balloted and approved. A final version of Part 2 is expected in 2007. Free downloadable code lists and updates on new codes added between standard revisions are available from: www.iso.ch/iso/en/prods-services/iso3166ma/index.html.

Technical Interoperability Subcommittee 4

NISO turned over the leadership in 2006 as Secretariat of TC46 Subcommittee 4, Technical Interoperability, to Standards New Zealand. Karin Zentveld from Standards New Zealand is the new secretary and Alison Elliott from the National Library of New Zealand is the new chair.

Two new work projects were approved. The Data Model for use of RFID in Libraries project (ISO/NP 28560) will develop a standard data model for encoding information on RFID tags using preliminary work done in Denmark and the Netherlands. (NISO’s RFID working group is closely following the work of this international committee.)

The Web ARChive (WARC) file format was developed by the International Internet Preservation Consortium to specify a method for combining multiple digital resources into an aggregate archival file. The new ISO project (ISO/NP 28500) is designed to gain approval of the WARC specification as an ISO standard.

Ballots were issued at the Draft International Standard (DIS) stage for two standards: a revision of the Format for Information Exchange (ISO 2709) and a new standard on MarcXchange (ISO/DIS 25577). Both were approved and final versions are expected in 2007.

Quality - Statistics and Performance Evaluation Subcommittee 8

A fourth edition was published of ISO 2789, Information and documentation – International library statistics. The standard, which specifies rules for the library and information services community on the collection and reporting of statistics for the purposes of international reporting, was technically revised to address problems in the practical application of the previous edition and to incorporate additional statistics for electronic library services.

A draft second edition of ISO 11620, Library performance indicators, was approved and is expected to be finalized in 2007. The new edition combines the original standard, a later amendment, and a supplementary technical report (ISO/TR 20983) into a single document and includes updates to indicators for both electronic and traditional library services.

A related new work project, Performance indicators for national libraries (ISO/TR 28118) was approved to identify or develop new indicators that are meaningful to compare the specialized tasks performed by national libraries.

Two standards related to book production were balloted: Information and documentation – Determination of price indexes for print and electronic media purchased by libraries (ISO/FDIS 9230), and Information and documentation – Statistics on the production and distribution of books, newspapers, periodicals and electronic publications (ISO/DIS 9707). Both are updates to previous editions and were approved for advancement to the next stage.

Identification and Description Subcommittee 9

A major revision of ISO 3297, International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), was balloted and approved in 2006, following almost two years of collaborative work. This revision incorporates a number of significant changes to the standard; in particular it introduces the “linking ISSN” (ISSN-L) for the purpose of collocating, while still differentiating, different media versions of the same continuing resource. Comments received with the approval of the Draft International Standard are being reviewed for inclusion in the final edition, expected in 2007.

Two standards related to the International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN) were balloted and approved for advancement: an amendment to Part 1 to address alternate encodings and editorial changes (ISO 15706:2002/DAmd 1) and a new Part 2 for the V-ISAN version identifier (ISO/DIS 15706-2).

A revision was initiated of the International standard music number (ISMN) standard (ISO 10957) with the goal of changing the structure of the ISMN from a 10-digit number to a 13-digit number by adding a prefix element that incorporates the GS1 product code 979.

Two new projects were approved for SC9. The Digital Object Identifier (DOI) system project (ISO/NP 26324) will establish an international standard for the syntax, description, and resolution components of the existing Digital Object Identifier (DOI®) system and the general principles for the creation, registration, and administration of DOIs. (The NISO DOI standard – Z39.84 – covers only the syntax of the DOI)

The second project, International Standard Party Identifier (ISPI) (ISO/NP 27729), will develop a unique identifier that can be used for parties (persons and corporate bodies) involved in the creation, production, and management of content.

Archives / Records Management Subcommittee 11

A new standard was published on Information and documentation – Records management processes – Metadata for records – Part 1: Principles (ISO 23081-1:2006) that revises a 2004 technical specification. It is a guide to understanding, implementing, and using metadata within the framework of ISO 15489, the primary international standard on Records management. An accompanying part 2, Records management processes – Metadata for records – Part 2: Conceptual and
**Related Standards Activities**

**ACAP**
Automated Content Access Protocol (ACAP), a new initiative by the publishing industry working with search engines and other technical and commercial partners, will develop an industry standard to enable providers of content published on the World Wide Web to communicate permissions information in a form that can be machine recognized and interpreted. The goal is to provide a framework for information exchange such that search engine robot “spiders” can be taught to understand. The current protocol in use (robots.txt) allows only a simple choice between allowing and disallowing access; there is no standard mechanism for expressing conditional access.

A pilot of the protocol is planned for 2007. When it is implemented, ACAP is expected to provide publishers with the confidence to make content available to search engines much more widely than is currently the case.

The primary drivers of ACAP are the World Association of Newspapers (WAN), the European Publishers Council (EPC), and the International Publishers Association (IPA). For more information, visit: www.the-acap.org.

**COUNTER**
Project COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of NetWorked Electronic Resources) issued the first release of the COUNTER Code of Practice for Books and Reference Works. As with the existing Code of Practice for Journals and Databases, the objective is to enable vendors to provide a reliable set of basic online usage reports. The Books and Reference Works Code of Practice was developed with input from a special task force of librarians and publishers with particular expertise in online books and reference works; the final version became valid on March 1, 2006. Both COUNTER Codes of Practice are available from: www.projectcounter.org.

**DLF MODS Implementation Guidelines**
The Digital Library Federation (DLF) issued a draft of MODS Implementation Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Materials; “a set of implementation guidelines of the Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS) designed specifically for use in describing digital cultural heritage and humanities-based scholarly resources.” Prepared by the DLF Aquifer Metadata Working Group, the guidelines are intended to be used for applications where metadata is intended to be used or harvested by external applications.

The purpose of the DLF Aquifer Initiative is “to promote effective use of distributed digital library content for teaching, learning, and research.” An implementation of the MODS guidelines can be found at the DLF Aquifer portal site (www.hti.umich.edu/a/aquifer/) developed by the University of Michigan Digital Library Production Service.


**Dublin Core Management Initiative**
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 the 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.

Revised DCMI Recommendations were issued for the Dublin Core Structured Value (structured value string), DCMI Period (time interval limits), DCMI Point (a point in space using its geographic coordinates), and DCMI Box (a region of space using its geographic limits).

The DCMI Usage Board finalized a set of revisions to the DCMI Type Vocabulary and updated the Dublin Core XML schemas. Additionally, the Usage Board prepared editorial changes to terms in the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set in preparation for a five-year review of the NISO standard, Z39.85-2001. The changes clarify questions of semantics and align wordings with the DCMI Abstract Model.

Copies of DCMI documents are available from: www.dublincore.org.

**EDiteur/ONIX**
The NISO/EDItEUR Joint Working Party (JWP) for the Exchange of Serials Subscription Information released updated pilot versions of two ONIX for Serials formats: Serials Release Notification (SRN) and Serials Products and Subscriptions (SPS). These formats joined the already completed Serials Online Holdings (SOH) format. ONIX for Serials is a family of XML formats for communicating information about serial products and subscription information. The SPS defines message formats for transmitting information about serial subscription...
products. The SRN is a format for communicating information about the publication or electronic availability of one or more serial releases. The SRN and SPS formats are currently at release 0.91, which is a pilot release. On completion of the pilots, and the incorporation of any consequent changes, the JWP will issue a first full Release, to be numbered 1.0. An XML schema and a narrative overview for these formats are available from the ONIX for Serials website: www.editeur.org.

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. Over 50 companies are currently listed in the directory available from www.bisg.org/documents/onix.html among them are publishers, wholesale and retail booksellers, and distributors.

International DOI Foundation

The International DOI Foundation (IDF) was appointed as the Maintenance Agency for the MPEG-21 Rights Data Dictionary (ISO/IEC 21000-6). The MPEG-21 Multimedia Framework is a family of standards developed to define the mechanisms and elements needed to support the multimedia delivery chain. The Rights Data Dictionary (RDD) is the component of MPEG-21 developed to support the MPEG Rights Expression Language (REL) by providing a structured collection of terms for describing usage rights that might be part of the business rules governing content consumption in the digital environment.

The online RDD, to be managed by the IDF and operated technically by subcontractor Rightscom Ltd., contains two parts: terms that are defined in the base standard, ISO/IEC 21000-6, and additional terms that are registered in accordance with the provisions of the standard. The dictionary is available online at: www.iso21000-6.net; although free to use, registration is required.

Journal Supply Chain Efficiency Improvement Pilot

In January 2006, Ringgold, the British Library, HighWire Press, Swets Information Services, B.V., and a group of HighWire-affiliated publishers announced the formation of a project to make recommendations on how to improve the use of institutional identifiers for more effective product delivery through the supply chain. The start of every calendar year is a turbulent time for all parties involved with the journal supply chain, with missing issues, lost access to electronic journals, and problems relating to the setting up of initial access. Many of these problems occur because of communication breakdowns somewhere along that chain. The project seeks to determine if the creation and utilization of a standard institutional identifier will eliminate or mitigate these problems, or at the very least diagnose them earlier. 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 status report issued in September mapped the existing complex supply chain and located points where institutional identifiers are already in use as well as the problem areas specific to different organizations: libraries, agents, publishers, and hosting platform vendors.

Information about the project and the status report are available from: www.journalsupplychain.com.

NCIP Implementation Group

The Implementation Group for the NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol (NCIP) (ANSI/NISO Z39.83) identified issues that were potentially hindering the spread of implementation of the standard. The group is pursuing alternative solutions that may be incorporated into a revision of the standard. Additionally, the Maintenance Agency responsibility was transferred from the Colorado State Library to EnvisionWare. The NCIP Implementers Group’s work can be followed at: ncip.envisionware.com.

Open Archives Initiative

The Open Archives Initiative announced a new two-year project began in October 2006, Object Reuse and Exchange (ORE), to develop specifications that allow distributed repositories to exchange information about their constituent digital objects. Although scholarly communication is the motivating application, the specifications developed by ORE may extend to other domains.

OAI-ORE will coexist within the Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH), the widely deployed standard for exchange of metadata. The more expressive digital object focus of OAI-ORE is expected to complement the narrower metadata focus of OAI-PMH. OAI-ORE will also benefit from the interoperability experience and depth of the international OAI community. For more information, visit www.openarchives.org/ore/.

Unicode

The Unicode Consortium issued Unicode 5.0.0, a major version release of the Unicode Standard that supersedes all previous versions. A print version of the standard is available from Addison-Wesley (ISBN 0-321-48091-0). All of the online data files for the new version of the Unicode Character Database are available from: www.unicode.org/Public/5.0.0/ucd/. The text of the standard will be available online as viewable, but not printable, PDF files in March 2007 from: www.unicode.org/versions/Unicode5.0.0/.

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Karen A. Wetzel Joins NISO as Standards Program Manager

Karen A. Wetzel will serve as NISO’s first Standards Program Manager, effective January 22, 2007. In this role, Wetzel will manage the process of standards development, oversee activities of the technical committees creating NISO standards, and organize outreach and education programs related to those standards.

Wetzel comes to NISO with a strong background in project management in the library world. As Distance Education Librarian at The George Washington University’s Gelman Library System, she developed and directed a library services program for the university’s distance education community. Previously, she worked with the National Association of Federal Credit Unions as Associate Director of Education, where she developed, coordinated, and managed various learning programs, and with the Association of Research Libraries, where she managed the association’s distance learning initiative in the Office of Leadership and Management Services.

“Karen’s experience and skills add tremendously to our ability to serve NISO members,” said Todd Carpenter, NISO’s Managing Director. “Among its many recommendations, the NISO Blue Ribbon’ Strategic Planning panel strongly recommended the addition of staff resources to oversee the standards process and this new position will help facilitate NISO’s development activities. Particularly critical will be Karen’s ability to organize and create outreach programs in the community.”

Shared E-Resource Understanding Working Group Launched

NISO has launched a new working group on Shared E-Resource Understanding (SERU) to develop recommended practices to support a new mechanism for publishers to sell e-resources without licenses if they feel their perception of risk has been adequately addressed by current law and developing norms of behavior. The document will be an expression of a set of shared understandings of publisher and library expectations regarding the sale of an electronic resource subscription. Negotiation between publisher perspectives and library perspectives will be needed to develop a useful set of practices.

While various approaches to streamlining negotiations have been tried, including the distribution of model licenses and the development by some libraries of their own standard license, significant problems persist. The current process of customer-by-customer, bilaterally negotiated formal legal contracts increases the cost of sales for both libraries and publishers and delays access for users at subscribing institutions. In some circumstances, signed license agreements are in the interest of the publisher, the library, or both, but as the number of electronic information products increases, the existing model requiring signed contracts with every customer is not scalable for the long tail.

The working group will build on considerable work to identify key elements of a best practices document already begun during a one-day meeting sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP), the Society of Scholarly Publishing (SSP), and the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC). All of the participants in that scoping meeting expressed a strong desire to continue to work on this project and form the proposed working group to develop best practices. NISO was asked and agreed to sponsor the initiative.

The SERU working group will be co-chaired by Karla Hahn (Association of Research Libraries) and Judy Luther (Informed Strategies). For a complete list of members and further information, visit the working group’s webpage: www.niso.org/committees/SERU/.

License Expression Working Group Boston Meeting Report

The License Expression Working Group (LEWG), cosponsored by NISO, the Digital Library Federation (DLF), EDItEUR, and the Publishers Licensing Society (PLS), held a two day face-to-face meeting in Boston in December to further their goal of developing a single standard for the exchange of license information between publishers and libraries. In their ongoing work to map the existing ERMI and ONIX schemas, the group identified changes that will be needed in both schemas to address the handling of information about authorized users, uses, pricing, term and termination, and perpetual access and archiving. Ways to make the coding more precise were also investigated, along with methods to transform messages from the ONIX structured format to ERMI’s more generic usage-plus-note-field structure, and back again.

A general discussion was held to determine what ERM systems and vendors want from license expression. The vendor requirements are clearly informed by what their library customers want, and unsurprisingly—given the diversity and range of the library community—different
customers have different requirements. Basic guiding principles to the collaborative development of license expressions were revisited and reaffirmed. For example, messages are intended for two-way communication (e.g. publisher to library and library to publisher) in the rights supply chain, and also that the license expressions are not intended to inform technological protection measures (i.e. the controversial subset of digital rights policy management).

For more information on the LEWG and a detailed report of the Boston meeting, visit: www.niso.org/committees/License_Expression/LicenseEx_comm.html.

NISO Board Appoints New Vice-Chair and Directors

The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) announced in November the appointment of James G. Neal to the position of Vice-Chair of the NISO Board of Directors. Neal was elected by the Board of Directors to replace Robin Murray, who has stepped down from the position but will remain on the Board. At the same time, the Board appointed John T. Harwood from Pennsylvania State University and John S. Erickson from Hewlett-Packard Laboratories to fill open seats on the Board of Directors.

Jim Neal is Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian at Columbia University, having previously served as Dean of University Libraries at Indiana University and Johns Hopkins University. He has served as President of the Association of Research Libraries, on the Executive Board of the American Library Association, as Chair of the Board of the Research Libraries Group, and on the Board of the Freedom to Read Foundation, among numerous professional and leadership assignments. He is active in national and international forums in the areas of copyright and scholarly communication. He has served as a member of the NISO Board since 2004. Neal will assume the Chairmanship of NISO beginning June of 2007.

Dr. John S. Erickson has spent many years studying the unique social, legal, and technical problems that arise when managing and disseminating information in the digital environment. At Hewlett-Packard Laboratories, he has focused on the policy-based management of distributed, heterogeneous digital object repositories and content processing architectures. Prior to joining HP Labs in January 2000, he was the architect of Copyright Direct™, the first real-time, Internet-based service to fully automate the complex copyright permissions process for a variety of media types. Since 1998, Erickson has been awarded multiple US patents for rights management and information security technologies; numerous related patents are pending. He has been an active participant in a number of international metadata and rights management standardization efforts and currently serves on a number of industry advisory and standards committees.

John Harwood is Senior Director of Teaching & Learning with Technology, a unit of Information Technology Services at Penn State University. He is Penn State’s representative for the Committee on Institutional Cooperation’s Learning Technologies Initiative. He serves on the Advisory Board for the IMS Global Learning Initiative, the National Center for Academic Transformation, and the Adobe Corporation. In addition to his administrative work at Penn State, Harwood holds a faculty appointment in the College of Information Sciences and Technology and the College of the Liberal Arts. His main research interests include 17th-century and 18th-century British literature, technologies for teaching and research in the humanities, information technology and its cultural implications, the history of science, and the history of rhetoric and technology.

Discovery to Delivery Seminar Highlights Standards and Tools

NISO’s Discovery to Delivery workshop, held November 2-3, in Beltsville, Maryland, highlighted many innovative ways to more fully use existing standards, such as OpenURL, and to implement leading edge technologies.

Robin Murray (OCLC PICA) presented Mobilizing Library Discovery Services, explaining how to add value to your library’s services by synthesizing, specializing, and mobilizing. Synthesis allows diverse services to be combined into a new value-added whole and enables specialization for specific purposes or users. Mobilization ensures that services are available at the point of need. Case studies and examples were provided.

Michael Jon Jensen (National Academies Press) provided a case study on Promoting Discovery of your Materials, describing a decade’s experience with online publication at the National Academies Press. Over 3600 of their reports are fully and freely browsable online with rich discovery and navigation tools. Jensen discussed the challenges they’ve encountered in implementing these tools as well as lessons learned.

Andrew K. Pace (North Carolina State University Libraries) discussed Dis-integrated Systems for Discovery and Delivery—how to use next generation library search tools to enhance and extend the traditional library online public access catalog. Using the Endeca software, NCSU was able to implement such features as customized relevance ranking of search results, better subject access by leveraging metadata facets, improved natural language searching, and true browsing. Usability testing showed a substantial improvement in ease of use.
Frank Bilotto (MuseGlobal) reviewed the value of federated search to users and the technologies involved in Beyond Visualization and Clustering in the D2D Environment. Using Muse Search technology as an example, he illustrated the underlying mechanics and complexity of federated search and how the underlying data can be manipulated and enhanced for presentation to the end user.

In Emerging User-Centered Service Models for D2D, Mary Jackson (Auto-Graphics) highlighted innovations in five areas: standards, authentication, content and connectivity, e-commerce, and statistics.

Karen Groves (Ex Libris) presented a case study on Opening Your Content to Metasearch Services, describing how Ex Libris and BePress implemented the NISO Metasearch XML Gateway (MXG) to make ResearchNow accessible through the MetaLib metasearch system.

In the Solutions Forum on Federated Search, a panel of presenters reviewed real-life implementations. Todd Miller (WebFeat) reviewed the common underlying technology. Nancy Pressman-Levy (Princeton University) demonstrated her library’s PUL QuickSearch system and Mary LaMarca (Dartmouth College Library) reviewed their Search 360 system, which provides seamless integration with the BlackBoard Learning System.

Jane Burke (Serials Solutions) in Bridging the Technology Gaps in Discovery to Delivery discussed how to keep disparate electronic services from becoming silos of information through methodologies that include OpenURL, federated search, visualization tools, clustering, and Web 2.0.

Daniel Chudnov in COinS, unAPI, and a Plan for Zero Configuration Service Discovery discussed how to merge existing specifications to provide new services. COinS allows OpenURL links to be added to virtually any web application. unAPI, which allows the copying and reuse of discrete web content can be layered over OAI-PMH, SRU, OpenURL, and OpenSearch. MetaOpenSearch merges link resolvers and search interfaces.

Chuck Koscher (CrossRef) built on the concept of merging services with Taking Discovery to Delivery Services to the Users with OpenURL, RSS, and OAI-PMH. He illustrated how standardized methods of metadata distribution can increase the user’s visibility of available electronic content.

Candy Zemon (Polaris Library Systems) reviewed an initiative underway to Rethink Resource Sharing that has the goal of creating a new user-centric global service framework that reaches well beyond traditional ILL to encompass promoting and exposing library services in a variety of environments. An initial project is the development of a “Get-It” plug-in to web browsers that will provide users with a variety of options for obtaining items retrieved in web searches.

The seminar concluded with a Solutions Forum on The Future of D2D where panelists Karen Groves (Ex Libris), Sandy Hurd (Innovative Interfaces, Inc.), and Todd Miller (WebFeat) gave their predictions on future trends. Groves envisioned a world where the best features of today’s Internet search environment and library search services were merged and include features such as local and remote search, ranking, clustering, tagging, personalization, automatic feeds, and multiple delivery options. Hurd visualized richer content resulting from more community participation and discovery that would deliver it all: physical materials, electronic resources, programs, and services. Miller described a future where library metasearch services were integrated with e-learning tools and technology and users have easy and integrated access to statewide or regional library services.

Electronic copies of presentation slides are available for free download from www.niso.org/news/events_workshops/D2D-06-Agenda.html. A link to order video recordings of any session is available on the same page.

Adobe Seeks International Standardization of PDF Specification

Adobe Systems announced its intent to seek formal recognition of its widely used Portable Document Format (PDF) specification by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Used heavily by consumers, government and industry to manage and share electronic records, the specification forms the basis for Adobe’s PDF Reader and Acrobat products. Through use of the specification, the layout of any source document is preserved across computers, regardless of the application or platform used to create it. Kevin Lynch, senior vice president and chief software architect at Adobe calls the move “the next logical step in the evolution of PDF from a de facto standard to a formal, de jure standard.”

The Adobe specification is proposed for consideration by ISO Technical Committee (TC) 171, Document management applications, and its Subcommittee 2 on applications issues. As a first step, the ANSI-accredited U.S. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to ISO TC 171 will review the specification, iron out any technical issues and present a draft document, via ANSI, to ISO for development and approval. The TAG is administered by AIIM, the Enterprise Content Management Association.
ADL and IMS Global Learning Form Strategic Partnership

The Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) Initiative and the IMS Global Learning Consortium (IMS) have announced a strategic partnership for cooperative development and distribution of learning standards. Under the terms of the partnership, ADL and IMS will cooperate to establish new workgroups and developer network resources focused on SCORM (Shareable Content Object Reference Model) related specifications developed under the auspices of IMS. ADL offers participation of its SCORM community to engage in these IMS workgroups while IMS establishes a process for those organizations wishing to engage in these joint activities. In addition, the partnership establishes a process for ADL and IMS to cooperatively approve distribution and derivative works of the IMS SCORM-related work through third-party standards organizations, an area of increasing importance worldwide.

ADL is the developer and implementer of learning technologies across the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), and the IMS is the leading advocacy group encouraging the growth and impact of learning technology worldwide.

Recommendations for Update of OAIS

The Digital Curation Centre and the Digital Preservation Coalition have issued OASIS Five-Year Review: Recommendations for Update, a report evaluating The Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS) standard (ISO 14721:2003). The study concluded that “the standard is seen as important and valuable but needs updating.” Recommendations were made for clarification, to add missing concepts, to strengthen weak concepts, or to revise outdated material. Among the recommendations for an update are:

- New definitions for a number of terms, such as active archive and repository.
- A clearer distinction between examples and use cases and more concrete and up-to-date examples.
- Supplementary documents for full understanding, such as OAIS-lite for managers, a self-testing manual, implementation checklists, and national level best practice guides.
- Terminology mapping between OAIS, PREMIS, and other relevant standards and models.
- Additional information about the first stages of the ingest process including explicit references to ISO 20652, Producer-archive interface – Methodology abstract standard, and ISO 15489, Information and documentation – Records management.
- Clarification of two fundamental approaches to information preservation: emulation and migration.
- Archive interoperability with other information systems, both internal and external.

A detailed list of specific chapter-by chapter update recommendations is available in the full report, available at: www.dcc.ac.uk/docs/publications/OAIS_5-Year_Review.pdf.

Websites Fall Short of Basic Accessibility Standards

A United Nations-commissioned survey revealed that many websites do not meet minimum accessibility standards for people with disabilities. The study looked at one hundred widely-used websites from twenty countries considered to have well-established Internet infrastructures in place; the vast majority fell short of offering basic accessible design functions that help to make the World Wide Web available to the roughly 600 million people with disabilities worldwide.

All sites were measured up against the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), a set of accessibility standards developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). The WCAG are part of a series of standards published by W3C to promote Web accessibility for people with physical, auditory, cognitive or visual impairments.

Ninety-three percent of the websites studied failed to meet the guidelines for providing textual descriptions of graphic content so that the visually impaired can “read” information via screen reader software that translates text into electronic speech. Another ninety-eight percent did not follow programming code standards, which lay the framework for accessibility. Nearly three-quarters of the sites fell short because they relied heavily on JavaScript for functionality, which does not work with some screen readers. And eighty-nine percent did not use document structures that facilitate easier navigation for visually impaired people.

The study was released in conjunction with the International Day of Disabled Persons, observed annually by the United Nations. The theme of this year’s observance, “e-accessibility” will form the basis of the U.N.’s disability efforts throughout the coming year. Later this month, the U.N. General Assembly is expected to approve the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which calls for States Parties to promote the design, development, production, and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies, including the Internet.

Source: ANSI press release
STATE OF THE STANDARDS 2007

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, recommended practices, or reports. 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><strong>Digital Identifiers</strong></td>
<td>Pre-standards research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair: R. P. Channing Rodgers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Digital Rights Expression</strong></td>
<td>Pre-standards research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Denise Troll Covey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exchange of Serial Subscription Information</strong></td>
<td>Field testing:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Working Project with EDItEUR</td>
<td>Serial Release Notification (SRN), v. 0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Chairs: Priscilla Caplan, Richard Gedye</td>
<td>Serials Products and Subscriptions (SPS), v. 0.91</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>License Expression</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint project with DLF, EDItEUR, and PLS</td>
<td>In development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Chairs: Nathan Robertson, Alicia Wise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Metasearch Initiative TG1, Access Management</strong></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>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Metasearch Initiative TG2, Collection and Service Descriptions</strong></td>
<td>Z39.91-200X, Collection Description Specification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Juha Hakala</td>
<td>Z39.92-200X, Information Retrieval Service Description Specification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RFID for Library Applications</strong></td>
<td>Issued as DSFTU – under review for next steps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Vinod Chachra</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Simplified E-Resources Understanding (SERU)</strong></td>
<td>In development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Chairs: Karla Hahn, Judy Luther</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Chairs: Adam Chandler, Oliver Pesch</td>
<td>Issued as DSFTU through May 20, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Versions of Journal Articles</strong></td>
<td>In development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint project with ALPSP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Cliff Morgan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Revision

The following are published and approved NISO standards that are now at some stage of revision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESIGNATION</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NISO Z39.85-200X</td>
<td>The Dublin Core Metadata Element Set</td>
<td>Maintenance revision at ballot to address minor changes for conformance with the DCMI Abstract Model.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Published and Approved NISO Standards

The following NISO standards are approved and published. The notation R, e.g. R2002, indicates that the standard was reaffirmed in the specified year. Free downloadable copies of the standards are available from:
www.niso.org/standards/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESIGNATION</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
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<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.7-2004</td>
<td>Information Services and Use: Metrics and statistics for libraries and information providers – Data Dictionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.18-2005</td>
<td>Scientific and Technical Reports – Preparation, Presentation and Preservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.20-1999</td>
<td>Criteria for Price Indexes for Print Library Materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.29-2005</td>
<td>Bibliographic References</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.43-1993 (R2006)</td>
<td>Standard Address Number (SAN) for the Publishing Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.53-2001</td>
<td>Codes for the Representation of Languages for Information Interchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.62-2000</td>
<td>Eye Legible Information on Microfilm Leaders and Trailers and on Containers of Processed Microfilm on Open Reels</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.64-1989 (R2002)</td>
<td>East Asian Character Code (EACC) for Bibliographic Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.71-2006</td>
<td>Holdings Statements for Bibliographic Items</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.77-2001</td>
<td>Guidelines for Information About Preservation Products</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.82-2001</td>
<td>Title Pages for Conference Publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.84-2005</td>
<td>Syntax for the Digital Object Identifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.85-2001</td>
<td>Dublin Core Metadata Element Set</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSI/NISO Z39.88-2004</td>
<td>The OpenURL Framework for Context-Sensitive Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. adoption of ISO 12083.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NISO Recommended Practices and Technical Reports

NISO Recommended Practices (RP) and Technical Reports (TR) are not consensus documents. These documents may be developed by a working group commissioned by NISO to develop recommendations outside the formal standards process or may be based on a proposed standard that did not result in consensus. Free downloadable copies of these documents are available from: www.niso.org/standards/std_resources.html

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>DESIGNATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Guidelines for the Storage of Paper Records</td>
<td>NISO TR01-1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by William K. Wilson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Framework of Guidance for Building Good Digital Collections</td>
<td>NISO TR03-1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd edition, 2004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidelines for Alphabetical Arrangement of Letters &amp; Sorting of Numerals &amp; Other Symbols</td>
<td>NISO TR02-1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Hans H. Wellisch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidelines for Indexes and Related Information Retrieval Devices</td>
<td>NISO TR04-2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by James D. Anderson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networked Reference Services: Question / Answer Transaction Protocol</td>
<td>NISO TR05-1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NISO Metasearch XML Gateway Implementers Guide, version 1.0</td>
<td>NISO RP-2006-02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Search and Retrieval Citation Level Data Elements, version 1.0</td>
<td>NISO RP-2005-03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search and Retrieval Results Set Metadata, version 1.0</td>
<td>NISO-RP-2005-02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NISO Registrations

NISO’s registration process provides a lighter weight review and accreditation of specifications and guidelines developed outside the normal consensus process. Registration status secures a broader acceptance and recognition of these specifications to the community of potential implementers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>REGISTRANT</th>
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<tr>
<td>ARK Persistent Identifier Scheme</td>
<td>California Digital Library</td>
<td>11/2/2004 renewed 7/19/2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Digital Rights Language version 1.1</td>
<td>ODRL International Advisory Board</td>
<td>3/25/2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Withdrawn NISO Standards

In accordance with NISO procedures, some standards may be withdrawn. Typical reasons for withdrawal are: superseded by a newer standard, national version withdrawn in favor of an international equivalent, or obsolescence of content. In accordance with ANSI procedures all American National Standards that are not revised or reaffirmed within ten years following ANSI approval are automatically administratively withdrawn. A list of withdrawn NISO standards is available on the NISO website (www.niso.org/standards/withdrawn.html). Copies of these standards are available from the NISO office.
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Mark Wilson, Wayne Hicks (Alt)

Triangle Research Libraries Network
Mona C. Couts
U.S. Department of Defense, DTIC (Defense Technical Information Center)
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U.S. Government Printing Office
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Carl Grant

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Todd Miller, Paul Duncan (Alt)
Zone & Zone Co. Ltd.
Ahn Gye Sung

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University of Georgia Library
University of Maryland
University of Notre Dame, Hesburgh Library
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Wyoming State Library

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Calendar
January 2007
January 12
NISO Board of Directors Meeting
Washington, DC
January 21-22
NISO Sessions at ALA Midwinter
Seattle, WA

February 2007
February 7-9
Z39.87 (Digital Talking Book) Advisory Committee Meeting
Copenhagen, Denmark
February 13-14
RFID for Library Applications Working Group Meeting
Washington, DC

March 2007
March 19-21
NCIP Implementation Group
Atlanta, GA

May 2007
May 7-11
ISO/TC 46 Plenary Meeting
Santiago de Compostela, Spain

June 2007
June 11
NISO Licensing Issues Seminar
Philadelphia, PA
June 22
NISO/BISG Forum: The Changing Standards Landscape
Washington, DC
LEARNING LINKS

The ALA and ARL Position on Access and Digital Preservation: A Response to the Section 108 Study Group
Describes the ALA and ARL position, based on feedback from members, on access and digital preservation with respect to Section 108 of the Copyright Law. Provided to the LC Section 108 Study Group.

Contexts and Contributions: Building the Distributed Library
Discusses “major developments affecting the ecosystem of scholarly communications and digital libraries” and investigates next-generation aggregation services.
http://www.diglib.org/pubs/dlf106/

A Dublin Core Application Profile for Scholarly Works
Describes a Dublin Core application profile for describing scholarly works that makes use of FRBR and the DCMI Abstract Model.
http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue50/allinson-et-al/

E-Journal Archiving Metes and Bounds: A Survey of the Landscape
Review of the archiving activities of 12 e-journal programs and conclusions regarding license agreements and the preservation of e-journals.
www.clir.org/pubs/abstract/pub138abst.html

Fedora Digital Repository Software
Describes the Fedora digital repository that can manage complex, compound and dynamic objects. Discusses functionality and identifies selected implementations.
http://www.dcc.ac.uk/resource/technology-watch/fedora/

ONIX for Licensing Terms: Standards for the Electronic Communication of Usage Terms
Describes the purpose and progress to date of the EDItEUR project to develop XML schemas and messaging formats for the electronic exchange of licensing terms.
http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue50/green-et-al/

PDF Guidelines: Recommendations for the Creation of PDF Files for Long-term Preservation and Access
Provides recommendations for creating PDF files that will be suitable for long-term preservations, based on the ISO 19005-1 PDF/A standard.

RDA: A New International Standard
Describes work on the new cataloguing code, Resource Description and Access (RDA), based on the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR).
http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue49/chapman/

Resource Description and Access (RDA): Cataloging Rules for the 20th Century
Describes the conflicting viewpoints between those advocating an incremental change to cataloging standardization (RDA) and those who want a bolder more progressive approach.
http://www.dlib.org/dlib/january07/coyle/01coyle.html

The Semantic Web: Everything you wanted to know but were too afraid to ask.
FAQ designed to clarify understanding of the Semantic Web, dispel myths, and define minimum knowledge requirements.
http://www.oreillynet.com/xml/blog/2006/12/the_semantic_web_everything_yo.html