This issue of the Voice of Z39 will be distributed at the annual meetings of library, information science, publishing and bookselling organizations. I am taking that opportunity to address this message to those of you who have never participated in the standardization process and think those of us who do are crazy to devote our time and effort in such a thankless, time-consuming and often frustrating task.

Maybe we are, but the reward is seeing the development and implementation of valuable and enduring standards that we find increasingly necessary in today's electronic information era. In the past, Z39 standards were developed to enable specialists to communicate more clearly and consistently. Today, the world of information transfer is no longer the province of specialists. We use our home and office computers to access information provided by publishers, individuals, and "information brokers" of various types. We find the incompatibility of computer operating systems, telecommunication protocols, and command languages as frustrating as did the librarians who sought standard types of information on the title leaves of books they were charged with cataloging.

However, most of the individuals who are active in Z39 are those same people from those same institutions that have been involved in Z39 efforts over the years. Standards developed by academic and large research-oriented librarians may not be appropriate for other types of librarians, information scientists, publishers, wholesalers, booksellers and others in an expanding electronic world. We need the participation and input of every type of organization affected by standards in order to develop standards that can be accepted and successfully implemented throughout our constituency.

Z39's Future Planning and Membership Committees are very concerned with the lack of voting membership in Z39 by a broader group of organizations. We were delighted to see Waldenbooks become the first bookseller member of Z39. We wonder where are the other booksellers? the major publishers? the school librarians? the wholesalers and jobbers? the special librarians? the data base providers? Do they not want a voice in the development of standards they will need in the future?

- Don't just stand there; get involved. Subscribe to this newsletter - it's free. Ask about information or voting membership in Z39. Suggest an idea for a standard you need. Offer to serve on a subcommittee developing a standard that will be of importance to you.

This issue of the Voice contains forms that will allow you to do any of these things. Or, write to me at Z39's address and let me know what you think Z39 should do to better serve your current and future needs.

Patricia R. Harris, Executive Director
National Information Standards Organization (Z39)
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Bureau of Standards, Library E106
Washington, D.C. 20234
(301) 921-3241

Chairperson
It was announced at the NISO (Z39) Annual Meeting on May 3 that the voting members of Z39 have elected Joseph Howard (Director, National Agricultural Library), and Ursula Springer (President, Springer Publishing) to serve as members of the Z39 Executive Council, the governing board of the National Information Standards Organization (Z39). James Rush (President, JERA, Inc.) was re-elected to serve a second three year term of office. Joseph Howard will serve as councilor representing the library community; Ursula Springer will represent publishing; and James Rush will represent information services. Howard and Springer are replacing retiring councilors, Linda K. Bartley (Library of Congress) and Karl F. Heumann (Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology). Springer and Howard begin their terms of office on July 1, 1984.

Waldenbooks, one of the major retail book outlets, has joined Z39 as a voting member. The Waldenbook voting representative is Mark Lilien, the alternate representative is Russ Balletto. Z39's voting members now total 47.

Would your organization like an active role in standards development - if so, Z39 is the way. Contact the Z39 Office for details on the perquisites of voting membership.

Since January 1984, nine organizations have joined Z39 as Information Members: Colorado State University, University of Notre Dame, Columbia University, Kansas State University, SUNY at Albany, University of Michigan Library, Blackwell Library Systems, Inc., Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, and University of Georgia Libraries.

Information members automatically receive all Z39 draft standards circulated for comment or vote, as well as the Voice of Z39, and other publications. The annual Information member fee is $100. Contact the NISO (Z39) Office for further details on Information Membership.
Four agencies of the Federal government active in scientific and technical information processing have formed a new group, CENDI (Commerce/Energy/NASA/Defense Information), to take "positive, cooperative action (for) . . . an efficient and responsive technical information program." CENDI members have collaborated on the development of new or upgraded standards for the cataloging of scientific and technical reports prepared by or for the government.

The four agencies have been exchanging bibliographic records among their systems based on the ANSI Z39.2 interchange format and COSATI guidelines for descriptive cataloging. Variations in the application of those guidelines have appeared in the four systems. A Data Element Dictionary was compiled to document the similarities and differences among the systems and the agencies worked out a set of new or updated standard rules for recording the data elements common to all the systems. These standards will improve the efficiency of sharing bibliographic records, and the effectiveness of searching records in the four data bases.

Of particular interest is the agreement reached by the agencies to use the NTIS file of standardized corporate names and accompanying codes as the authority file for all the systems; the file will be available online to all the agencies for access during the cataloging operations. The same decision was made for use of the file of Standard Technical Report Numbers, administered by NTIS according to ANSI Z39.23.

The new or updated standards will appear in a revision of the COSATI guidelines for descriptive cataloging, which will be published as CENDI guidelines. The Data Element Dictionary (PB83-215 723) and the report describing its compilation (PB83-193-771) are available through NTIS.

The NISO (Z39) Program Committee at its March 1984 meeting agreed to refocus Z39's Subcommittee G to develop an American National Standard Command Language for Use in Interactive Information Retrieval. The purpose of this proposed standard is to specify the vocabulary, syntax and semantics of a command language for use by people in interaction with information retrieval systems. The command language will make it unnecessary for the user to have to learn or relearn diverse command languages as is now required to achieve similar results on different systems. A command language which is consistent and uniform in respect to vocabulary, syntax and semantics will achieve this aim. This proposed standard applies to all command-oriented information retrieval systems, irrespective of the nature of the data base or data bases involved (e.g., bibliographic, numeric, chemical, library catalog data bases). This proposed standard will not prescribe the commands that a particular interactive information retrieval system must implement. The choice of commands and the number and type of them will be left to the individual system designer/implementer. Subcommittee G is chaired by Charles Hildreth (OCLC, Inc., 6565 Frantz Road, Dublin, Ohio 43017 (614) 764-6172).
A newly revised and updated edition of Z39.4 Basic Criteria for Indexes was published by ANSI in March 1984. This standard incorporates a discussion of the nature and variety of indexes, and provides recommendations on the preparation, organization, and style of indexes in general. Basic Criteria for Indexes is available from the American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018 (212) 354-3473. The cost is $7.00 plus shipping and handling.

The following standards have been forwarded to ANSI and WILL BE PUBLISHED LATER IN 1984:

- **Z39.27-1984** Structure for the Representation of Names of Countries, Dependencies, and Areas of Special Sovereignty for Information Interchange (Revision)
- **Z39.47-1984** Latin Alphabet Coded Character Set for Bibliographic Use (New Standard)

In accordance with ANSI procedures, Z39 standards are reviewed every five years and either revised or reaffirmed. The following standards are now being considered for reaffirmation. You are invited to submit your comments on these standards to the NISO (Z39) Office (NISO (Z39), U.S. Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards, Admin. Bldg. 101, Library-Room E106, Washington, D.C. 20234).

- **Z39.9-1979** International Standard Serial Numbering (ISSN)
- **Z39.13-1979** Describing Books in Advertisements, Catalogs, Promotional Materials, and Book Jackets
- **Z39.14-1979** Writing Abstracts
- **Z39.16-1979** Preparation of Scientific Papers for Written or Oral Presentation
Z39 STANDARDS ACTION

This is a capsule report on the work that is ongoing in Z39's 24 standards subcommittees; to request a copy of a draft standard or to be placed on the Observer's List for any subcommittee, contact the Z39 Office (301-921-3241); to learn more about a particular subcommittee's work, contact the subcommittee chairperson.

STANDARDS BEING REVISED

Z39.1-1977
Periodicals:
Format and Arrangement
SC Q

A first draft was circulated for comment in late 1983; extensive comments were received on this standard. It is hoped that a revised standard incorporating many of the suggestions made to date will be distributed before the close of 1984.
SC Q Chair: Ed Barnas, John Wiley & Sons, 605 3rd Avenue, New York, NY 10016 (212) 850-6000.

The two negative votes submitted on this draft standard have been resolved; this revised standard will be published by ANSI later in 1984.

Z39.5-1984
Abbreviation of Titles of Publications
SC A

The Subcommittee has met twice and is organizing their program of work to revise this standard.
SC X Chair: Scott Bruntjen, PRLC, Chatham College, Beatty Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 (412) 441-6409.

Z39.10-1977
Directories of Libraries and Information Centers
SC X

This standards Subcommittee met in late-April 1984 to begin work. Members of SC P are: Mary B. Bonnett (Army Library Management Office); Raymond F. Vondran (Catholic University); Walter E. Oliu (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission); Madeline Henderson (Consultant); Ron Field (Westinghouse Electric Corp.); Timothy D. Calderwood (Naval Research Laboratory); Irene Keller (U.S. Dept. of Energy); Elizabeth Frame (Southwest Research Institute); Eunice Roe (Pennsylvania State University); Karl Green (Library of Congress); Robert Billingsley (Department of Defense); Richard A. Matthews (Department of Defense). SC P Chair: Thomas E. Pinelli, NASA Langley Research Center, Mail Stop 425, Hampton, VA 23665 (804) 865-2994.

Z39.18-1974
Guidelines for Format & Production of Scientific and Technical Reports
SC P

The Subcommittee reviewing this standard for revision are proceeding with their work. For further information please contact the Subcommittee Chair: Bob Tannehill, Library Manager, Chemical Abstracts Service, P.O. Box 3012, Columbus, Ohio 43210 (614) 421-3600 Ext. 2028.

Z39.29-1977
Bibliographic References
SC 4
U.S. Department of Commerce, Printing and Publishing Division

Mr. William S. Lofquist 58M
U.S. Department of Commerce
B1E - Room 4065
Washington, D.C. 20230

National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

Dr. Toni Carbo Bearman 59M
Executive Director, NCLIS
GSA Regional Office, Bldg. 3
7th & D Streets, S.W.
Suite 3122
Washington, D.C. 20024

Ms. Diane Rafferty (Alt)
NCLIS
7th & D Streets, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Scientific & Technical Information

Mr. James D. Cape 61M
Technical Assistant to the Manager
Technical Information Center
Department of Energy
Box 62
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Lee Thompson, Asst. Chief (Alt)
Technical Information Center
Department of Energy
Box 62
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Society for Scholarly Publishing

Dr. Seldon W. Terrant 62M
Head, Research & Development
American Chemical Society
1155 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Mr. Robert W. Frase (Alt)
6718 Montour Drive
Falls Church, VA 22043

Research Libraries Group, Inc.

Ms. Tina Kass, Director 63M
Library Systems & Services
RLG, Inc.
Jordan Quadrangle
Stanford, CA 94305

Mr. Wayne Davison (Alt)
Research Libraries Group, Inc.
Jordan Quadrangle
Stanford, CA 94305
A draft standard will be distributed for comment and/or
vote before the close of 1984. For further information,
contact the Program Committee Coordinator to the Sub-
committee, Mary Ellen Jacob, 6565 Frantz Road, Dublin,
Ohio 43017 (614) 764-6063.

A first draft will be circulated to the Z39 Membership
for a vote in May 1984. SC U Chair: Ernest Muro,
Baker & Taylor Company, 6 Kirby Avenue, Somerville,
NJ 08876 (201) 526-8000.

A Subcommittee has been organized to work on this topic.
Subcommittee V Members include: Julia Blixrud (Library of
Congress-NSDP); William Feidt (National Agricultural
Library); Donald Hammer (LITA); Dan Iddings (Consultant);
Dennis D. McDonald (King Research, Inc.); Jay Poole (Texas
A & M University); and Mary S. Price (Library of Congress).
SC V Chair: Marjorie Bloss, Assistant Director, IIT
Library, 3500 South Federal Street, Chicago, IL 60616
(312) 567-5265.

A first draft is under review and will be circulated during
1984. SC W Chair: Stephen Davis, Network Development
(202) 287-5092.

The Subcommittee met in January 1984 and has outlined
the components of a draft standard; a first draft will be
circulated in 1985. SC Z Chair: Louis C. Willard, Speer
Library, Princeton Theological Seminary, P.O. Box 111,
Princeton, NJ 08540 (609) 921-8092.

The Subcommittee will meet in June 1984 during the 1984
American Library Association conference in Dallas. It is
anticipated that a draft form will be circulated for
comment before the close of 1984. SC AA Chair:
Olive James, Loan Division, Library of Congress,

A first draft was reviewed at the Subcommittee's meeting
on April 6, 1984. This draft will be circulated for
comment to the Z39 Membership and other interested
parties in May 1984. SC BB Chair: David Cohen, Technique
Learning Corporation, 40 Cedar Street, Dobbs Ferry, NY
10522 (914) 693-8100.

A first draft standard has been prepared and will be
circulated for comment before the close of 1984.
SC CC Chair: Wendy Riedel, National Serials Data
(202) 287-6452.