NISO Work Item Proposal: Extend NISO RP-22-2015, Access License and Indicators (ALI) to include metadata on sharing permissions (short title: NISO ALI Extension)

Proposal for consideration by the NISO Voting Membership
Approval Ballot Period: August 18 – September 16, 2020

The following proposed work item is submitted by: Esther Heuver, Elsevier (Chair, STEC - Article 17 Working Group, STM Association)
Proposal last modified: July 23, 2020
Approved by the NISO Information Discovery & Interchange Topic Committee: August 17, 2020

Work Description

Academic publishers wish to extend NISO RP-22-2015 *Access and License Indicators (ALI)* to add metadata and indicators that would allow metadata users, such as content platforms, to filter or target subsets of license information. This filtering or sub-setting would enable applications to determine whether their users can share a specific journal article version – or elements thereof – under specific contexts (e.g., sharing in researcher collaboration groups or on public profiles)

Background / Problem Statement

The *Access License and Indicators (ALI)* Recommended Practice was first published by NISO in 2015 with the goal to standardize and communicate bibliographic metadata that describe the access rights status of journal articles and their license details. The specification has since gained adoption and use via the ANSI/NISO JATS vocabulary and the Crossref metadata schema.

In 2019, the EU Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market was adopted and came into force. This work item proposal addresses the obligations publishers have under Article 17 of the Directive specifically. Article 17 deals with platforms that are typically commercial by nature and which store and give public access to a large amount of protected works. With Article 17 these platforms have become liable for copyright infringement unless they get authorization from the rightsholder for content posted to their service, for instance through a license or by making best efforts to ensure protected works are not made available on their site.

Considering this, publishers must make available the necessary and relevant information that platforms need to fulfil their obligation in the Directive to ensure the unavailability of protected works. This necessary and relevant information is provided in two ways:

1) By embedding DOI and JAV metadata in PDF XMP (for article identification), and
2) By embedding sharing permissions in Crossref's ALI schema (for sharing permissions identification).

The former builds on NISO RP-8-2008, *Journal Article Versions (JAV)* which also requires review to improve recommended nomenclature and definitions (a separately-proposed NISO project).

To enable publishers to communicate sharing permissions, NISO RP-22-2015 needs to be extended to accommodate filtering or sub-setting of sharing permission URI expressions. This enabling would

be accomplished through the addition of an attribute definition as part of the ALI metadata for license type.

Statement of Work

Goals

- Enhance and standardize the ability to filter or subset a collection of metadata – i.e., machine-readable URIs pointing to human-readable sharing policies that are limited in number – that can be transmitted through existing channels
- Extend the ALI metadata attribute for license type to include "SCN" for specific "Scholarly Collaboration Network" license information
- Develop and standardize URI expressions for sharing policies to be embedded in ALI metadata (Developed by STM STEC Group and hosted by STM)

Deliverables

- An updated version of the Access License and Indicator (ALI) recommendation represented in XML schema

Process

- Form a working group, including selected members of the STM STEC subgroup on Article 17, metadata service providers, content platform providers, and other interested parties
- Engage a secretariat for the project
- Review RP-22-2015 and relationships that may need to be updated, such as JAV, NISO RP-8-2008
- Respond to issues raised through public comment
- Produce a revised RP-22-2015 and seek NISO Topic Committee approval

Partners and Participation

Co-sponsors: Potential collaboration with STM Association

Participants: Interested members of the STM STEC subgroup on Article 17, metadata service providers, content platform providers, and other interested parties

Participant types: the most relevant knowledge will be familiarity with standards content and XML

Proposed Timeline

New Work Item Proposed	July 2020
NISO Committee Approval	August 2020
NISO Voting Member Approval	September 2020
Working Group Roster Formed & Approved	September/October 2020
Working Group Work	October 2020-November 2020
Proposed Draft for Trial Use & Comment	December 2020/January 2021 *
Final Draft for Committee Approval	February/March 2021
Approved NISO RP Published	March/April 2021

* - It is anticipated a public prototype based on this revised schema will be available by the end of 2020 as part of the Trial Use/Public comment period.

Funding