

Why libraries should utilize the recommended practices in NISO_RP-19-2020 the Open Discovery Initiative (ODI)

The Open Discovery Initiative (ODI) was originally designed to encourage transparency in the publisher and vendor community. The latest NISO_RP-19-2020 release adds transparency on the library side, provides balance and encourages publisher-vendor-library discussions about improving the discovery layer. This short document is intended to encourage libraries to read and follow the guidance in this latest iteration of the Open Discovery Initiative.

Why should my library adopt ODI practices?

- Libraries, publishers and discovery service providers have a mutual goal of providing a great discovery experience for end users that leads to access and use of information resources suited to the user need.
- Increasing resource use has rewards for publishers and libraries, and improving understanding and cooperation in relation to discovery can drive more usage of resources.
- An ODI conformance statement by a library shows deliberate decisions about its discovery service set up, which helps publishers and other vendors frame useful discussions around discovery and use.
- Configuration decisions are always understood to be at the discretion of the library, but being aware of them could influence a publisher to make an effort to offer their content and metadata in ways more suited to those configurations.
- Anything that can be shared by the library in relation to discovery tools will serve to encourage ongoing publisher investment in time spent engaged with the providers of these tools.

What are some things that a library might include in a publicly accessible ODI statement on their web site?

- The library abides by the recommendations of NISO_RP-19-2020 Open Discovery Initiative (ODI) and expects publishers and vendors to strive to do the same.
- In addition to submitting a conformance statement, the library should make its priorities regarding the discovery service experience clear to content providers.
- Questions relating to the configuration and use of library discovery services may be directed to [insert communications channel of choice].

Libraries that offer a clear public statement relating to the Open Discovery Initiative provide reassurance to the publishers and vendors with whom they do business, and their own users, that they are committed to maintaining robust discovery services and cooperation leading to even better services.