NISO Proposed Work Item
Title: Create ANSI/NISO Standard, U.S. National PID Strategy

Proposal for Consideration by the NISO Voting Membership
Approval Ballot Period: July 29 – August 30, 2024

The following proposed work item is submitted by: John Chodacki, California Digital Library & RDA-US

Proposal Last Modified: June 15, 2024
Approved by the NISO Information Policy & Analysis Topic Committee: July 16, 2024

Work Description

Building on the work of the Research Data Alliance's National PID Strategies Interest Group[1], a team organized by the Open Research Funders Group (ORFG)[2] drafted a report which outlines the desirable characteristics of persistent identifiers (PIDs) in a US research context. The recently circulated Developing a US PID National Strategy[3] seeks to build consensus around value and the use of PIDs and therefore speed their adoption. This report describes the benefits of PIDs, their associated metadata, and the systems that connect them in advancing open scholarship goals in the United States. It provides information on the research and policy landscape associated with PIDs, discusses the value of PID infrastructure, and offers recommendations for effective utilization of PIDs in connecting and tracking research outputs. The proposed NISO Working Group will further develop these components into an ANSI/NISO standard. Ideally, the resulting standard will be adopted widely by organizations throughout the research ecosystem in the US and potentially adapted globally in other national contexts around the world, as part of a growing movement to deploy national persistent identifier strategies.

Background/Problem Statement

Developing recommendations for a PID national strategy for the US comes at a time of emerging clarity in the US policy landscape. Federal policymakers have increasingly recognized the importance and potential value to be gained using PIDs. In recent years, there have been several national policy and guidance documents issued that reference this. Specifically, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) issued two significant memos described below, the 2013 OSTP "Holdren" Memo[4] and the 2022 "Nelson" Memo[5], which have had far-reaching implications for the sharing of research outputs and which, by extension, touch on the need for wider utilization of PIDs.

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[1] https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/national-pid-strategies-interest-group/
[2] https://www.orfg.org/news/2023/6/5/orfg-advances-efforts-to-improve-research-output-tracking
[3] https://zenodo.org/records/10811008
[4] https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp_public_access_memo_2013.pdf
[5] https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/08-2022-OSTP-Public-access-Memo.pdf

In addition to these two memos, in 2022, the US National Science and Technology Council issued a report titled “Guidance for Implementing National Security Presidential Memorandum 33 (NSPM-33) on National Security Strategy for United States Government-Supported Research and Development,” specifically related to PIDs and in part focusing on “how research agencies will incorporate persistent identifiers into disclosure processes to bolster research security and integrity while reducing administrative burden.”[1] Combined, the documents have had a substantial impact on discourse regarding the promotion and utilization of PIDs in the United States and beyond.

PIDs have long provided the basis for citation linking, cataloging systems, entity identification, and description, as well as supporting research discovery via their associated metadata. PIDs uniquely identify a given resource (or research entity) and enable robust digital access to digital objects, their metadata, and/or related services. All the benefits associated with PIDs combine to enable the navigation and analysis of research and innovation.

The US-based research community has played a pivotal role in the development and adoption of PID infrastructure, with collaborative efforts driven by investments from federal agencies, research institutions, industry, and nonprofit community organizations. These endeavors are well adopted and create a robust information infrastructure that elevates the resilience, efficiency, and excellence of the global research sector.

A new ANSI/NISO standard will benefit all stakeholders by streamlining interactions and reducing redundant efforts and offer clear guidance for adopting PIDs. For instance, philanthropic organizations that fund research can more easily ensure adherence to their guidelines and assess the impact of their investments. Likewise, PIDs can help publishers and data repositories enhance user engagement with their content through easier discovery, citation, and reuse. They also can simplify reporting on content usage to various stakeholders.

Statement of Work

Goals

- Outline and document benefits of embracing PIDs
- Describe PID stakeholders and the key benefits they will see from support of shared PID infrastructure
- Define desirable characteristics of shared PID systems
- Advance strategies for evaluating and adopting PID infrastructure, including strategies for reviewing new or developing PID systems
- Outline strategies the community can use for supporting core PID infrastructure
- Describe areas for future investments and lay forward a plan to advance sustainable support for PID systems, including emerging PID needs and gaps in the PID ecosystem

[1] https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/010422-NSPM-33- Implementation-Guidance.pdf. Note: The NSPM-33 memorandum uses the term “digital persistent identifier (DPI).” This term and “PID” are synonymous. Ideally, the community will converge on the use of the acronym “PID”.

- Define metrics for measuring success in adoption of PID guidance
- Start simple and leverage existing frameworks/ontologies wherever possible.

Deliverables

- ANSI/NISO standard on US National PID Strategy

Process

- Form Working Group
- Review the recent work done by the ORFG PID National Strategies Working Group as a basis for the standard
- Review the landscape of US National Policies related to open science as well as other national PID strategies released by the RDA National PID Strategies Interest Group
- Create a draft standards US National PID Strategy for public comment and use
- Respond to any issues raised
- Produce a revised US National PID Strategy standard for Working Group, Topic Committee, and NISO Voting Member approval

Partners and Participation

Participant Types: Federal government research agencies, non-governmental research funding organizations, identifier providers, researchers, institutional researcher administrators, publishers, librarians, software providers, and metadata specialists.

Partners: We will solicit participants through connections with the wider community as well as through our existing partnership with RDA-US.

Proposed Timeline

New Work Item Proposed	April 2024
NISO Information Policy & Analysis Committee Approval	July 2024
NISO Voting Member approval	August 2024
Working Group Roster Formed & Approved	September/October 2024
Working Group Work	October 2024 – May 2025
Proposed Draft for Trial Use & Comment	June 2025
Final Draft for Topic Committee and Voting Member Ballot	September 2025
Approved NISO standard sent to ANSI for ANS approval	January 2026

Funding

No funding is expected to be necessary for this project.