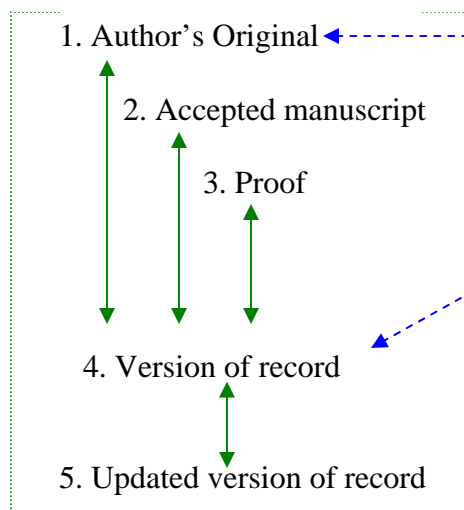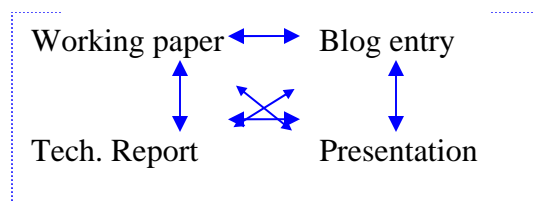# Journal Article Versions and Relationships
NISO Journal Article Versions Task Force

Value-adding process relationships (a dissemination/publishing "family")

Conceptual provenance relationships (a citation "family")

1. Author's Original
2. Accepted manuscript
3. Proof
4. Version of record
5. Updated version of record

Working paper · Blog entry
Tech. Report · Presentation

Assumptions. In today's world…
1. Any of these content objects can be made public, i.e. can reside on a network node/website
2. Many of these content objects legally may reside in identical form in more than one place at one time (e.g. a copy on a publisher's website, an aggregator's website, and a preservation archive)
3. All of these content objects "should" have embedded/associated metadata
4. There are two main relationship types of interest: 1) the existence of previous, or more importantly, later value-added versions in the dissemination/publishing process (a sense of "stage" represented with green arrows above); 2) the existence of other content objects that convey conceptually similar material (a sense of provenance; blue arrows above).
5. A third type of relationship may be of interest, the intersection between a content object that is not originally part of a value-adding dissemination/publishing chain but that becomes part of one at some time (a sense of movement into a value-adding process; the dashed arrows above)

Primary challenges. Regardless of location …
1. Disambiguate (i.e. disclose) an object's value-added status in its dissemination family (if any)
2. Disambiguate (i.e. disclose) the existence of other dissemination family members, especially the Version of record
3. Disclose, where possible, an object's conceptually similar family members

Conventions & best practices. The task force believes that standards that codify metadata for the versions above, AND use and best practice conventions will need to be promulgated. These include:

- Conceptual provenance (the blue arrows in the diagram above) should be represented via citations, acknowledgements, cover pages and the like, i.e. conventional citations within the objects rather than required object metadata.

- Objects in the value-adding dissemination process must self-identify what stage they are at and must point forward (and optionally may point backwards, see next note) via relationship metadata.

- Although, as a matter of practicality, not all forward and backward relationship info will be created, the green arrows and the blue dashed arrows are extremely and deservedly important to publishers. I.e., standards and conventions must make it easy and routine, if not required, to point to the version of record when one exists.