
Paula Kelsall
Interlibrary Loan Application Standards Maintenance Agency
NISO Resource Sharing Forum
October 5, 2008

Why was the ILL Protocol created?
• To allow libraries to exchange interlibrary loan requests and responses electronically, even when using different systems
• To provide a common structure for ILL requests
  – Thereby improving their tracking and management

What’s in the standards?
• Definitions and specifications of the ILL process, including:
  – Number and type of messages involved in the request process
  – Data included within each message
  – Sequence of messages
  – Syntax of messages

ILL Protocol: a chronology
• 1980s: developed as a standard of the Canadian Standards Association
• 1991: ISO 10160, 10161
• 1997: 2nd edition, plus 10161-2
• 2004: 3rd edition approved
  – And then withdrawn
• 2007: 2nd edition confirmed for 5 more years
Who looks after these standards?

• ISO Technical Committee 46: Information and Documentation
• Subcommittee 4: Technical Interoperability
• ILL Protocol Implementers Group (IPIG)
• ILL Application Standards Maintenance Agency

How the ILL Environment Looks Today

• Fewer systems and vendors than we imagined
• Libraries forming consortia and networks based around a common system
• Ease of access via Internet
• Changing visions of resource sharing

Thank you

Paula Kelsall
paula.kelsall@lac-bac.gc.ca