



# The Standards Connection

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*Editor's note:* This column is based on the October 1995 issue of *Information Standards Quarterly*, which was received in January 1996.

The majority—six-and-a-half out of twelve pages—of the October 1995 issue of *Information Standards Quarterly* (ISQ) was devoted to two major articles. The first and longer of the two, written by Robert S. Tannehill, Jr., senior information specialist at Chemical Abstracts Service, was titled “Emerging Standards on the Citation of Electronic Documents: A Status Report.”

The article begins by providing some background about the subject, and then in two sections discusses “How to Cite Electronic Documents” and “Citing Addresses of Electronic Documents.” In the course of the article Tannehill examines formal attempts “to develop guidance for citing/accessing electronic documents,” and then describes the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Working Group on Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs). This group has developed draft standards for URLs (uniform resource locators), URNs (uniform resource numbers), and URCs (uniform resource characteristics). Tannehill then supplies examples of address citations, especially noting the format given in *OCLC Technical Bulletin 206* (November 1994).

Readers who teach information retrieval courses, teach courses in which students are likely to be citing informa-

tion obtained from the Internet, teach bibliography courses, or are apt to be creating citations for items they themselves have retrieved from the Internet (which should include nearly everyone who is reading this column), will definitely want to read Tannehill's article in its entirety. Such readers will probably also want to locate and read some of the source materials cited in his list of references and in the section “Other Documents Consulted.”

The other major article is by Marjorie Bloss from the Center for Research Libraries (CRL). In “Development of a Single National Standard for Holdings Statements for Bibliographic Items,” Bloss summarizes attempts in the United States to create holdings statements, both summary and detailed, for serials and nonserials. The article is a succinct attempt to explain American efforts to create, first, a summary holdings statement for serials; second, a detailed serials holding standard; and finally, a holdings statement for nonserials.

As these efforts were taking place, the International Standards Organization (ISO) developed and approved a standard (ISO 10324) that included holdings statements at the summary level for both serials and nonserial items. As noted by Bloss, the current trend is moving toward unified standards (witness the Integrated MARC Format), so a new NISO (National Information Standards Organization) com-

mittee has been created to undertake the development of an integrated holdings standard for bibliographic items that will be as consistent as possible with previously developed—and used—standards. Readers who teach bibliographic control classes will want to read this article in its entirety.

The "NISO Standards Update" column includes brief reports on the work of committees ZZ (Library Binding) and SS (Advertisements [for the storage, binding, or repair of library materials]), and a longer report about the Z39.50 Implementors Group (ZIG). According to Bill Moen, the latter report's author, nearly seventy members of the Z39.50 community met at the Library of Congress September 25–27, 1995. Attendees came from Austria, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United States, and represented a variety of libraries as well as government agencies, library automation vendors, online information providers, research groups, software developers, and consultants.

It was noted that Version 3 (1995) of Z39.50 was approved and would be published by NISO. Pat Harris, executive director of NISO, stated that the standard would be "processed as a fast track standard at the international level in 1996."

The Open Systems Implementors Workshop/Special Interest Group on Library Applications (OIW/SIGLA), as it has been doing for the past year, met during the ZIG meeting. Plans by the Consortium for the Computer Interchange of Museum Information (CIMI) to use Z39.50 "to support the searching and retrieval of cultural heritage information," and plans to use it to retrieve geospatial data information were noted.

Following a February 1996 meeting in Gainesville, Florida, the ZIG will be

meeting in Brussels, Belgium, in the fall of 1996. Commenting that this would be the second time that a ZIG meeting would take place outside of the United States, Moen states that this "reflects the international standing of Z39.50 and the worldwide interest in Z39.50 activities." Further information about the standard can be obtained by accessing the Z39.50 Maintenance Agency home page at <http://lcweb.loc.gov/z3950/agency>.

A closely related notice in the "NISO Press News" section of the October 1996 *ISQ* informs readers about the availability from NISO Press of Z39.50 Version 3. This 180-page publication (ISBN 1-880124-26-2) can be obtained for \$79.00 by calling 1-800-282-6476, sending a fax to (301) 567-9553, or writing to NISO Press, P.O. Box 338, Oxon Hill, MD 20750-0338. Two other Z39.50-related publications were also announced, as was a report by J. C. Zeeman titled "Interlending in the Emerging Networked Environment: Implications for the ILL Protocol Standard."

### ***NISO Standards News***

A balloting report for the following standards was included in the October *ISQ* issue:

- Z39.4-199x—Indexes and Related Information Retrieval Devices
- Z39.14-199x—Writing Abstracts
- Z39.41-1990—Printed Information on Spines (Reaffirm)
- Z39.76-199x—Data Elements for Binding of Library Materials

The following drafts were sent out for ballot in the month indicated:

JANUARY 1996

Z39.56-199x—Serial Item and Contri-

bution Identifier (Revision of Z39.56-1991)

ISO CD 11620.2—Library Performance Indicators

ISO DIS 3297—ISSN

FEBRUARY 1996

Z39.14-199x—Guidelines for Abstracts (reballot of the draft voted upon earlier and mentioned above under Balloting Report)

An “International Update” informs readers that ISO 252-2—Hebrew Transliteration standard—has been published and that the following drafts have been sent out for a vote: CD 11620.2—Library Performance, and ISO DIS 3297—ISSN (mentioned above as Z39.14). Also, of potential interest to many, “a free four-page fact sheet explaining what international standardization is all about in the library and information community” can be requested by sending an e-mail message to [nisohq@cni.org](mailto:nisohq@cni.org) or a request via fax to (301) 654-1721.

Finally, the column editor takes a

moment of personal privilege. For a number of years I have written this column in the hope that it would not only be a source of information to those of you who were familiar with information standards creation, but that it might also raise interest in those to whom it was unfamiliar. Since it is not possible for an individual to be a member of the National Information Standards Organization, ALISE has held the information membership in NISO and I have been the contact person. I have tried to share news with you through this column.

ALISE has decided not to continue its NISO information membership. I will, therefore, no longer receive the publications upon which I have been basing my column, so this will be the final installment. I hope that you will undertake to discover if the organizations with which you are professionally affiliated belong to NISO, and perhaps undertake a more active role in that membership. Thank you for your continuing interest in, and efforts to promote, information standards.