

NISO Strategic Directions

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Introduction

NISO Mission Statement

NISO fosters the development and maintenance of standards that facilitate the creation, persistent management, and effective interchange of information so that it can be trusted for use in research and learning.

In 2007, NISO moved to support a new strategic direction to be able to create and support standards to be more effective in a quickly-changing information landscape. As part of this strategy, it undertook a new governance structure and implemented the [NISO Framework](#), an overarching model and roadmap for NISO's standards work. Because the landscape in which NISO operates continues to undergo rapid change, the NISO Board, in its strategic directions document [first published in 2005](#) and [last updated in 2011](#), included a mission statement that calls for NISO "to develop standards that enhance the effectiveness of the value chain that supports the creation, persistent management, and effective interchange of information so that it can be trusted for research and learning." In order to fulfill this mission, NISO needs to maintain a comprehensive and comprehensible view of that value chain. The Framework was developed partly as a tool to help NISO classify its standards and other work and thus realize where gaps exist and no organized work is taking place, potentially helping to determine areas of need where NISO could contribute, or identify the areas or community segments where opportunities exist to collaborate with other entities/standards bodies.

As part of this 2007 Framework, NISO organized several Topic Committees and an Architecture Committee to lead, shape and manage the NISO standards portfolio. The three Topic Committees oversee working groups, review new work items, undertake research projects, and solicit feedback from the community on standards or best practice work that should involve NISO. The Architecture Committee coordinates the work of the Topic Committees and provides more strategic guidance on the standards portfolio to the NISO Board of Directors.

In 2017, the NISO Board of Directors and NISO staff adopted the following NISO Core Value Statement:

Engagement: NISO enables libraries, publishers, and vendors to collaborate and solve problems of mutual interest by providing a neutral forum in which they can engage and build consensus.

Interoperability: NISO supports choice and efficiency across our community by promoting interoperability of information products and services through standards and best practices.

Education: NISO keeps our community up to date by publishing news, running educational programs, and providing thought leadership.

NISO continues to operate in a complex space with many interrelated components. It remains important to continue to verify that our work effectively serves our stakeholders. Every few years, the NISO Topic Committees undertake a comprehensive review of their current and recent portfolios and discuss their overall scopes of work. This review of potential future activities serves several purposes: an effort to validate or update the Framework; a chance to consider more closely any particular industry trends that may affect NISO planning; and an opportunity for individual Topic Committee members to understand the work of the other Topic Committees and to potentially offer ideas and other contributions that will enrich the overall future directions for NISO work. This exercise was also intended to identify any cohesive themes that run through the work of each Topic Committee to appropriately and adequately address them in the course of development of each Topic Committee's respective portfolio of standards and recommended practices, and to support any need for Topic Committees to effectively collaborate.

In 2016-2017, as part of the review, the Architecture Committee and Topic Committees included stakeholder input in the form of a public survey which requested information about the relative values of individual NISO publications: standards, recommended practices, technical reports, primers, and white papers. This data led to a major effort of further analysis and restructuring of the Topic Committees to better ensure that they are able to appropriately address gaps in the information-standardization landscape and to include related works in the same Topic Committee portfolio. During Summer 2017, each Topic Committee adopted a new name. Although the respective project portfolios mostly remained intact, due to updated scoping, a few projects moved to a different Topic Committee for oversight. Members of the Topic Committees and the NISO Board of Directors feel that the new names communicate more clearly the areas of work and directions for each group:

2007-2017 ("old" name)	From 2017 forward
<i>Business Information Topic Committee</i>	<i>Information Policy & Analysis Topic Committee</i>
<i>Content & Collections Management Topic Committee</i>	<i>Information Creation & Curation Topic Committee</i>
<i>Discovery to Delivery Topic Committee</i>	<i>Information Discovery & Interchange Topic Committee</i>

An ongoing concern of Topic Committees is overlap in work areas: one NISO project, depending on its scope and stakeholders, could potentially span two or more Topic Committee portfolios. For example, standards and recommendations for semantic Web activities may be managed by