NISO Criteria for Indexes Standard (Z39.4)

Pilar Wyman, Chief Indexer & Consultant, Wyman Indexing

(**pilarw@wymanindexing.com**)

Marti Heyman, Executive Director Metadata Strategy and Operations, OCLC

(**heymanm@oclc.org**)

Agenda

- What are standards and why do we care?
- How did we get to where we are?
- What is the working group doing?
- When will we have a standard?

Standards 101

What are they and why do we care?

Why Standards?

- Ensure consistency, ease of use and interoperability across different products, services, and systems used by different users
- Imagine if we didn't have:
  - EPUB as a commonly used e-book file format?
  - Publishers would have to publish their material multiple times in multiple formats to be available on multiple e-readers?!

Why Standards for Indexes?

- Multiple audiences interact with indexes in different ways for different purposes
- Indexes need consistency, ease to use and interoperability → to maximize efficacy
- With current ever-evolving digital interfaces and search technologies, these features are critical

Refresher on NISO

- Responsible for technical standards to manage information (USA)
- Covers whole lifecycle, from creation through documentation, use, repurposing, storage, metadata, and preservation
- Standards, Recommended Practices and Technical Reports
- Work starts as proposed Work Items sponsored by a Topic Committee and approved by NISO voting members.

Generic Path to a New Standard

History Lesson

How did we get here?

A bit of history…

- The previous standard & its revisions (Z39.4-1959, Z39.4-1968, Z39.4-1984) focused on print indexes created by human indexers
- In the mid to late 1980's, it was time to incorporate machine-aided indexing, online display of indexes, etc…
- But consensus could not be reached across the community as to scope.
- The technical report (TR 02-1997) is a very robust document and comprehensive for its time.

A bit more about scope

- What do we mean by scope in this context:
  - Human-created vs. automated indexes
  - Back-of-the-book vs. database indexes
  - Displayed vs. non-displayed indexes
- Should one standard cover full scope or should there be multiple standards?

The Actual Work

What are we doing?

Composition of Working Group

- Professional indexers
- Publishers (including University Presses)
- Indexed Database vendors
- Librarians

- ATLA
- NLM
- ITHAKA/JSTOR/Portico
- OCLC
- UCLA
- Nova Southeastern University
- Gale/Cengage Learning
- Proquest
- American Society of Indexing
- Ascend Learning
- Springer Nature
- Independent operators

Working Group = Expected Users

- Professional indexers
- Publishers (including University Presses)
- Indexed Database vendors
- Libraries
- *Indexing tool vendors**

What is changing…..

- Scope:
  - Human-created and algorithmic indexes
  - Back-of-the-book and database indexes
  - Displayed and non-displayed indexes

What is changing…..

- Removing obsolete guidance
- Revision of terminology
- Addition of newer techniques and methodologies such as embedded indexing
- Expansion on discussion of online display, algorithmic indexing, and more
- Less a guide or tutorial and more a standard, so fewer but more relevant examples

How the work was structured

- Planned 6 rounds of review and revision
- First: divided into 3 subgroups, each tasked with review and revision of full document as a draft standard:
  - Closed indexing, Open indexing, Algorithmic indexing
- Second: divided into subgroups based on existing sections of TR02, each tasked with consolidated three versions of section into a single version
- Third: editorial subgroup consolidated those sections into anew coherent document with light editing
- Fourth: returned to original subgroups of open/closed/algorithmic for review and editing
- Fifth: return to subgroups based on sections for final review and editing
- Sixth: editorial subgroup consolidates and edits for style and consistency

June 2020

Remaining work

When will we have a standard?

What's next

Task	Deadline
Complete first draft of revised standard and **circulate for public comment**	August 2020
Complete final draft of revised standard and Working Group approval	October 2020
Approval by NISO Topic Committee	November 2020
Approval by NISO Voting Members	December 2020
Approval by ANSI (estimated)	January 2021

Questions?

Pilar Wyman, Chief Indexer & Consultant, Wyman Indexing

(**pilarw@wymanindexing.com**)

Marti Heyman, Executive Director Metadata Strategy and Operations, OCLC

(**heymanm@oclc.org**)