What is NISO?

NISO is where content publishers, libraries, and software developers turn for information industry standards that allow them to work together. Through NISO, all of these communities are able to collaborate on mutually accepted standards and best practices—solutions that enhance their operations today and form a foundation for the future.

NISO, the National Information Standards Organization, a non-profit association accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), identifies, develops, maintains, and publishes technical standards to manage information in today's continually changing digital environment. NISO standards apply to both traditional and new technologies and to information across its whole lifecycle, from creation through documentation, use, repurposing, storage, metadata, and preservation.

Founded in 1939, incorporated as a not-for-profit education association in 1983, and assuming its current name the following year, NISO draws its support from the communities it serves. The leaders of over 70 organizations in the fields of publishing, libraries, IT, and media serve as its voting members. An additional 140 libraries participate as Library Standards Alliance members.

Education is another important element of NISO's work. Throughout the year NISO offers cutting-edge programs on technology issues and exploratory workshops on emerging topics. These discussions often lead to the launch of new development initiatives.

NISO recognizes that standards must reflect global needs and that our community is increasingly interconnected and international. Designated by ANSI to represent U.S. interests as the Technical Advisory Group to the International Organization for Standardization's (ISO) Technical Committee 46 on Information and Documentation and the ISO/IEC Joint Technical Subcommittee on Document description and processing languages, NISO also serves as the Secretariat for TC 46 Subcommittee 9 on Identification and Description.

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.

NISO Core Values

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