



NASIG NEWSLETTER

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Profiles

Profile of the Standards Committee

Christian Burris, Profiles Editor

Tessa Minchew, Standards Committee Chair

[Christian Burris interviewed Tessa Minchew, the new Standards Committee Chair, via email concerning the committee's charge and upcoming work.]

The Standards Committee is relatively new to NASIG.

How did it get started?

That's a really good question, and you might want to follow up with our board liaison, Angela Dresselhaus, for more details here because I was not in on the initial conversations. It is my understanding that the Standards Committee arose from NASIG's desire to more formally support standards development within our profession in keeping with our mission to promote "the development and implementation of best practices and standards for the distribution, acquisition and long-term accessibility of information resources in all formats and business models throughout their lifecycle." I imagine that the board quickly realized that organizing this type of work through an official committee would be much more efficient than commissioning individual volunteers to represent us with each organization, and having them report directly to the Board. And my vice-chair, Mark Hemhauser, and I are all #TeamEfficientWorkflows!

The committee has an interesting charge; could you describe it in your own words?

It is interesting, isn't it? I want to call us The NASIG Standards Hopper because that just sounds fun, but it is a good bit more involved than that. Basically, the

Standards Committee is here to be part shepherd and part conduit for all NASIG standards-related work. We will represent NASIG's interests to the standards organizations we choose to partner with and the initiatives we choose to participate in. The committee will consult with the membership via posts to NASIG-L and with the Executive Board to ensure that our actions and recommendations within these partner organizations and initiatives are in alignment with NASIG goals and are responsive to members' input and concerns. We will also be doing outreach to the membership to keep them informed as to the progress of our work, and the value of standards development in general, and to recruit other members for participation in standards development as we see that we need to. To stay on top of things on our end, we'll be having a monthly conference call and lots and lots of email discussion.

What are some of the organizations that the committee represents on behalf of NASIG?

We're just getting started up, so we're currently only organizational members of NISO and COUNTER. (URLs below if you'd like to read more about these super cool organizations.) COUNTER is a very new membership for us, so one of our members, Emily Ray, is exploring our obligations and opportunities there and she's going to report back to us during our upcoming conference call.

NISO (National Information Standards Organization) is an extremely participatory and prolific group so we've really had to hit the ground running there. They require us to have two official representatives, a primary rep who will cast our official vote on the various ballots, projects, and questions that are put forth every month,

and a secondary rep who will be their back-up. Currently, our primary NISO rep is Beverly Geckle and our secondary is Christina Geuther. Everyone should give them both a big pat on the back because this is a whole lot of work to take on and they're making it look easy.

As I mentioned previously, we'll be soliciting member input on these NISO votes via NASIG-L, so members interested in staying informed and/or giving us their two cents should make sure that they're currently subscribed to the listserv. If you've unsubscribed and you want back on, you'll need to get in touch with the Communications & Marketing Committee at web@nasig.org so they can get you back on the list.

NISO - <http://www.niso.org/home>

COUNTER - <https://www.projectcounter.org>

What have been some of the challenges for the committee?

I'd say the main challenge for the committee right now is just the sheer volume and pace of the NISO ballots and how technical some of them are. We're all coming from backgrounds that are related to this sort of work, but probably not at this level of expertise. So, we're very anxious to hear from members who might have specialized knowledge in the areas covered by some of these ballots. If you see something in the monthly mailings that you would like to comment on, please reach out to us. Don't be shy! We're a fun bunch.

How will NASIG members learn about the introduction of new standards?

We'll keep everyone posted on anything we're involved with via NASIG-L, but NISO also has a number of specialized discussion lists that might be of interest, many of which are open to the general public (<http://www.niso.org/lists/>). I'm not aware of a COUNTER mailing list, but there are a whole lot of other standards pies out there that we don't yet have our finger in. If you run across something interesting that

you'd like us to explore, just give us a shout out at the email address below.

If someone wants to provide input to the committee or ask a question, how can you be contacted?

The email address standards@nasig.org will forward to the chair, vice chair, and board liaison. You're also always welcome to contact me directly at tminche@ncsu.edu.

Do you have any additional comments?

Just want to take a moment to recognize the rest of our awesome Standards Committee members whom I haven't yet had a chance to mention; Jennifer Combs, Deberah England, Maria Hatfield, Jie Li, and Corrie Marsh. Jie has been doing a wonderful job managing our webpages and Maria just volunteered to represent us on the NISO working group that is revising the ISSN standard (ISO 3297), so we're very excited about that. Everyone has pitched in to help get this committee off the ground in so many ways big and small, and I'm just very proud to be serving with such a great group of folks.