

**NISO Standardized Markup for Journal Articles Working Group Quarterly Report
April 8, 2010**

www.niso.org/workrooms/journalmarkup

Prepared by Jeffrey Beck, co-chair

Our Charge

The goal of this work item, “Standardized Markup for Journal Articles Based on the NLM’s Journal Archiving and Interchange Tag Suite,” is to take the currently existing National Library of Medicine (NLM) Journal Archiving and Interchange Tag Suite version 3.0, the three journal article schemas, and the documentation and shepherd it through the NISO standardization process. The intent of this proposal is for the Tag Suite to be a NISO standard and each of the schemas to be a “sub-standard” or appendix to the Tag Suite standard. To achieve this objective, this proposal is to convene a NISO Working Group with the intention of proposing that the Tag Suite, as it currently stands, be accepted as a Draft Standard following a brief period of review within the group.

Working Group Roster

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(NCBI)
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B. Tommie Usdin (co-chair)
President
Mulberry Technologies, Inc.

Alex Wade
Director of Scholarly Communication
Microsoft

We have had three changes in the roster since we began working:

1. We added Debbie Lapeyre to the group in January. Debbie was one of the original authors of the first NLM Article Archiving and Interchange DTD and has been active in its continued development. No one knows more about the mechanics of the tag sets or about how they are being customized than she.
2. Evan Owens moved from Ithaca to the American Institute of Physics in early April.
3. B. Tommie Usdin, who was on the original roster, assumed the role of co-chair.

Meeting Schedule

We have been meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of each month starting in December 2009 at 11:00 am eastern US time. Starting in May, we will move to one meeting a month on the third Tuesday at the same time.

Status of Current Work

Version 3.0 of the NLM Article DTDs was released in the fall of 2008. According to the original charge of the group, we would be submitting this version as the first draft of the standard.

Because a good bit of time passed between the release of version 3.0 and when the Working Group started its work, we have been collecting a number of requests from users for updates to the Tag Suite. At the first Working Group meeting, the group decided that we would be making a better product if we addressed each of these requests and went into the draft phase with version 3.1 and no (or very few) outstanding requests.

As of our last meeting on April 6, 2010, we anticipate that with one more meeting (April 20) we will be able to wrap up the outstanding requests and then move to the writing phase.

As an outreach activity, the NCBI will be hosting the Journal Article Tag Suite Conference (JATS-Con) on November 1-2 at the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland. Details on the user conference can be found at <http://dtd.nlm.nih.gov/jats-con/>.

Timeline Information

| Milestone | Timeline |
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| Appointment of working group. | November 2009 Kick-off call: December 1, 2009 |
| Review outstanding user requests and create version 3.1. | Months 1-5 (December 2009 – April 2010) |
| Approve initial Work Plan (which will include determining how to package the Tag Suite as a Draft Standard). | Months 6-8 (May 2010 - July 2010) |
| Submit Tag Suite as Draft Standard; comment period. | Months 8-13 (July 2010 – December 2010) |
| Completion of final standard document (including review of and response to comments received during the draft standard phase). | Months 14-15 (January 2011 - February 2011) |
| Approval and Publication | Month 16 (March 2011) |

This timeline differs very slightly from the original timeline because of the work we have done to review the outstanding user requests in months 1-5.