

***Bridging the Gap Between  
Publishers and Libraries***  
Standards to Help Manage  
Licenses and Use

Book Expo America Conference 2008

## Session Overview

### Welcome Background and Goals

License Expression - Todd Carpenter, NISO

ONIX-PL Pilot - Rick Burke, SCELC

SERU - Judy Luther, Informed Strategies

ACAP - Michael Healy, BISG

Future Directions & the importance of our work

# BISG/NISO - A thriving partnership

## **Book Industry Study Group**

Supply chain for book publishers and distributors

## **National Information Standards Organization**

Intersection between publishers, libraries and systems providers

## **Close partnership begun about 18 months ago**

Focused on Building bridges between our constituent communities

ALA Annual in Washington, DC - 2007



Book Expo (Now)

Upcoming program at ALA in Anaheim - 2008



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## **License Expression: Organizing, Communicating and Sharing Publication License Terms**

**Todd Carpenter  
Managing Director, NISO**

# Overview of License Expression

## A bit about NISO

Licensing overview and background

The problems libraries face with license interpretation

ERMI License Terms and expression

Sharing information among publishers, libraries and users



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# National Information Standards Organization

- Non-profit industry association accredited by ANSI
- Mission of developing and maintaining technical standards related to information, documentation, discovery and distribution of information
- Represent US interests in information and documentation to the International Organization of Standardization (ISO)
- 82 Voting Members, 24 LSA members as of 2008
  - 25% libraries and library organizations
  - 35% publishers and publishing organizations
  - 40% library systems suppliers and other intermediaries



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Staff: 4 professional full-time  
Volunteers: 300+ spread out across the world

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## 1997: Early days of licensing

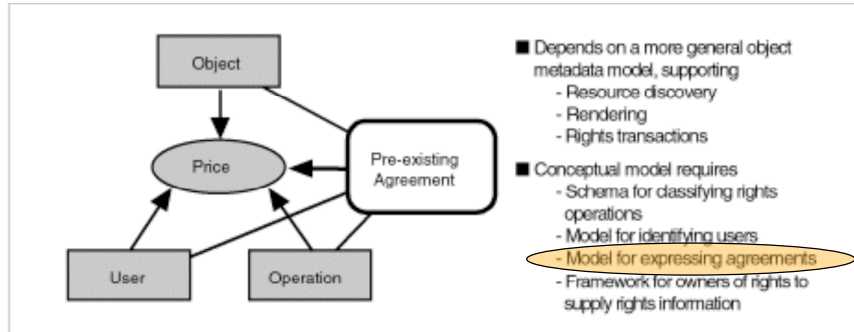


Figure 3. Elements of the Conceptual Model for Rights Transactions

Source: <http://www.clir.org/pubs/img/pub79fig3.gif>



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## E-Resources Management Initiative (ERMI)

- 2000: Karen Calhoun, Cornell University Libraries, posted a message to ALCTS Technical Services listserv.
- Asked if anyone was having issues managing licensing information
- DLF launched ERMI initiative in 2002
- Published report in August 2004
  - Ongoing ERMI 2 launched in 2006



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## E-Resources Management Initiative (ERMI)

Areas for exploration and development recommended in ERMI report:

- Management systems (Now ERMs)
- Management of usage data (SUSHI)
- License terms (ERMI terms dictionary)
- Exchange of terms (LEWG - ONIX-PL)
- Cost-per-use calculation data (CORE)



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## Massive Investment

Libraries and publishers invest a tremendous amount of time and energy negotiating license terms

*Where do these documents end up after they are signed?*



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## ERMI Permission Encoding

- Permitted (explicit)
- Prohibited (explicit)
- Permitted (interpreted)
- Prohibited (interpreted)
- Silent (no interpretation)
- Not applicable



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## Benefits of License Encoding and Expression

- Encoding licenses, storing and sharing them in an electronic format could allow:
  - Increased awareness of the terms
  - Easier to share terms with users
  - Improved compliance with terms
  - Clarity (if desired) about what is in a license
  - Better, faster, and easier negotiation based on clearer understandings (perhaps)



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# LEWG: Pushing forward

## Working on multiple tracks

- ONIX-PL - expansion of commonly used ONIX family of XML messages to communicate publishing information
- Developed a mapping of ERMI terms to ONIX-PL
- Ongoing pilot project to test ONIX-PL
- Planning a survey to assess the need for ongoing maintenance of ERMI data dictionary and other terms



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## Some final thoughts on license expression

Clearly, communicating license permissions and prohibitions to staff and users is hard

License expression is not a simple process

Definite cost-benefits analysis needed.

Consider:

- Ambiguity versus clarity
- Not an enforcement mechanism
- Issues impacting negotiation

Developing tools and improving standards that will make the process more smooth and reduce some challenges



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# Thank you!

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