

**Open Meeting on MetaSearching**  
**January 27, 2003**  
**Loew's Hotel Philadelphia**  
**2:00pm-4:00pm**

The meeting planners, Michael Gorrell (Ebsco), Ed Pastorius (Gale), Tom Hamilton (ProQuest) welcomed the meeting attendees. (The list of attendees follows.)

After introductions the group focussed its attention on the topics for discussion:

- The impact of link-checkers and metasearch engines on content aggregator databases
- Discussion on common problems related to metasearching

#### Link Checkers

It was noted that increasingly libraries are including catalog records for Web resources and electronic journal titles in their OPACs. Link-checker software is commonly used to verify that the links are working. In September a number of information services noticed a spike in hits against their systems which stressed system performance.

In the discussion that followed the consensus was that the library customers running the link check software need easy to understand information on how to use link checking to their best advantage. It was agreed that this is a matter of some urgency that should be addressed by April 1 in order to avoid problems that had been experienced in the fall.

Pat Stevens, chair of the NISO Standards Development Committee, suggested that NISO draft a Link Check Best Practice, make it available for review, and widely disseminate it in advance of April 1.

#### The Metasearching Environment

There was agreement that there is strong market interest in implementation of metasearching tools and the sense that cross database search capabilities will be an area of continued growth. However, there are a number of aspects of the metasearch environment that should be explored at this early stage of implementation. Specific topics that might be examined include:

Authentication/certification

Sorting and indexing

Ranking and ordering of search results

Display of complete content including branding information and copyright notices

Statistics and use measurement in the metasearch environment.

A number of attendees expressed interest in exploring a web services model for bibliographic services. Pat Stevens reported on the SRW (Search and Retrieval on the Web)/SRU Specifications, released in December 2002, which use Z39.50 semantics to create a web service protocol. SRW facilitates creation of gateways to Z39.50 systems.

Pat Harris noted that the afternoon's discussion had spanned issues that could be explored further in the NISO community and that NISO would consider organizing a workshop or similar event to bring interested parties together to explore potential solutions. Mike Gorrell, Pat Stevens, and Pat Harris agreed to meet within a week to frame an action plan.

Mike Gorrell said that he would immediately share the roster of attendees with the group and thanked the group for their participation and interest.

**Roster of Attendees**  
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Name	Company	Title
Paul R Cope	Auto-Graphics	CTO
Albert Flores	Auto-Graphics	VP Sales
Howard Harris	Consultant	President
Ed Riding	Dynix	Senior Product Manager
Shelley Neville	Dynix	Senior Library Systems Analyst
Kevin White	Dynix	Senior Director Business Development
Mark Calkins	Dynix	Senior VP Global Marketing
Michael Gorrell	EBSCO	Senior VP & CIO
Oliver Pesch	EBSCO	CTO
Tim Collins	EBSCO	President
Sara Randall	Endeavor	Digital Library Product Manager
Verne Coppi	Endeavor	VP Development
Oren Beit-Arie	Ex Libris	Managing Director, ISD
Jenny Walker	Ex Libris	Director of Sales & Marketing
Katie Anstock	FDI	Product Manager
Steve Siegel	Follett	Director, Business Development
George Gatsis	Follett	Executive Director Product Mgmt. and Devel
Brad Buckley	Gale	Senior Product Architect
Bob Joyce	Gale	VP Online Delivery Systems
Tom Stanton	Gale	Director, External Network Engineering
Ed Pastorius	Gale	CIO, EVP Operations
Bill Schickling	Gaylord Information Sys	VP Research and Development
Judy Luther	Informed Strategies	President
Betsy Graham	Innovative	VP Product Development
Laurie Davidson	Innovative	Product Manager
Brian Kenney	Library Journal	
Peter Noerr	MuseGlobal	CTO
Pat Harris	NISO	ED
Dana Dietz	OCLC	Portal Services Product Support
Pat Stevens	OCLC/NISO	Director, Cooperative Initiatives
Tom Hamilton	Proquest	VP, CTO
Todd Fegan	Proquest	VP Product Management
Tom Boe	Sagebrush	Senior Product Manager
Matthew Crim	The Library Corp	Product Manager
Todd Miller	Webfeat	CEO
Paul Duncan	Webfeat	Director, IT