

DATE: September 14, 2006

SUBJECT: Process for the evaluation and approval of new OpenURL community profile submittals by the Z39.88 OpenURL Maintenance Agency

Introduction

On June 22, 2006, NISO announced the appointment of OCLC as the Maintenance Agency (MA) for the Z39.88 standard, also known as OpenURL. One important aspect of OCLC's role as MA is to extend the standard by allowing the registration of new Community Profiles, Metadata formats, Namespaces, Character Encodings, Transports, ContextObject formats, Serializations, and Constraint Languages. The purpose of this document is to define the process by which submittals are made and approved by the MA. The timelines for the whole process will take anywhere from nine weeks to nine months, depending on the complexity of the submittal and the timeliness of review responses.

Submittal of entries to the MA

New entries should be submitted to the following e-mail address:
openurlagency@oclc.org

The submittal should include:

- Submitters name and organizational affiliation and contact information
- An overview of the request including implementation guidelines, anticipated applications, and usage examples
- The technical details of the submittal including proposed registry entries that conform to existing schemas of the applicable OpenURL framework components:
 - [Namespaces](#)
 - [Character Encodings](#)
 - [Serializations](#)
 - [Constraint Languages](#)
 - [Context Object Formats](#)
 - [Metadata Formats](#)
 - [Transports](#)
 - [Community Profiles](#)
- Contact info for technical reviewers and other community members outside your organization who may have a stake in this submittal. The MA supports the use of the OpenURL for communities beyond those that use existing applications.

The MA will acknowledge receipt of the submittal and will begin the review and approval process defined below. The MA will assign an ID to the submittal to persistently and uniquely identify it.

OpenURL MA Approval Process

The approval process is comprised of three gates. The time frame required to get through each gate will depend on the size and complexity of the submittal. A submitter can appeal the outcome of this review directly with NISO:

Gate 1 – Maintenance Agency Review: This is the review for technical correctness of the submittal conducted by the Maintenance Agency. This review should take 1-4 weeks depending on the size and complexity of the submittal. The submitter will be notified about the outcome of the review. Successful submittals will automatically enter the next gate.

Gate 2 – Review Panel Review: This is a review by the standing Review Panel¹ and community members specified by the submitter. This review is expected to take from 1-2 months. The MA will set the time period based on size and complexity of submittal. The submitter will be notified about the outcome of the review. Successful submittals will automatically enter the next gate.

Gate 3 – Public Review and Trial Period: This is the public review and trial period combined. This review will take from thirty days to six months, as specified by the standing review panel. The length of the trial period will be based on size and complexity of submittal. The submitter will be notified about the outcome of the Public Review and Trial Period.

Submittals that successfully complete the entire review process will be included in the NISO Z39.88 registry which is hosted by the Maintenance Agency:

<http://openurl.info/registry>

Modification to the Process

The OpenURL MA, in conjunction with NISO, may make occasional alterations to this process to improve efficiencies or increase the effectiveness of the process.

Feedback from submitters is always welcome and can be sent to:

openurlagency@oclc.org

¹ The OpenURL Review Panel will be a standing panel created specifically to review new Community Profile submittals and approved by NISO. It will be made up of 5 – 7 technical leaders from the OpenURL community, including participation from software providers, content providers, and customers from both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.