

Columns

Standards Corner: A Word About NISO Ballots

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If you are new to NASIG, or perhaps if you are not so new, you may have wondered, "What are these NISO ballots, and why am I getting them?" First, let's start with answering the question: What is NISO?

National Information Standards Organization (NISO) is a member-based, non-profit organization that helps create standards, recommended practices, and technical reports for managing information. NISO facilitates conversations between libraries, publishers, and vendors to arrive at consensus-based solutions to community needs. KBART is one such recommended practice. This is a really quick synopsis of NISO; you can read more about NISO at [What is NISO and what does it do?](#) and [Welcome to NISO](#).

NASIG is one key member organization that helps NISO reach out to all stakeholders with diverse viewpoints. Another component of the work done by NISO involves the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). NISO is accredited by ANSI to serve as the [Technical Advisory Group \(TAG\)](#) to ISO Technical Committee (TC) 46. ISO TC 46 works as the technical committee on information and documentation. As part of this role, NISO distributes ballots to U.S.-based members to gather consensus on ISO TC 46 activities.

These ballots are comprised of various topics and may include helping select chairs of the different

committees, voting on proposed standards, and other Robert's Rules of Order procedures.

How can you get involved? Read the proposed standards and discuss with colleagues. Adopt the standards at your place of work. You are also welcome to submit your name to be a member of a proposed committee. You can sign up for the [NISO email alerts](#).

The NASIG Standards Committee officially votes on behalf of NASIG but does so only after soliciting from the NASIG community. Since 1) NISO proposed standard documents are limited to NASIG members, and 2) the NASIG mailing list is not necessarily limited to NASIG members, the PDFs are not immediately shared across the NASIG mailing list (but are given out upon request and after verification). The NASIG Standards Committee appoints on representative to share information and cast the official vote.

You can read more about the NASIG Standards Committee on the [Standards Committee page](#).