

# 2020 NISO Virtual Conferences

## Researcher Behaviors and the Impact of Technology

12:00 - 4:00 | *Wednesday, March 25, 2020*

The introduction of technologies (augmented reality, visualization screens, quantum computing, etc.) can dramatically change how research is performed as well as how the outcome of the research is presented. This event will tap into the excitement felt by researchers when they find a new technology offering greater efficiencies to their work as well as how their adoption of new technologies changes the workflow. Not every community will need the same tools so this event will feature those working in a variety of fields. Service providers of all sorts will be interested in what technologies have captured the interest of scholars as well as transformed their output.

## Making Content Accessible: How Can Publishers and Libraries Better Satisfy the Obligation?

12:00 - 4:00 | *Wednesday, April 15, 2020*

Institutions of higher education (IHEs) have a legal and moral obligation to support the information needs of those in their community -- whether student or faculty -- to provide access to content regardless of individual ability or need for accommodation. They are required to provide access to information resources that are as close as possible to those resources provided to individuals who do not experience those impairments. But what goes into making an ebook, a textbook, or other course materials fully accessible? This event will bring together stakeholders to discuss current efforts made to ensure that all content is accessible and the challenges still to be overcome.

## Changes in Higher Education and The Information Marketplace

12:00 - 4:00 | *Wednesday, June 17, 2020*

Pressures on institutions of higher education in the United States are increasing. Reductions in state funding may severely constrict the work of an extended university system. There is heightened competition for research grants. Donations and endowments must be secured and guarded. At the same time, institutions face a shrinking pool of qualified student applicants. At the same time, technology companies promise efficiencies to be gained from adopting new infrastructure. Open educational resources, online learning and deepened digital engagement are positioned to become the norm. How does all of this impact on the long-term strategic planning for libraries and the providers that serve them? This event will gather key decision-makers from a variety of constituencies to identify and consider long-term implications.

## Transforming Search: What the Information Community Can and Should Build

12:00 - 4:00 | *Wednesday, August 26, 2020*

Linked data. Aerial photography. Voice recognition and automated transcription. While none of these alone have transformed the user's search experience, each plays a part in how users currently think about information retrieval and about the research process. In the coming years, artificial intelligence will have an increasingly important role as well in satisfying the user's information need. This event will address how search technologies have progressed as well as emerging issues associated with discovery and relevant retrieval.

## Privacy in the Age of Surveillance: Everyone's Concern

12:00 - 4:00 | *Wednesday, September 16, 2020*

In an age of networked information platforms, a user's activity is traced automatically and frequently without much system transparency. Does that necessarily constitute surveillance of the user? Depending upon the geographic location, camera and satellite monitoring are ubiquitous. Why shouldn't data sensors help administrators improve traffic flow? Why should we hesitate to gather and use data in resolving big and small issues in society? Vendors want to improve the user experience; studying user data allows that. Even in the library, benign assessment exercises trace patron use of resources or access. Where is the line and how should stakeholders be thinking about the issue?

To what extent are these practices intrusive or threatening to the individual? How transparent are we required to be about systems and practices? This event will feature participation by a variety of community stakeholders considering these and other questions about this sensitive concern.

## Community Owned Infrastructure: Partnerships and Collaboration

Save the Date! Registration Opens Soon.

**2020 NISO PLUS Conference**

February 23-25, 2020 in Baltimore, MD.

Staff at USMAI Member Libraries are eligible for the discounted "Member" rate.



12:00 - 4:00 | *Wednesday, October 21, 2020*

How might community-owned infrastructure be successfully managed in the 21st century information environment? Infrastructure -- whether speaking of highways or information platforms -- is inevitably costly to build and maintain. It entails financial planning and long-term technical support. What represents the minimum viable product, and what does it take to engineer the reality? What might be the opportunities for public/private partnerships? Who finds the funding? Is there a plan for sustainability? The question is not whether there are successful examples of community-owned platforms, but whether those examples will be sustained over the long-term.