Threats to Interoperability

- Functional Interoperability
  Ability of user to successfully search and retrieve information in a meaningful way

- Three threats to interoperability
  1. Functionality supported by the standard
  2. Differences in implementation of the standard
  3. Differences in local information retrieval system

- Z39.50 profiles provide a solution to #2

Z39.50 Profiles

- Specifies options, values, and parameters from base standards
- Fully specifies how Z39.50 will be used in specific application
- Increases likelihood of interoperability between separate implementations
In Other Words, A Profile ...

- Represents community consensus on requirements
- Identifies Z39.50 specifications to support
- Improves search and retrieval results
- Aids in purchasing decisions
- Provides specifications for vendors to build Z39.50

The Z Texas Profile

- Reflects Texas library requirements & specifications
- Who's involved?
  - Libraries with Z39.50 implementations
  - Libraries acquiring Z39.50 products
  - Libraries considering a Z39.50 implementation
- Currently representatives from:
  - Texas libraries -- public, school, academic, special
  - State Institutions/Organizations
  - Z39.50 Experts
- The Texas Z39.50 Implementors Group (TZIG)
- First Initiative: **Z Texas: The Z39.50 Profile**

Scope and Structure of the Profile

- **Scope**
  - Current version: search & retrieval from OPACs, including holdings information
  - Subsequent versions: other networked electronic

- **Structure**
  - Modular
  - Current Functional Areas Defined
    - Functional Area -- Library Catalog Search & Retrieval
    - Functional Area -- Retrieval of Bibliographic Holdings Information
  - Potential Functional Areas
    - Cross Domain Searching
Addressing Semantic Interoperability

- Identify searching requirements (tasks)
  - Two categories of searching: basic, specialized
    - Basic: Author, Title, Subject, Keyword, Boolean
    - Specialized: ISBN, Call Number, Specific Controlled Vocabulary
- Defining the searches (semantics and behavior)
  - Exact Title Search -- exact match beginning with first character of first word appearing in the title of an item, in the series title, or the uniform title
  - Specifying Z39.50 query to represent the search
    - Standard combination of Z39.50 Attribute Types and

Benefits of the Z Texas Profile

- Focuses time and resources to build consensus among Texas librarians
- Ensures Texas libraries' needs are communicated and addressed to Z39.50 vendors
- Educates and informs Texas librarians
- Ensures effective Z39.50 implementation for Texas
- Provides technical infrastructure for statewide

Status of the Z Texas Profile

- **Z Texas Profile: A Z39.50 Profile for Library Systems Applications in Texas, Release 1.0**
- Stable draft released in April 1999
- Expected implementations by vendors in fourth
- Contributing to an emerging consensus on an international profile
The Z Texas Profile
William E. Moen
<wemoen@jove.acs.unt.edu>
School of Library and Information Sciences, University of North Texas

Z Texas Project Information
- Z Texas Project Website
  http://www.tsl.texas.gov/LD/z3950/
- Z Texas Profile
- TZIG Member List
  http://www.tsl.texas.gov/LD/z3950/committee.htm
- Texas Z39.50 Listserv
  http://www.tsl.texas.gov/LD/z3950/list.htm

Stockholm ZIG Tutorial
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