

Z39.50 & The Z Texas Profile

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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

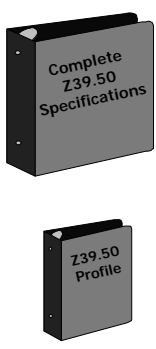
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Z39.50 Profiles

- ATS-1
- GILS
- CIMI
- GEO
- Danzig Profile
- Digital Collections
- Union Catalogue
- Thesaurus profile
- Z Texas

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



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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

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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**

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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

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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

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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

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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

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Z Texas Project Information

- ❑ Z Texas Project Website
<http://www.tsl.texas.gov/LD/z3950/>
- ❑ Z Texas Profile
<http://www.tsl.texas.gov/LD/z3950/TZIGProfile99Apr20>
- ❑ 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>

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