

Call for Participation

The Z39.50 Interoperability Testbed (Z–Interop) Project <<http://www.unt.edu/zinterop>> invites integrated library system vendors, Z39.50 developers, and individual libraries to participate in Phase 1 interoperability testing.

Z–Interop is an applied research and demonstration project funded by the U.S. federal Institute of Museum and Library Services <<http://www.ims.gov>> through a National Leadership Grant awarded the School of Library and Information Sciences <<http://www.unt.edu/slis>> and the Texas Center for Digital Knowledge <<http://www.txcdk.org>> at University of North Texas (UNT). The goal of Z–Interop is to improve Z39.50 semantic interoperability among libraries for information access and resource sharing.

The mission of Z–Interop is to:

- Provide a technically and organizationally trusted environment for vendors and consumers of Z39.50 products to demonstrate and evaluate those products
- Develop rigorous methodologies, test scenarios, and procedures to measure and assess interoperability
- Demonstrate and operate a Z39.50 interoperability testbed.

Z–Interop provides a testing environment for Z39.50 clients and servers used in library applications. Specifically, Z–Interop will provide testing for Z39.50 clients and servers configured to support the *Bath Profile: An International Z39.50 Specification for Library Applications* <<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/bath/bp-current.htm>> or the *U.S. National Z39.50 Profile for Library Applications* (current draft <<http://www.unt.edu/zprofile/Profile/specifications.htm>>).

Phase 1 testing focuses on validating Z–Interop methodologies, policies, and procedures. Phase 1 will test the following searches from the two profiles:

- Author Search – Keyword (Bath/US Profile)
- Title Search – Keyword (Bath/US Profile)
- Subject Search – Keyword (Bath/US Profile)
- Any Search – Keyword (Bath/US Profile)

Required retrieval record syntax is MARC 21. The search and retrieval requirements are derived from the profiles' Functional Area A, Level 0 conformance specifications.

Interoperability testing will be governed by policies and procedures (available on the Z–Interop website). The policies and procedures detail the responsibilities of the Z–Interop project and interoperability testing participants. Individual participant's Phase 1 test results will be shared only with the participant and will not be publicly available.

Testing Z39.50 Client Products

If you are interested in testing a Z39.50 client implementation, please send an email message stating your interest to the Principal Investigator <wemoen@unt.edu>. You will be asked to complete an online form to provide information about your organization and Z39.50 product. You will also need to:

- Review the Z–Interop policies and procedures
- Configure your product to send the Z39.50 queries specified in the profiles and to receive MARC 21 records.

When you have completed these steps, Z–Interop will provide you with the test searches to use and the address of the Z–Interop reference implementation Z39.50 target. Z–Interop will analyze the queries sent by your Z39.50 client and provide the results of the testing.

Testing Z39.50 Server Products

If you are interested in testing a Z39.50 server implementation, please send an email message stating your interest to the Principal Investigator <wemoen@unt.edu>. You will be asked to complete an online form to provide information about your organization and Z39.50 product. You will also need to:

- Review the Z–Interop policies and procedures
- Sign an agreement on the appropriate use of the test dataset
- Configure your product to receive the Z39.50 queries specified in the profiles and to return MARC 21 records.

After you have completed these steps, Z–Interop will provide you with the test dataset of 400,000 MARC 21 records to load and index on your system. When you are ready, Z–Interop will send a set of test searches from the Z–Interop reference implementation Z39.50 origin. Z–Interop will compare results of the searches with the benchmarks for the individual searches. Z–Interop will provide you with an analysis of the results.

Z–Interop’s goal is to improve interoperability between Z39.50 clients and servers in library applications. Phase 1 testing is a critical step in establishing a trustworthy and useful interoperability testbed. We will do our best to assess your products and implementations, and provide you with reliable information for understanding the extent of your conformance with the profiles’ specifications.