

BS 7666-0:2021

Spatial datasets for geographical referencing – Specification

Part 0: General model for gazetteers and spatial referencing

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2021

ISBN 978 0 539 12891 8

ICS 07.040; 35.240.70

The following BSI references relate to the work on this document:

Committee reference IST/36

Draft for comment 21/30412451 DC

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected

Contents

	Page
Foreword	ii
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Gazetteer of geographic objects	2
4.1 Properties of a gazetteer	2
4.2 Gazetteer metadata	2
<i>Table 1 — Gazetteer metadata</i>	3
5 Location records in a gazetteer	3
5.1 Locations	3
5.2 Mandatory attributes	3
5.3 Optional attributes	4
5.4 Associations	4
5.5 Structure	5
<i>Table 2 — Attributes of a location</i>	5
5.6 State type	5
<i>Table 3 — Attributes of state type</i>	5
5.7 Geographic extent	5
6 Descriptive references in a gazetteer	6
6.1 Descriptive reference	6
6.2 Mandatory attributes	6
6.3 Optional attributes	6
6.4 Structure	6
<i>Table 4 — Attributes of a descriptive reference</i>	6
7 Data quality	6
Annex A (informative) Changes since last edition	8
Annex B (informative) Recommended coding schemes	9
<i>Table B.1 — Language codes</i>	9
Annex C (normative) Checklist for verification of conformity	10
Annex D (informative) UML model	11
<i>Figure D.1 — UML model for a gazetteer</i>	12
Annex E (informative) Example gazetteer	13
<i>Table E.1 — Example gazetteer metadata entry</i>	13
<i>Table E.2 — Example gazetteer location entry</i>	14
Bibliography	15

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages I to IV, pages 1 to 15, an inside back cover and a back cover.

Foreword

Publishing information

This part of [BS 7666](#) is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 30 November 2021. It was prepared by Technical Committee IST/36, *Geographic information*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to the committee manager.

Supersession

This part of [BS 7666](#) supersedes [BS 7666-0:2006](#), which is withdrawn.

Information about this document

[BS 7666](#) was originally published over the period 1994 to 1996 in four parts.

These four parts were revised separately over the period 2000 to 2002. During 2004 to 2005, all the parts were revised together, with a new Part 0: *General model for gazetteers and spatial referencing*, which provides a common structure for gazetteers of any class of geographic object. Part 1 subsumed Part 4: *Specification for recording public rights of way*. The scope of Part 2 was largely unchanged. Part 5: *Specification for a delivery point gazetteer* was introduced as part of the 2006 revision.

Between 2016 to 2021 all the parts were again revised together; there were no major changes to the parts and as such they have kept the same numbers. BS 7666-5 has been withdrawn and [BS 7666-0:2006](#), [BS 7666-1:2006](#) and [BS 7666-2:2006](#) have been superseded.

[BS 7666](#) now comprises the following parts:

- Part 0: *General model for gazetteers – Specification*;
- Part 1: *Specification for a street gazetteer*;
- Part 2: *Specification for a land and property gazetteer*.

This is a full revision of the British Standard and introduces the following principal changes:

- “spatial reference” changed to “descriptive reference” with a new section to describe it;
- “spatial unit” changed to “descriptive identifier”;
- “state” attribute on “location” can have multiple records enabling history to be recorded; and
- UML diagrams have been updated.

See also [Annex A](#) for a detailed list of changes made from the 2006 edition.

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Presentational conventions

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its requirements are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “shall”.

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

Requirements in this standard are drafted in accordance with *Rules for the structure and drafting of UK standards*, subclause **G.1.1**, which states, “Requirements should be expressed using wording such as: ‘When tested as described in [Annex A](#), the product shall ...’”. This means that only those products that are capable of passing the specified test will be deemed to conform to this standard.

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary is used (e.g. “organization” rather than “organisation”).

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1 Scope

This part of [BS 7666](#) specifies requirements for the essential components of a gazetteer of geographic locations in the United Kingdom, including the attributes of each geographic location to be recorded in a gazetteer and the metadata associated with the gazetteer.

NOTE This part of [BS 7666](#) may be used for defining gazetteers of locations, but does not specify any particular ones, nor does it define a database schema. It provides the basis for the other parts of [BS 7666](#) by defining general structures to enable gazetteers of a range of classes of geographic locations to be created in a consistent way. Specific gazetteers of particular classes of locations are defined in the other parts of [BS 7666](#).

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes provisions of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS ISO 639-2, *Codes for the representation of names of languages – Part 2: Alpha-3 Code*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of [BS 7666](#), the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 address

means of referencing an object for the purposes of identification and location

NOTE Examples are “389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL” and “Nelson’s Column, Trafalgar Square, London”.

3.2 coordinate reference system

set of mathematical rules for assigning coordinates to points, related to the real world by a datum

NOTE Examples are “National Grid of Great Britain”, “Irish Grid” and “WGS84 (latitude and longitude)”.

3.3 descriptive identifier

spatial reference in the form of a label or code that identifies a location within a limited area

NOTE An example is a “High Street”.

3.4 descriptive reference

description of the position in the real world

NOTE 1 An example is “High Street, Dunbar”.

NOTE 2 This may take the form of a label or code.

3.5 gazetteer

record of instances of a particular location class or classes, with sufficient information to find and identify each uniquely

NOTE Examples are “street gazetteer” and “local land and property gazetteer”.