



BSI Standards Publication

Exchanging course related information –

Part 2: Course advertising profile –
Code of practice

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to ii, pages 1 to 20, an inside back cover and a back cover.

Foreword

Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 October 2012. It was prepared by Panel IST/43/-/8, *UK adoption of EN 15981 (EuroLMAI), EN 15943 (CEF) and EN 15982 (MLO)*, under the authority of Technical Committee IST/43, *Information technology for learning, education and training*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Relationship with other publications

BS 8581-1 describes the structure of an XCRI-CAP1.2 XML document that conforms to BS EN 15982.

BS 8581-2 provides guidance and recommendations on how and when the elements and attributes described in BS 8581-1 are to be used.

Use of this document

As a code of practice, this part of BS 8581 takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this part of BS 8581 is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

Presentational conventions

The provisions in this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "should".

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

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

1 Scope

This British Standard gives recommendations for applications that produce and aggregate XCRI-CAP documents.

This British Standard gives recommendations for:

- policy-makers prescribing a consistent approach for product advertisement to learning opportunity providers that conforms to BS EN 15982;
- decision-makers specifying or procuring software for advertising or aggregating information about learning opportunities in a format that conforms to BS EN 15982; and
- software developers writing code for advertising or aggregating information about learning opportunities in a format that conforms to BS EN 15982.

NOTE It is intended for use by producers and aggregators alike, in the dissemination of course information to prospective students.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Standards publications

BS 8581-1:2012, *Exchanging course-related information – Part 1: Course advertising profile – Specification*

BS EN 15982, *Metadata for learning opportunities (MLO) – Advertising*

BS ISO 8601, *Data elements and interchange formats – Information interchange – Representation of dates and times*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of BS 8581, the terms and definitions from BS 8581-1:2012 and BS EN 15982 apply.

4 Conformance

COMMENTARY ON CLAUSE 4

There are two classes of application that can conform to this British Standard: a producer and an aggregator.

A producer is a class of application that produces XCRI-CAP documents. An aggregator is a class of application that aggregates XCRI-CAP documents.

Either or both classes can conform to this British Standard.

A **strictly conforming instance** is a set of structured information constituted only of elements and attributes, and fully qualified refinements of the elements defined in this British Standard.

A **fully qualified refinement** is an element that explicitly refines an element defined by this British Standard. A fully qualified refinement should be capable of being processed according to the semantics of the element it extends.

A **conforming instance** may contain additional elements and attributes not defined by this British Standard.

A **conforming producer** should be capable of generating and sharing strictly conforming instances.

A **conforming aggregator** should be capable of processing strictly conforming instances.

NOTE For more information on conformance wrapping see Annex A.

5 XCRI-CAP documents

A producer should use the catalog element as the top-level element for general purpose use.

NOTE This British Standard allows both provider and course as alternative top-level elements to enable REST-style operations to be supported.

6 Namespace

NOTE No guidance given.

7 Core elements

7.1 <catalog> element

7.1.1 @generated attribute

The producer should use both date and time in the @generated attribute, e.g. "2010-08-02T06:14:37Z".

Where a <catalog> element does not contain an @generated attribute, the aggregator may process the document as if it was generated at the time the catalog was obtained by the aggregator.

Where the value of the @generated attribute is not a valid date/time according to BS ISO 8601, it is in error and the aggregator should ignore this element.

7.2 <provider> element

7.2.1 Identifier

The producer should create <provider> elements with a default unique identifier formatted as a URL (e.g. "http://www.bolton.ac.uk/"). The producer may include additional identifiers in other formats, but they should be qualified using xsi:type to a specific identifier namespace, e.g. the UK provider reference number (UKPRN) within the UKRLP:UKPRN namespace.¹⁾

NOTE See BS 8581-1:2012, 8.4, for more details.

7.2.2 Title

The producer should include at least one <title> element for a provider; the title should be the trading name of the organization, see 8.5.

¹⁾ This is a fictional example.

7.2.3 Type

Where the producer uses the <type> element for a provider, and where it is possible, the producer should refine this element using a vocabulary encoding scheme, see 8.2.1.2.

7.2.4 URL

The producer should include one <url> element for each provider, which should include its homepage URL, or its application's microsite, in addition to its primary domain identifier (see 7.2.1).

7.2.5 Course

The producer should include at least one course for a provider.

NOTE Where this British Standard is used to format course search results, the capability for supporting zero courses is offered.

7.3 <course> element

7.3.1 Identifier

The <course> element should have a unique identifier formatted as a URI (e.g. "http://www.bolton.ac.uk/courses/1"). Additional identifiers in other formats may be used, but they should be qualified using xsi:type to a specific identifier namespace, see 8.4 for further guidance.

7.3.2 Title

The producer should include at least one <title> element for each course.

7.3.3 Subject

The producer should include at least one <subject> element for each course, see 8.6 for further guidance.

7.3.4 Level

The producer should not use the <level> element; the aggregator should use the <qualification> element and <credit> element to assist discovery of courses by level.

7.3.5 Credit

The producer should use separate <credit> elements for describing the credits available under each scheme, e.g. CATS, ECTS.

7.3.6 Absence of image

Where a course does not contain an image, but its containing provider does, the aggregator should use the image of the provider when displaying the course.

7.4 <presentation> element

7.4.1 Determining uniqueness

Where a presentation does not contain an identifier, the aggregator may need to construct presentation identifiers. Presentations should use a URL-formatted

identifier where possible, following the scheme for the provider and course, e.g. "http://www.bolton.ac.uk/courses/1/2008-1".

7.4.2 Absence of study mode and attendance

The aggregators should assume that the default value for studyMode is "Full time", the default for attendanceMode is "Campus", and the default for the <attendancePattern> element is "Not known".

7.4.3 Start dates

The producer should include a <start> element even if there is no specific start date as this can still be used to describe the start details, see BS 8581-1:2012, 14.2.

7.4.4 Duration

The producer should include a duration, or start and end dates, or both.

7.4.5 Absence of image

Where a presentation does not contain an image, but its containing course does, the aggregator should use the image of the course when displaying the presentation.

7.4.6 Absence of title

Where a presentation does not contain a title, but its containing course does, the aggregator should use the title of the course when displaying the presentation.

7.4.7 Absence of description

Where a presentation does not contain a description, but its containing course does, the aggregator should use the description of the course when displaying the presentation.

8 Common elements

8.1 General

8.1.1 <date> element

The producer should not use the <date> element, but where possible use the temporal elements defined in BS 8581-1:2012, 14.2: <start>, <end>, <applyFrom>, and <applyUntil>.

8.1.2 <hasPart>/<isPartOf> element

The producer should not use these elements for general course advertising as there is no definition of their use in this British Standard.

NOTE 1 These elements are included for compatibility with BS EN 15982 and for use in extended profiles of BS 8581-1, which defines the semantics of these elements for other purposes.

NOTE 2 For further guidance on these elements see BS EN 15982.

8.1.3 <type> element

NOTE No guidance given.