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BSI Standards Publication

Information and documentation — The Dublin Core metadata element set

Part 2: DCMI Properties and classes

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO 15836-2:2019. Together with BS ISO 15836-1:2017, it supersedes BS ISO 15836:2009 which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee IDT/2/7, Computer applications in Information and Documentation.

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation,* Subcommittee SC 4, *Technical interoperability*.

This first edition of ISO 15836-2, together with ISO 15836-1, cancels and replaces ISO 15836:2009, which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Technical Corrigendum ISO 15836:2009/Cor 1:2009.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

— the term “elements” has been changed to “properties”;

— properties and classes from the /terms/ namespace, which are not included in ISO 15836-1 have been added;

— several term definitions have been updated;

— many examples and notes have been added, in order to make this document easier to use.

A list of all parts in the ISO 15836 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

The properties and classes covered in this document are intended to be used in combination with metadata terms from other, compatible vocabularies in the context of application profiles.

This set of properties and classes is expressed as an RDF vocabulary and may be used for Linked Data. Each property and class is identified with a global identifier for use in RDF data. Creators of non-RDF metadata can use the vocabulary in non-RDF contexts, such as XML, JSON, UML and relational databases, by disregarding both the global identifier and the formal implications of the RDF-specific aspects of term definitions. Such users can take domain, range, subproperty, and subclass relations as usage suggestions and focus on the natural-language text of definitions, usage notes, and examples.

DCMI metadata terms are governed by the DCMI Usage Board (DCMI UB)[1]. This document has been created in close co-operation with the DCMI UB. The aim is to keep this document and DCMI metadata terms as closely aligned as possible, both concerning the terms and their definitions and notes.

Additional information about the usage of Dublin Core terms is provided by a user guide available at https://purl.org/metadata/user_guide.

DCMI intends to revise the guidelines and link their contents more tightly with DCMI metadata terms.

Several changes have been made to DCMI metadata terms during the preparation of this document. The reasons for these modifications are varied. DCMI usage guides and the Dublin Core Collection Description Application Profile have been used as information sources (in the form of added notes) on how to use given terms. Outdated references have been updated (for instance, the term “Language” is now recommended to be used with BCP 47 instead of RFC 4646). Some terms and definitions have been clarified (see, for example, “Available”). There is now additional guidance such as examples for terms like Date which may have been difficult to use in a uniform way.

There are a few cases in which terms, definitions or notes have been changed (e.g. DateCopyrighted), because the common practice has changed, or because such practice has been established since the Dublin Core term was defined.

DCMI Usage Board may make changes and additions to DCMI metadata terms as a part of the on-going maintenance of Dublin Core. Such modifications should be incorporated into future editions of this document.

1) https://dublincore.org/usage/

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Information and documentation — The Dublin Core metadata element set —

Part 2: DCMI Properties and classes

1 Scope

This document establishes a vocabulary for cross-domain resource description, known as the Dublin Core metadata terms (hereafter DCMI Metadata Terms). It includes all of the properties and classes in the main namespace of DCMI Metadata Terms[2)] (hereafter "the /terms/ namespace"), as published in the DCMI Recommendation document "DCMI Metadata Terms" of 2012 (DCMI-TERMS and Annex A). As explained in Annex B, these properties and classes can be identified by URIs for use in linked data.

NOTE The 15 terms of the original Dublin Core Metadata Element Set, as defined in the namespace https://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/ (hereafter "the /elements/1.1/ namespace"), are also documented in the DCMI Recommendation "DCMI Metadata Terms" and in ISO 15836-1.

This document does not contain the following supporting terms from "DCMI Metadata Terms" specification:

a) terms from the /elements/1.1/ namespace (included in ISO 15836-1);

b) vocabulary encoding schemes;

c) syntax encoding schemes;

d) DCMI Type vocabulary;

e) terms related to the DCMI Abstract Model.

Both ISO 15836-1 and this document include the 15 so-called core terms, but in ISO 15836-1 they are from the /elements/1.1/ namespace, and in this document from the /terms/ namespace. In the latter, the terms have narrower semantics due to formal domain and range specifications.

This document does not limit what might be a resource.

This document does not provide specific implementation guidelines. The properties and classes are typically used in the context of an application profile, which constrains or specifies their use in accordance with local or community-based requirements and policies.

2 Normative references

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

ISO 15836-1, *Information and documentation — The Dublin Core metadata element set — Part 1: Core elements*

2) Available at: https://purl.org/dc/terms/.

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3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 15836-1 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1 Terms and definitions

3.1.1
class
set of resources

Note 1 to entry: The members of a class are known as instances of the class. Classes are themselves resources. They are often identified by URIs and may be described using RDF properties. The rdf:type property may be used to state that a resource is an instance of a class.

[SOURCE: RDF Schema. Version 1.1]

3.1.2
domain
class of which a *resource* (3.1.10) described by the term is an instance

[SOURCE: DCMI Terms, https://www.dublincore.org/specifications/dublin-core/dcmi-terms/]

3.1.3
domain includes
suggested class for subjects of this *property* (3.1.6)

3.1.4
entity
something that exists apart from other things, having its own independent existence

3.1.5
literal
string of Unicode characters, such as letters or integers, optionally combined with a language tag or datatype

3.1.6
non-literal value
either a blank node or *URI* (3.1.13)

3.1.7
property
relation between a subject resource and an object resource

Note 1 to entry: This is a synonym of “element”.

[SOURCE: RDF Schema. Version 1.1]

3.1.8
range
class of which a value described by the term is an instance

[SOURCE: DCMI Terms, https://www.dublincore.org/specifications/dublin-core/dcmi-terms/]

3.1.9
range includes
suggested class for values of this *property* (3.1.7)

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3.1.10
resource
entity that might be identified

Note 1 to entry: This specification does not limit the scope of what might be a resource. Anything, either abstract or physical, can be a resource.

Note 2 to entry: In RDF, a resource may be identified by a *URI* (3.1.13).

[SOURCE: RFC 3986 modified.— The word“thing” has been replaced with “entity”]

3.1.11
subclass
class that is related, typically using the rdfs:subClassOf property, to another class of broader scope (superclass), such that all instances of the subclass are instances of the superclass

[SOURCE: RDF Schema. Version 1.1]

3.1.12
subproperty
property (3.1.7) that is related, typically using the rdfs:subPropertyOf property, to another property of broader scope (superproperty), such that all resources related by the subproperty are also related by the superproperty

[SOURCE: RDF Schema. Version 1.1]

3.1.13
Uniform Resource Identifier
URI
identifier consisting of a sequence of characters matching the URI syntax rule

Note 1 to entry: How the identification is accomplished, assigned, or enabled, is delegated to URI scheme specifications such as *URN* (3.1.14).

[SOURCE: RFC 3986]

3.1.14
Uniform Resource Name
URN
Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) (3.1.13) that is assigned under the “urn” URI scheme and a particular URN namespace, with the intent that the URN will be a persistent, location-independent resource identifier

[SOURCE: RFC 8141]

3.2 DCMI properties

3.2.1
abstract
summary of the resource

Label	Abstract
URI	https://purl.org/dc/terms/abstract
Subproperty of	https://purl.org/dc/terms/description

3.2.2
accessRights
information about who may access the resource or an indication of its security status

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