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**Presentation/representation of entries  
in dictionaries — Requirements,  
recommendations and information**

*Présentation/représentation des entrées dans les dictionnaires —  
Exigences, recommandations et information*



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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO 1951 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 37, *Terminology and other language and content resources*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Terminographical and lexicographical working methods*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 1951:1997), the scope of which has been extended in order to address publishers' and users' needs by taking into account various types of electronic dictionaries and the constraints of single sourcing for producing dictionaries, as well as disseminating and reusing data in lexicographical practice.

Real dictionary entries used as examples in this International Standard only illustrate the principles of XML representation of lexicographical data and their associated presentations. They do not engage the publishers' responsibility.

## Introduction

### General aim of this International Standard

During the past decade, dictionary-making processes have undergone important changes due to the spread of electronic dictionaries. Consequently, lexicographers are faced with a growing diversification of methods during dictionary preparation and publishing.

This revised International Standard aims to support the creation and management of various types of dictionaries. It takes into account different ways of using dictionaries, especially such new functionalities of electronic documents as hyperlinks.

To allow dictionary content to be reused in different printed and electronic formats, lexicographers increasingly tend to create a single well-structured lexicographical source or data repository. In addition to reproducing all the typographical conventions described in the former edition of ISO 1951, this revised International Standard provides a specific model based on current best professional practices, in order to allow necessary production, exchange and management procedures.

In the text of this International Standard, the use of the auxiliary verb “shall” indicates a requirement or specification that is to be met precisely as stated; the use of the auxiliary verb “should” indicates a recommendation of a good way to do something that is to be followed unless a better way can be demonstrated to have been adopted; and the use of the auxiliary verb “can” indicates information that the user may find useful.

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# Presentation/representation of entries in dictionaries — Requirements, recommendations and information

## 1 Scope

This International Standard deals with monolingual and multilingual, general and specialized dictionaries. It specifies a formal generic structure independent of the publishing media and it proposes means of presenting entries in print and electronic dictionaries. The relationship between the formal structure and the presentation of entries used by publishers and read by users is explained in examples provided in the informative annexes.

The objective of this International Standard is to facilitate the production, merging, comparison, extraction, exchange, dissemination and retrieval of lexicographical data in dictionaries. Following a lexicographical lemma-oriented approach, it does not deal with concept-oriented works as defined in ISO 704.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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.

ISO 704:2000, *Terminology work — Principles and methods*

ISO 1087-1:2000, *Terminology work — Vocabulary — Part 1: Theory and application*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 704 and ISO 1087-1 and the following apply.

These definitions concern basic and unambiguous terms of dictionary structure and presentation, common in most types of dictionaries, which are within the scope of this International Standard. Terms considered specific to certain dictionaries have not been included here.

### 3.1

#### comment

metalinguistic information describing a **lexical unit** (3.8) by means of lexicographical **data elements** (3.3) or **compositional elements** (3.2)

### 3.2

#### compositional element

composite information unit made of elements

NOTE There are three families of compositional elements: **blocks** (3.2.1), **containers** (3.2.2) and **groups** (3.2.3).