
**Information and documentation —
Registry services for libraries and related
organizations**

*Information et documentation — Services de registre pour les
bibliothèques et les organismes associés*



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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 2146 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Technical interoperability*.

This third edition constitutes a revision of the second edition (ISO 2146:1988), which was withdrawn in 1999. The entire text of the second edition has been reorganized and rewritten for this third edition.

Introduction

ISO 2146 was first published in 1972 under the title *Directories of libraries, information and documentation centres*. Its purpose was to assist in compiling and publishing international directories, national registries published in bi- or multilingual countries and national and regional directories intended for international use. When the second edition came up for its ten year review in 1988, the world had changed. Agencies were finding new ways of collecting and publishing directory information on the Internet and of deploying it in machine-readable form to aid discovery and delivery.

The need was identified to repurpose this International Standard as a data element directory and to take into account new usage scenarios. Development of the revision began in 2001 with support for interlibrary lending scenarios as an initial driver. The primary purpose of ISO 2146 in its new form is to offer a conceptual basis for the development of the full range of registry services needed to support digital library usage scenarios. As such, it is designed to be explanatory and extensible rather than restrictive and prescriptive. The term “registry” has been adopted in the title and the data element directory to indicate that this International Standard supports the process of collecting the required information from stakeholders as well as making it available for use.

The data element directory has been formulated as an object-oriented model that can be converted to machine readable formats such as XML. Some concepts are less developed than others but this version of this International Standard is nevertheless complete. It allows for the addition of new elements through a typing approach and provides free text elements for capturing information not explicitly modelled. It also allows any data element to be encoded using an extension schema. As a framework standard, it does not prescribe how data are recorded or what ontologies or controlled vocabularies are used. To do so would limit the applicability of this International Standard to specific usage scenarios. However, a range of examples and starter lists is provided, and implementers are encouraged to use (or to collaborate in the development of) appropriate standards for any given service, usage, or subject field.

It is anticipated that different registry applications will be based on profiles of this International Standard. The profiles will specify the objects in the information model and the data elements essential to that registry type, and define and maintain the enumerated lists appropriate to the application. The profile will also specify the bindings and protocols to be used for exchange purposes. This will enable parties in the same sector and in parallel sectors to collaborate in the development and delivery of services and content.

Other standards exist to facilitate the exchange of registry objects between systems. This International Standard is not intended to replace these standards although an XML schema version of the data element directory can be used for this purpose. Similarly, other standards exist or are under development to enable the persistent identification of registry objects. This International Standard provides data elements for the recording and management of such identifiers but does not prescribe their use.

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Information and documentation — Registry services for libraries and related organizations

1 Scope

This International Standard establishes the rules for registries operating in a network environment to provide the information about collections, parties, activities and services needed by libraries and related organizations to manage their collections and deliver information and documentation services across a range of applications and domains.

This International Standard presents a data element directory that can be used as a framework for collecting the appropriate data and sharing it with other registry services, providing access to registry data through standard protocols whenever it is needed as part of an automated business workflow, publishing registries in electronic or print form, and archiving registry data when the data exist only in electronic form.

This International Standard is applicable to national registries published in bi- or multilingual countries and national and regional registries intended for international use.

The field of application includes but is not limited to

- collection management systems and digital repositories,
- discovery services, including catalogues and indexes, federated metadata repositories and metasearch portals,
- delivery services, including persistent identifier management and resolution, access management and interlending services,
- reference services including reference management systems and virtual reference services, and
- the registry services themselves, of all types, needed to support the above applications.

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 639-2, *Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 2: Alpha-3 code*

ISO 3166-1, *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions — Part 1: Country codes*

ISO 3166-2, *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions — Part 2: Country subdivision code*

ISO 4217, *Codes for the representation of currencies and funds*

ISO 8601:2004, *Data elements and interchange formats — Information interchange — Representation of dates and times*