
**Information and documentation —
Managing metadata for records —**

**Part 3:
Self-assessment method**

*Information et documentation — Gestion des métadonnées pour
l'information et les documents —*

Partie 3: Méthode d'auto-évaluation





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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.

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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.

In exceptional circumstances, when a technical committee has collected data of a different kind from that which is normally published as an International Standard ("state of the art", for example), it may decide by a simple majority vote of its participating members to publish a Technical Report. A Technical Report is entirely informative in nature and does not have to be reviewed until the data it provides are considered to be no longer valid or useful.

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/TR 23081-3 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 11, *Archives/records management*.

ISO/TR 23081 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information and documentation — Managing metadata for records*:

- *Part 1: Principles*
- *Part 2: Conceptual and implementation issues*
- *Part 3: Self-assessment method*

Introduction

This Technical Report provides records professionals and IT professionals with a self-assessment method to evaluate the current state of records metadata capture and management in or across their organization, and provides direction on how to improve on the current state. The self-assessment method aligns with ISO 23081-1 and ISO 23081-2. A software tool (spreadsheet) that supports the self-assessment method is annexed to this Technical Report.

Metadata management is an inextricable part of records management, serving a variety of functions and purposes. In a records management context, metadata are defined as data describing the context, content and structure of records and their management through time (see ISO 15489-1:2001, 3.12). As such, metadata are structured or semi-structured information, enabling the creation, registration, classification, access, preservation and disposition of records through time and within and across domains. Each of these domains represents an area of intellectual discourse and of social and/or organizational activity with a distinctive or limited group of people who share certain values and knowledge. Records management metadata can be used to identify, authenticate and contextualize records and the people, processes and systems that create, manage, maintain and use them and the policies that govern them.

NOTE The paragraph above is adapted from ISO 23081-1:2006, Clause 4.

All organizations, regardless of their size or the nature of their business, exist and act to achieve certain goals and objectives. Every organization generates records from its business processes. These records constitute evidence of the organization's goals and objectives, of its decisions and of its transactions. For a full understanding of these business records, contextual and management metadata are needed. This understanding facilitates several key functions, including the identification, management, access, use, and preservation of records as an asset of the organization.

To realize its own specific goals and objectives, each organization determines and applies appropriate metadata creation which supports the ongoing business and records management processes of the organization.

This Technical Report is intended for:

- records professionals (or persons within an organization assigned to managing records) responsible for creating and managing records (and their metadata) in either a business system or dedicated records application software;
- system or business analysts responsible for designing business and records systems that will create, manage, store, and preserve records and their metadata;
- auditors responsible for ensuring compliance with regulatory policies and procedures;
- risk managers responsible for managing risks associated with business operations.

For the purposes of this Technical Report, metadata self-assessment involves:

- a) defining and communicating a policy and objectives for records management;
- b) determining strategies necessary to achieve the records management objectives;
- c) establishing processes and practices necessary to achieve the records management objectives;
- d) determining and providing the resources necessary to achieve the records management objectives;

- e) designing and implementing records processes and systems;
- f) establishing and applying methods to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of processes and systems;
- g) determining means of preventing nonconformities and eliminating their causes; and
- h) establishing and applying a process for continual improvement of the records management system.

Information and documentation — Managing metadata for records —

Part 3: Self-assessment method

1 Scope

This Technical Report provides guidance on conducting a self-assessment on records metadata in relation to the creation, capture and control of records.

The self-assessment helps to:

- a) identify the current state of metadata capture and management in or across organizations;
- b) identify priorities of what to work on and when;
- c) identify key requirements from ISO 23081-1:2006 and ISO 23081-2:2009;
- d) evaluate progress in the development of a metadata framework for the implementation of specific systems and projects;
- e) evaluate system and project readiness (move to the next phase in a system or project) when including records metadata functionality in a system. A records metadata readiness evaluation is provided for key steps from project inception through to the implementation/maintenance phase.

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 15489-1:2001, *Information and documentation — Records management — Part 1: General*

ISO 23081-1:2006, *Information and documentation — Records management processes — Metadata for records — Part 1: Principles*

ISO 23081-2:2009, *Information and documentation — Managing metadata for records — Part 2: Conceptual and implementation issues*

ISO/IEC 11179-1, *Information technology — Metadata registries (MDR) — Part 1: Framework*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 15489-1, ISO 23081-1, ISO 23081-2 and ISO/IEC 11179-1 apply.