
**Information and documentation — The
Dublin Core metadata element set**

*Information et documentation — L'ensemble des éléments de
métadonnées Dublin Core*



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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 15836 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Technical interoperability*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 15836:2003), of which it constitutes a minor revision to incorporate minor changes and align it with ANSI/NISO Z39.85:2007.

Introduction

The *Dublin Core Metadata Element Set* is a vocabulary of fifteen properties for use in resource description. The name “Dublin” comes from its original 1995 invitational workshop, which took place in Dublin, Ohio; “core” because its elements are broad and generic, usable for describing a wide range of resources.

The fifteen-element “Dublin Core” described in this International Standard is part of a larger set of metadata vocabularies and technical specifications maintained by the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI). The full set of vocabularies, *DCMI Metadata Terms* [DCMI-TERMS], also includes a set of resource classes, the *DCMI Type Vocabulary* [DCMI-TYPE]. The terms in DCMI vocabularies are intended to be used in combination with terms from other, compatible vocabularies in the context of application profiles and on the bases of the *DCMI Abstract Model* [DCAM].

In 2006, the DCMI Usage Board undertook an editorial review of terms in the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set (DCMES) in order to clarify intended semantics and bring the wording of their definitions and usage comments into line with the language of the *DCMI Abstract Model* [DCAM]. A set of proposed changes was posted for public comment from August 28 to September 25, 2006. A face-to-face Usage Board meeting in Manzanillo, Mexico, on September 30, 2006, resulted in the publication on December 18, 2006, of a decision text, a response to comments, and a revised terms documentation.

This revision of the original ANSI/NISO Z39.85 standard that was issued in 2001 corresponds to version 1.1 on the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative website that resulted from the editorial review and public comment period described above. All changes made to terms of the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set since 2001 have been reviewed by a DCMI Usage Board in the context of a *DCMI Namespace Policy* [DCMI-NAMESPACE]. The namespace policy describes how DCMI terms are assigned Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs) and sets limits on the range of editorial changes that may be already made to the labels, definitions and usage comments associated with existing DCMI terms.

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1 Scope

This International Standard establishes a standard for cross-domain resource description, known as the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set. Like RFC 3986, this International Standard does not limit what might be a resource.

This International Standard defines the elements 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. However, it does not define implementation detail, which is outside the scope of this International Standard.

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.

ANSI/NISO Z39.85:2007, *The Dublin Core Metadata Element Set*

DCAM, *DCMI Abstract Model*. Available at <http://dublincore.org/documents/abstract-model/>

3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in DCAM and the following apply.

3.1.1

resource

anything that might be identified

[RFC 3986, DCMI Abstract Model]

3.1.2

lifecycle of a resource

sequence of events that mark the development and use of a resource

EXAMPLES Conception of an invention, creation of a draft, revision of an article, publication of a book, acquisition by a library, transcription to magnetic disk, migration to optical storage, translation into English, and derivation of a new work (e.g. a movie).

3.2 Abbreviated terms

DCMI Dublin Core Metadata Initiative