INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**ISO 15836-1**

First edition
2017-05

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

## Part 1: Core elements

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

*Partie 1: Éléments principaux*



Reference number
ISO 15836-1:2017(E)



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# Foreword

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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 on 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 the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

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

This first edition of ISO 15836-1 cancels and replaces ISO 15836:2009, of which it constitutes a minor revision.

— This document covers the same elements as ISO 15836:2009. Properties and classes in ISO 15836-2 were not included in the previous version of ISO 15836:2009.

— Core elements and their specifications are now located in Clause 3.

— Some definitions have been updated (e.g. resource and date).

— Introduction has been revised.

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



 

# Introduction

The *Dublin Core Metadata Element Set* contains 15 core elements for use in resource description. The name "Dublin" comes from its original 1995 invitational workshop, which took place in Dublin, Ohio; "core" because these elements are broad and generic, usable for describing a wide range of resources.

The 15-element "core" specified in this document 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], will be specified in ISO 15836-2.

The core elements may be used in combination with metadata terms from other compatible vocabularies in the context of application profiles as specified in the *DCMI Abstract Model* [DCAM].

In the definitions for elements, the following conventions have been used and are explained in notes:

— each element has a descriptive label ("label") for human recognition;

— each element also has a unique token ("name") for use in machine processing.

In accordance with the *DCMI Namespace Policy* [DCMI-NAMESPACE] specified in ANSI/NISO Z39.85:2012, the "name" of an element is appended to a DCMI namespace URI [RFC 3986] to construct a Uniform Resource Identifier as a globally unique identifier for that element. The use of element names and URIs in the context of different implementation technologies is explained in *DCMI Encoding Guidelines* [DCMI-ENCODINGS].

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

# Part 1: Core elements

## 1 Scope

This document establishes 15 core metadata elements for cross-domain resource description. These terms are part of a larger set of metadata vocabularies maintained by the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative. Properties in the /terms/ namespace are included in ISO 15836-2.

This document does not limit what might be a resource.

This document does not provide implementation guidelines. However, the elements 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 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.

DCAM, *DCMI Abstract Model*[1)]

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

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

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

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

NOTE In the definitions for elements, the conventions in 3.2 have been used and are explained in notes.

### 3.1 General terms and definitions

**3.1.1**
**resource**
thing that might be identified

[SOURCE: RFC 3986, DCMI Abstract Model]

1) Available at http://dublincore.org/documents/abstract-model/.

**3.1.2**
**lifecycle of a resource**
sequence of events that mark the development and use of a resource

EXAMPLE 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 Naming elements

**3.2.1**
**name**
token appended to the URI of a DCMI namespace to create the URI of the term

EXAMPLE "title" or "creator".

**3.2.2**
**label**
descriptive name given an element for human recognition

EXAMPLE "Title" or "Creator".

**3.2.3**
**Uniform Resource Identifier**
**URI**
compact sequence of *characters* that identifies an *abstract* or physical resource.

Note 1 to entry: URIs are used to identify terms.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 12785-1:2009, 3.23]

EXAMPLE http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/contributor

**3.2.4**
**range**
class of which a value described by the term is an instance

## 3.3 Core elements

**3.3.1**
**title**
name given to the resource

Label: Title

URI: http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/title

**3.3.2**
**creator**
entity primarily responsible for making the resource

Note 1 to entry: Examples of a Creator include a person, an organization, or a service.

Label: Creator

URI: http://purl.org/dc/ elements/1.1/creator



 

**3.3.3**
**subject**
topic of the resource

Note 1 to entry: Typically, the subject will be represented using keywords, key phrases, or classification codes. Best practice is to use a controlled vocabulary.

Label: Subject

URI: http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/subject

**3.3.4**
**description**
account of the resource

Note 1 to entry: Description may include, but is not limited to, an abstract, a table of contents, a graphical representation, or a free-text account of the resource

Label: Description

URI: http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description

**3.3.5**
**publisher**
entity responsible for making the resource available

Note 1 to entry: Examples of a Publisher include a person, an organization, or a service.

Label: Publisher

URI: http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/publisher

**3.3.6**
**contributor**
entity responsible for making contributions to the resource

Note 1 to entry: Examples of a Contributor include a person, an organization, or a service.

Label: Contributor

URI: http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/contributor

**3.3.7**
**date**
point or period of time associated with an event in the lifecycle of the resource

Note 1 to entry: Date may be used to express temporal information at any level of granularity. Best practice is to express the date, time, or period according to ISO standard on representation of dates and times (ISO 8601).

Label: Date

URI: http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/date

EXAMPLES 2016-03-04

1968/2015

2006-04/2008-08

**3.3.8**
**type**
nature or genre of the resource

Note 1 to entry: Best practice is to use a controlled vocabulary such as the DCMI Type Vocabulary [DCMI-TYPE]. To describe the file format, physical medium, or dimensions of the resource, the Format element can be used.

Label: Type

URI: http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/type

**3.3.9**
**format**
file format, physical medium, or dimensions of the resource

Note 1 to entry: Examples of dimensions include size and duration. Best practice is to use a controlled vocabulary such as the list of Internet Media Types [MIME].

Label: Format

URI: http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/format

**3.3.10**
**identifier**
compact sequence of characters that establishes the identity of a resource, institution or person alone or in combination with other *elements*

[SOURCE: ISO 8459:2009, 2.27]

Note 1 to entry: Best practice is to identify the resource by means of a string conforming to a formal identification system.

Label: Identifier

URI: http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/identifier

**3.3.11**
**source**
related resource from which the described resource is derived

Note 1 to entry: The described resource can be derived from the related resource in whole or in part. Best practice is to identify the related resource by means of a string conforming to a formal identification system.

Label: Source

URI: http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/source

**3.3.12**
**language**
language of the resource

Note 1 to entry: Best practice is to use a controlled vocabulary as specified in ISO standards (ISO 639-2 or ISO 639-3).

Label: Language

URI: http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/language

EXAMPLE eng



 

**3.3.13**
**relation**
related resource

Note 1 to entry: Best practice is to identify the related resource by means of a URI or other string conforming to a formal identification system.

Label: Relation

URI: http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/relation

**3.3.14**
**coverage**
spatial or temporal topic of the resource, spatial applicability of the resource, or jurisdiction under which the resource is relevant

Note 1 to entry: Spatial topic and spatial applicability can be a named place or a location specified by its geographic coordinates. Temporal topic can be a named period, date, or date range. A jurisdiction can be a named administrative entity or a geographic place to which the resource applies. Best practice is to use a controlled vocabulary such as the Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names [TGN]. Where appropriate, named places or time periods can be used in preference to numeric identifiers such as sets of coordinates or date ranges.

Label: Coverage

URI: http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1s/coverage

**3.3.15**
**rights**
information about rights held in and over the resource

Note 1 to entry: Typically, rights information includes a statement about various property rights associated with the resource, including intellectual property rights.

Label: Rights

URI: http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/rights

## 4 Abbreviated terms

DCMI Dublin Core Metadata Initiative

DCAM Dublin Core Abstract Model

URI Uniform Resource Identifier

## 5 The element set

In the element descriptions given in Clause 3, each element has a descriptive label ("label") for human recognition and a URI for use in machine processing.