

Office of the *e-Envoy*

e-Government Metadata Standard

Version 3.0 29 April 2004



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Metadata

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Date.issued	2004-04-29	
Description	The elements and refinements that provide the structure for metadata used by the UK public sector, along with introductory text	
Format	Text	
Identifier	ISBN 0711504563	
Language eng		
Publisher	Office of the e-Envoy, Stockley House, 130 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1LQ, govtalk@e-envoy.gsi.gov.uk	
Relation.isVersionOf	http://purl.oclc.org/NET/e-GMS_v2	
Relation.isFormatOf	http://purl.oclc.org/NET/e-GMS_3	
Rights.copyright	http://www.hmso.gov.uk/copyright/guidance/guidance.htm Crown copyright	
Source	http://dublincore.org/documents/dces/	
Status	Version 3.0	
Subject	Metadata	
Subject.category	Information management	
Title	e-Government Metadata Standard version 3.0	
Title.alternative	e-GMS 3	
Туре	Standard	

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1 Introduction

Joined-up government needs joined-up information systems. The e-Government Metadata Standard (e-GMS) lays down the elements, refinements and encoding schemes to be used by government officers when creating metadata for their information resources or designing search interfaces for information systems. The e-GMS is needed to ensure maximum consistency of metadata across public sector organisations.

The e-GMS forms part of the e-Government Interoperability Framework (e-GIF). Essential background and supporting documents can be found at http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/metadata.asp and http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/interoperability/gcl.asp

1.1 Changes since previous version

Additional elements, refinements and encoding schemes are set out in the table below.

Accessibility	Obligation for core web pages changed from 'should' to 'must'
Accessibility	Notes updated and encoding schemes revised
Addressee	Refinement 'addresseeCopy' added
Addressee	Encoding scheme GDSC added
Coverage	Indication that the terms associated with spatial and temporal refinements are structural values
Coverage.temporal	'Date capture period' corrected to 'Data capture periods'
Creator	Encoding scheme GDSC added
Date	New examples added
Date	Guidance notes about review date added
Date.updating Frequency	Encoding scheme added
Disposal	Further notes added
Disposal.auto Remove Date	Further notes added
Format	PRONOM encoding scheme added
Identifier	Case ID added
Preservation	PRONOM encoding scheme added
Relation	Sequence deprecated

Rights	Note added about DPA, EIR and FOIA compliance and use of indicators
Rights	Encoding scheme Manual of Protective Security Rights
Rights.disclosability To DPA Data Subject	Deprecated
Rights.DPA Data Subject Access Exemption	Deprecated
Rights	EIR 'exemption' changed to EIR 'exception'
Subject	Notes revised with links to supplementary guidance on GCL
Subject.category	Definition revised
Subject.keyword	Seamless UK encoding scheme added under keyword
Subject.person	New refinement added to cover content about a person
Syntax for 'eGMS' tag	Standardised use of 'eGMS' tag in syntax

1.1.1 Under consideration

Local Authority Websites (LAWs) national project http://www.laws-project.org.uk	Encoding scheme for Subject
The <indecs> Metadata Framework http://www.indecs.org/pdf/framework.pdf</indecs>	Encoding scheme for Rights
vCard http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2426.txt	Encoding scheme for Creator, Contributor and Addressee

1.1.2 Other changes

The introduction has been revised at 1.2, 1.6.8, 1.6.10.

The examples have been revised to ensure consistency.

Guidance has been provided on how to enter multiple values.

1.2 What is metadata?

The most common definition of metadata is 'data about data'. A more helpful definition is that it is structured information about a resource. For example, a catalogue selling household items gives the metadata of those items: the brand, price, colour and capacity. A library catalogue contains metadata relating to books: their titles, authors, publishers, etc. Metadata enables a resource to be found by indicating what the resource is about and how it can be accessed with a series of structured descriptions.

In its broadest sense, metadata can be used to describe information structures such as the technical standards and interconnection policies that are the province of the Interconnection, Data Integration and Access sections of the e-GIF. The e-GMS is concerned with the

particular facets of metadata intended to support resource discovery and records management, and covers the core set of elements that contain data needed for the effective retrieval and management of official information. Each element contains information relating to a particular aspect of the information resource, e.g. 'title' or 'creator'. Further details on the terminology being used in this standard can be found in Dublin Core (DC) and the e-GIF's Technical Standard Catalogue.

1.3 Why is metadata important?

The reasons for developing this standard were originally outlined in the e-Government Metadata Framework (e-GMF) and are now incorporated into the e-GIF.

To summarise them:

- Modernising Government calls for better use of official information, joined-up systems and policies, and services designed around the needs of citizens.
- Considerable work has already been done to standardise government information systems so they can be accessed easily from central portals.
- New systems for the handling of electronic records are being devised. Official records will not always be stored in paper format.
- Metadata makes it easier to manage or find information, be it in the form of web pages, electronic documents, paper files or databases.
- For metadata to be effective, it needs to be structured and consistent across organisations.
- The e-GIF is mandated across all government information systems. By association, so is the e-GMS.

1.4 The e-GMS in practice

The e-GMS is meant as an overall standard, a superset of all elements and refinements needed throughout the UK public sector. It is highly unlikely that one system will need all of the elements and refinements listed here. It is recommended that, in each case, a 'local standard' is created; this will consist of a cut-down version of the e-GMS, with only the elements considered useful for local implementation. The e-GMS is flexible enough to allow the use of additional free text fields for internal use only. Some examples of these local standards can be found on the GovTalk website.

It may also be useful to create a user's version of your local standard, containing only the information you will need to add metadata to information resources. For this it is possible to remove details such as examples of HTML syntax and mappings, and change the examples to ones more relevant to your own organisation.

1.5 The e-GMS development principles

The first version of this standard, as described in the e-GMF, consisted of simple DC. This has since become a recognised international standard (ISO 15836), and it continues to be the cornerstone of the e-GMS. DC elements, refinements and encoding schemes have been

incorporated as far as possible, as have DC definitions and comments. In this version, additional elements have been added to facilitate information and records management. The following principles from the e-GMF were followed when the additional elements and refinements were created.

1.6 Maintenance principles

The e-GMS will need to evolve in order to remain comprehensive and consistent with changes in international standards, and to cater for changes in use and technology. Some of the elements listed here are already marked for further development, needing additional refinements or encoding schemes.

To limit disruption and cost to users, efforts will be made to future-proof the e-GMS.

In particular, we will endeavour not to:

- remove any elements or refinements. If removal is unavoidable, a warning will be given by deprecating term first;
- rename any elements or refinements; or
- add new elements that could contain values contained in the existing elements.

1.7 What this standard includes

For ease of reference, the elements are listed in alphabetical order.

For each element you will find the following data:

1.7.1 Definition

The formal definition of the element, taken from DC (ISO 15836) wherever possible.

1.7.2 Obligation

Each element has a level of obligation. These are:

- Mandatory: this element must have a value;
- **Mandatory if applicable:** this element must be given a value if the information is applicable:
- **Recommended:** this element should be given a value if the data is available and appropriate to the given resource; and
- **Optional:** this element may be given a value if the data is available and appropriate to the given resource.

The obligation applies to the element as a whole. Values can be added to either the unqualified element or to one or more refinements, except in the case of the Subject element where the Category refinement is mandatory.

1.7.3 Purpose

Giving the purpose of the element, background information, its application to different aggregation levels and other factors.

¹A deprecated element or attribute is one that has been outdated by newer constructs but will continue to be supported by the e-GMS to ensure backward compatibility.

1.7.4 Notes

Additional information which is considered useful in the application of the element or element refinements.

1.7.5 Not to be confused with

Provides clarity over the appropriate use of the element or element refinements.

1.7.6 Refinements

Used to make the meaning of an element narrower or more specific and in rare cases can be used for additional information about a resource.

1.7.7 Examples

To indicate how the elements could be completed for a variety of different types of resource. Examples are used in an informal way and are fictitious, as they are intended only to demonstrate the meaning of the element or refinement. The exact notation will vary between applications.

1.7.8 HTML syntax

How the metadata should appear in the header of an HTML file. For more information on syntax, including XML and RDF, see the Usage Guide on the DC website. Examples are provided in the context of this document where relevant, and one or two fictitious documents.

Note that DC elements have the prefix <meta name="dc.element" content="value"> whereas e-GMS elements and refinements have the prefix <meta name="eGMS.element" content="value">.

1.7.9 Encoding schemes include

Schemes used to regulate the value of an element. They provide contextual information or parsing rules that help interpret a term value. These include controlled vocabularies or requirements that values be formatted according to a recognised standard, such as date formats. The encoding schemes are listed alphabetically. The Application Profile v2 will have information about encoding scheme recommendations.

1.7.10 **Mapping**

Lists the elements in other metadata schemas that the element maps to. The other schemas compared are:

- DC (ISO 15836): the set of metadata elements developed by the DC Metadata Initiative, which makes up the core of the e-GMS;
- AGLS: Australian Government Locator Service;
- **GI Gateway:** UK Geographic Information Gateway;
- GILS: Government Locator Service (used in the USA); and
- **IEEE LOM:** Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Learning Object Metadata.

1.8 What this standard does not include

This is a metadata standard only. It does not cover implementation or technical issues. The nature of the e-GMS means that it needs to be supported by extensive information, guidance notes and toolkits. At the time of publication, these are under development.

Compliance, management and updating procedures can be found in the e-GIF. The latest version of this can be found at http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/egif.asp

1.9 Mandatory and recommended elements

Mandatory elements	Mandatory if applicable	Recommended
Creator	Accessibility	Coverage
Date	Identifier	Language
Subject.category	Publisher	
Title		

1.9.1 Note

For preference, repeat the element for each value if the resource covers more than one. Alternatively, use a semi-colon as a list separator.

2 The elements

2.1 Accessibility

Definition	Indicates the resource's availability and usability to specific groups.	
Obligation	Mandatory if applicable (see Notes for details).	
Purpose	Enables those unable to use all information resources to limit the search to items meeting their requirements.	
Notes	This element is mandatory for core pages of websites which must carry a W3C Platform for Internet Content Selection (PICS) standard label indicating the suitabilit of the material for children. In future, some applications designed to protect children will not allow access to any site that does not have, for example, a suitable label issued by the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA). More information about W3C PICS labelling can be found in the Guidelines for UK Government Websites at www.e-envoy.gov.uk/webguidelines.htm and from the Internet Content Rating Association at http://www.icra.org	
	The way in which ICRA and other labels are added to the metadata may require different notation from the remaining elements, to ensure they are located and read by the relevant software filters.	
	This element will be developed further in line with recommendations by the DC Metadata Initiative, W3C and other international organisations working on this issue.	
	Other accessibility information may also be given. See the Guidelines for UK Government Websites for further details. The checklist states:	
	 web managers should register their website with at least the ICRA PICS service; meta tags covering your whole site should be placed in the head element of the default page, e.g. index.htm or default.htm; check that all web pages meet the defined rating. Additional meta tags can be placed in the home page of directories to rate pages within that directory, and where necessary can be applied to individual web pages and discussion groups. 	
	Information and tools for implementing the W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) can be found on the W3C WAI site. See the Guidelines for UK Government Websites at www.e-envoy.gov.uk/webguidelines and the W3C's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0.	
	Information for implementing RNIB accessibility guidelines is available from http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/publicwebsite/ public_webaccessservices.hcsp	

Not to be confused with Audience – Accessibility indicates whether particular users will be able to physically access or use the resource; Audience indicates those users for whether particular users will be able to physically access or use the resource; Audience indicates those users for whether particular users will be able to physically access or use the resource; Audience indicates those users for whether particular users will be able to physically access or use the resource; Audience indicates those users for whether particular users will be able to physically access or use the resource; Audience indicates those users for whether particular users will be able to physically access or use the resource; Audience indicates those users for whether particular users will be able to physically access or use the resource; Audience indicates those users for whether particular users will be able to physically access or use the resource; Audience indicates those users for whether particular users will be able to physically access or use the resource; Accessibility in who is actually able to see it.	
Refinements	-
Examples	General accessibility: W3C WAI rating Level AA
HTML syntax	<pre><meta content="Double-A" name="eGMS.accessibility" scheme="WCAG"/> <meta "http:="" (nz="" (s="" 0="" 0))"="" 1="" 1)="" content="(pics-1.1 " cz="" en"="" for="" fs="" gen="" home="" homepage="" http-equiv="pics-label" http:="" l="" lz="" n="" oz="" r="" ratingsv01.html"="" ratingsv02.html"="" true="" v="" vz="" www.e-envoy.gov.uk="" www.icra.org="" www.rsac.org="" =""/></pre>
Encoding schemes include	ICRA – http://www.icra.org/
Mapped to	_

2.2 Addressee

Definition	The person (or persons) to whom the resource was addressed.		
Obligation	Optional.		
Purpose	Enables the user to identify the person(s) to whom the resource was dispatched. Note that this does not provide evidence that the intended person actually received or read it, nor that they had the right or ability to access it.		
Notes	It is likely that in practice this element will mainly be used when describing e-mails. It is also applicable to other types of correspondence or any resource which is distributed.		
	Includes those listed in 'cc' and 'bcc' lists. Use addressee.addresseeCopy to list person(s) to whom the resource was copied.		
Not to be confused with	Audience – This refers to the wider sector of the population for whom the resource was intended; Addressee refers to the person or group to whom it was actively sent.		
	Rights – This records the person or groups who have the right to see the resource, whether or not it has actually been sent to them.		
Refinements	Addressee copy Any person(s) to whom the resource was copied.		
Examples	For a resource, in this case an e-mail, addressed to the Cabinet Office's Human Resources Manager addressee: jane.roberts@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk		
	For a resource addressed to a team in an organisation addressee: Office of Fair Trading, Communications Team		
	For a resource, in this case an e-mail, addressed to the Cabinet Office's Human Resources Manager and copied to the Office of the e-Envoy's Personnel Officer addressee: jane.roberts@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk addressee.addresseeCopy: tim.mordecai@e-envoy.gsi.gov.uk		
HTML syntax	<pre><meta content="jane.roberts@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk" name="eGMS.addressee"/></pre>		
	<meta content="Office of Fair Trading, Communications Team" name="eGMS.addressee"/> <meta content="tim.mordecai@e-envoy.gsi.gov.uk" name="eGMS.addressee.addresseeCopy"/>		
Encoding schemes include	Government Data Standards Catalogue – http://www.govtalk.uk/gdsc/html/default.htm		
Mapped to	_		

Aggregation 2.3

Definition	The resource's level or position in a hierarchy.	
Obligation	Optional.	
Purpose	Aggregation allows searches to be restricted to resources at a particular level. It also helps indicate which actions can be carried out on the resource.	
Notes	Aggregation shows the extent to which the resource is part of a larger resource or collection, and defines where in a hierarchy it belongs. An example of this could be a folder containing individual records, where all actions that are performed on the folder, such as a change in the security classification, automatically affect each record in the folder.	
Not to be confused with	Subject.category – This refers to the content of the resource; Aggregation refers to the resource's level in a larger resource or collection.	
Refinements	-	
Examples	For a single item that will be placed in a folder in a records management system aggregation: Record	
	For a collection of records relating to financial dealings aggregation: Folder	
HTML syntax		
	<meta content="Folder" name="eGMS.aggregation" scheme="PROAS"/>	
Encoding schemes include	National Archives – In a records management environment, the National Archives scheme must be used http://www.pro.gov.uk/recordsmanagement/erecords/2002reqs/2002metadatafinal.pdf IEEE LOM – http://ltsc.ieee.org/wg12/	
Mapped to	AGLS – Type.aggregationLevel IEEE LOM – General.AggregationLevel	

2.4 Audience

Definition	A category of user for whom the resource is intended.			
Obligation	Optional.			
Purpose		Enables the user to indicate the level or focus of the resource, as well as enabling filtering of a search to items suited to the intended audience.		
Notes		Do not use Audience unless the resource is prepared with a particular group in mind. If it is for general release, leave it blank.		
Not to be Accessibility – Audience indicates which users the content is aime indicates whether particular users will be able to access or use the		•		
		Rights – Audience tells the user who the content is designed for, whereas Rights informs the user of a list of individuals or groups who are allowed to see the resource.		
		Addressee – The addressee is the person(s) to whom the resource was actually sent; the audience is the group for whom the creator prepared the content.		
Refinements	Education level	A general statement describing the education or training context. Alternatively, a more specific statement of the location of the audience in terms of its progression through an education or training context.		
	Mediator	A class of entity that mediates access to the resource and for whom the resource is intended or useful. Comment: The audience for a resource is of two basic classes: (1) an ultimate beneficiary of the resource; and (2) an entity that mediates access to the resource. The mediator element refinement represents the second of these two classes.		
Examples	For a website designed to put businesses in touch with each other audience: Businesses			
For a resource which will be sought by parents to read to their chaudience.mediator: Parents audience.educationLevel: Pre-school		Parents		
HTML syntax	<meta businesses<="" name="DCTE content=" td=""/> <td>RMS.audience" scheme="eGMSAES" "></td>	RMS.audience" scheme="eGMSAES" ">		
	<pre><meta content="Voluntary Sector" name="DCTERMS.audience" scheme="eGMSAES"/></pre>			
Encoding schemes include	http://www.govtalk.go	e-GMS Audience Encoding Scheme (e-GMSAES) – http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/egif_document.asp?docnum=731 IEEE LOM Audience Encoding Scheme – http://ltsc.ieee.org/wg12/		
Mapped to	DC – Audience.media DC – Audience.educa AGLS – Audience IEEE LOM – Educati	DC – Audience http://purl.org/dc/terms/audience DC – Audience.mediator http://purl.org/dc/terms/mediator DC – Audience.educationLevel http://purl.org/dc/terms/educationLevel AGLS – Audience IEEE LOM – Education.context; Educational.IntendedEndUserRole http://ltsc.ieee.org/wg12/		

2.5 Contributor

Definition	An entity responsible for making contributions to the content of the resource.	
Obligation	Optional.	
Purpose	Enables users to retrieve a resource which has been contributed to by a particular person or organisation.	
Notes	Examples of a Contributor include a person or organisation. Typically, the job title of a Contributor should be used to indicate the entity.	
	Include all individuals or organisations that played an important or significant role in creating the content of the resource but do not qualify as Creators.	
	For this data to be meaningful when the division making the contribution has been disbanded or the contributor has moved on, include the full hierarchy, e.g. department, division, section, team. It may be best to 'depersonalise' the Contributor, and give the job title rather than the name.	
	Give full contact details if possible, especially when they are not to be given elsewhere. If possible, use generic e-mail addresses rather than personal ones, as these are less likely to change, e.g. aviation.stats@dtlr.gov.uk	
	Acronyms may be meaningless to users. Use the full official title of the organisation, or link to a glossary or explanatory note.	
Not to be confused with	Creator – Creator is the person or group responsible for the intellectual or creative content of the resource; Contributor played an important role but did no have primary or overall responsibility for the content.	
Refinements	-	
Examples	For a resource edited by a member of staff in a particular department contributor: Edited by National Assembly for Wales, Finance Group, Resources Manager, fgcabinet@wales.gsi.gov.uk	
	For minutes drafted by a minutes secretary but for which responsibility for content belongs with the chair of the meeting (the chair will be entered in the Creator field). contributor: Drafted by Manchester City Council, Community Regeneration Team, Secretary, crt@manchester.gov.uk	
HTML syntax	<pre><meta content="drafted by The Cabinet Office, Office of the e-Envoy, Technology Policy Team, Interoperability Policy Analyst, govtalk@e-envoy.gsi.gov.uk" name="DC.contributor"/></pre>	
	<pre><meta content="drafted by Manchester City Council, Community Regeneration Team, Secretary, crt@manchester.gov.uk" name="DC.contributor"/></pre>	
Encoding schemes include	Government Data Standards Catalogue – http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/gdsc/html/default.htm	
Mapped to	DC – Contributor http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/contributor AGLS – Contributor GILS – Contributor IEEE LOM – LifeCycle.Contribute.Entity	

2.6 Coverage

Definition	The extent or scope of the content of the resource.			
Obligation	Recommended.			
Purpose	Enables the user to limit the search to items about a particular place or time. Can be thought of as a sub-section of the Subject element.			
Notes	Data will usually be put under Spatial or Temporal rather than the unrefined Coverage.			
		diction, town, county, borough, constituency, region, etc. Give re that places sharing names can be accurately identified, e.g. h Wales, Australia'.		
	retrieval of information of a larger project that awaiting the outcome	The OeE is considering further refinements for Coverage.spatial to enable better retrieval of information with a significant geospatial element. This is likely to be part of a larger project that will include toolkits and encoding schemes. The OeE is awaiting the outcome of work being undertaken by DC into the mapping of ISO 19115 into the DC Element Set.		
	Dates should be in standard W3C format, e.g. ccyy-mm-dd. A more controlled structure for this value may be required in situations where greater detail about the time covered is needed, e.g. statistics or geographic information (see Examples).			
Not to be confused with	Date – Coverage.temporal refers to the time period covered by the content of the resource, not its creation or publication date.			
	Subject – Coverage contains information about the geographical and time aspects of the content of the resource. It can be thought of as a sub-section of the Subject element. There may be times when it is appropriate to enter the same data in both elements.			
	Location – Location describes the physical whereabouts of the resource; it has nothing to do with what the resource is about.			
Refinements	Spatial Structured values for Coverage.spatial: • Postcode • Location			
	Temporal	Structured values for Coverage.temporal: Beginning date End date Date capture period Status of start date of capture Start date of capture End date of capture		
Examples	For a list of chemists within a particular postcode area coverage.spatial: SW12			
	Using the semi-colon separator for multiple values For a list of chemists within a number of postcode areas coverage.spatial: SW12 1LQ; SW12 2LQ; SW12 3LQ			
	Repeating element refinement for multiple values For a list of chemists within a number of postcode areas coverage.spatial: SW12 1LQ coverage.spatial: SW12 2LQ coverage.spatial: SW12 3LQ			
	For a resource about events that occurred between 13 March 2000 and 13 March 2001 coverage.temporal: 2000-03-13/2001-03-13			

Examples (continued)	For a document looking at events in Lewisham during the 1950s coverage.temporal: 1951/1960
,	coverage.spatial: London Borough of Lewisham, London, UK
	For 2002/03 tax statistics collected by the Inland Revenue between July and August 2003
	coverage.temporal.beginning date: 2002-04-01
	end date: 2003-03-31
	start data of capture: 2003-07-01 end data of capture: 2003-08-31
HTML syntax	<meta content="UK" name="DC.coverage"/>
	<meta content="1951/1960" name="DC.coverage.temporal"/>
	<meta content="00BK" name="DC.coverage.spatial" scheme="ONS SNAC"/>
Encoding schemes include	Spatial: Government Data Standards Catalogue – (address, date and time types)
	http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/gdsc/html/default.htm
	DCMI Point – Identifies a point in space using its geographic coordinates http://dublincore.org/documents/dcmi-point
	DCMI Box – Identifies a region of space using its geographic limits
	http://dublincore.org/documents/dcmi-box
	ISO 3166 – Codes for the representation of names of countries
	http://www.iso.ch/iso/en/prods-services/iso3166ma/02iso-3166-code-lists/index.html
	TGN – The Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names
	http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabulary/tgn/index.html
	ISO 19115 – http://www.anzlic.org.au/asdi/metaiso.htm#iso ONS 'SNAC' – Database (Standard Names and Codes)
	http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/snac.asp
	FCO – (Geographical names and information) list of country names. To be made
	available on www.fco.gov.uk and www.govtalk.gov.uk shortly.
	Postcode Address Finder –
	https://www.royalmail.com/portal/rm/postcodefinder?pageId=pol_login&catId=400145
	<u>& requestid=182413&cs=1</u>
	Temporal:
	W3CDTF – http://www.w3.org/TR/NOTE-datetime (schema at
	http://dublincore.org/2003/03/24/dcq#W3CDTF) DCMI Period – A specification of the limits of a time interval
	http://dublincore.org/documents/dcmi-period
Mapped to	DC – Coverage http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/coverage
	Refinements: Spatial http://purl.org/dc/terms/spatial
	Temporal http://purl.org/dc/terms/temporal
	AGLS – Coverage; Refinements: Spatial; Temporal; Jurisdiction; Postcode
	GI Gateway – Geographic extent; Refinements: Spatial referencing by coordinates:
	System of spatial referencing by coordinates; West bounding coordinate; East
	bounding coordinate; North bounding coordinate; South bounding coordinate;
	Postcode district extent; National extent; Administrative area extent; Date capture
	period; Status of start date of capture; Start date of capture; Status of end date of capture; End date of capture; Frequency of update
	GILS - Refinements: Spatial domain; Place; Place keyword thesaurus; Place
	keyword; Bounding coordinates; West bounding coordinate; East bounding
	coordinate; North bounding coordinate; South bounding coordinate; Time period; Beginning date; Ending date; Time period textual; Time period structured
	IEEE LOM – General.Coverage

2.7 Creator

Definition	An entity primarily responsible for making the content of the resource.
Obligation	Mandatory.
Purpose	Enables the user to find resources that were written or otherwise prepared by a particular individual or organisation.
Notes	To enable a resource to be tracked when the division creating it has been disbanded or the Creator has moved on, include the full hierarchy, e.g. department, division, section, team. It is often best to 'depersonalise' the Creator and give the job title rather than the person's name.
	Give full contact details if possible, especially when they are not to be given elsewhere, i.e. where the Creator is different from the publisher/distributor. If possible, use generic e-mails rather than personal ones, as these are less likely to change, e.g. aviationstats@dtlr.gov.uk. There are, however, situations where the Creator has legal responsibilities and obligations, and personal names may be needed for audit trails.
	Acronyms may be meaningless to users. Use the full official title of the organisation, or link to a glossary or explanatory note.
Not to be confused with	Publisher – Creator is responsible for the intellectual or creative content of the resource; Publisher is the person or organisation that makes the resource available. You would contact the Creator to find out, for example, why this policy was made or how it will be implemented, whereas you would contact the Publisher to find out about getting more copies or matters of copyright. In many cases, the Publisher and Creator will be the same.
	Contributor – Creator is the person or group responsible for the intellectual or creative content of the resource; Contributor played an important role but did not have primary or overall responsibility for the content.
Refinements	-
Examples	For a resource for which chief responsibility for content rests with the Assistant Director creator: The Cabinet Office, Office of the e-Envoy, Technology Policy, Assistant Director, ukgovtalk@e-envoy.gov.uk
	For the minutes of a meeting which were drafted by the minutes secretary but for which responsibility for content rests with the chair of the meeting (the minutes secretary appears in the Contributor element) creator: Manchester City Council, Community Regeneration Team, Community Regeneration Committee, Committee Chair, crt@manchester.gov.uk
	For a resource prepared by an external consultant creator: ConsultGov Ltd, Consultant, info@consultgov.co.uk
HTML syntax	<pre><meta content="The Cabinet Office, Office of the e-Envoy, Technology Policy, Assistant Director, ukgovtalk@e-envoy.gov.uk" name="DC.creator"/></pre>
	<pre><meta content="Manchester City Council, Community Regeneration Team, Community Regeneration Committee, Committee Chair, crt@manchester.gov.uk" name="DC.creator"/></pre>
Encoding schemes include	Government Data Standards Catalogue – http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/gdsc/html/default.htm
Mapped to	DC – Creator http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/creator AGLS – Creator GI Gateway – Originator IEEE LOM – LifeCycle.ContributeEntity

2.8 Date

Definition	A date associated with an event in the life cycle of the resource.		
Obligation	Mandatory.		
Purpose	Enables the user to find the resource by limiting the number of search hits according to a date, e.g. the date the resource was made available.		
Notes	Dates need to appear in a format that is recognisable to people all over the world and that can be interpreted by computer software. The W3C format allows accurate searching and makes it clear which is the year, month or day. The format is 'ccyy-mm-dd', where 'ccyy' is the year, 'mm' is the month and 'dd' the day.		
	When the time is also needed, add 'hh:mm', where 'hh' is the hour (using the 24 hour clock) and 'mm' is minutes. More about this notation can be found at http://www.w3.org/TR/NOTE-datetime		
Not to be confused with	Coverage – Date refers to dates relevant to the information resource itself, not the information held within the resource. For example, for a document about the Civil Service in the 18th century, put '18th century' in Coverage and put the date published in Date. Disposal – Use disposal.date reviewed to indicate when the decision to keep a resource needs to be made.		
Refinements	Acquired	The date on which the resource was received into the organisation.	
	Available	Date (often a range) that the resource will become or did become available.	
	Created	Date of creation of the resource.	
	Cut-off date	Date from which the resource should no longer be added to or modified.	
	Closed	Date on which the capacity to store the resource as part of a collection was revoked.	
	Date accepted	Date of acceptance of the resource (e.g. of thesis by university department, of article by journal, etc.).	
	Date copyrighted	Date of a statement of copyright. Use if date is different from date.created or if date.created is not given.	
	Date submitted	Date of submission of the resource (e.g. thesis, article, etc.).	
	Declared	Date on which the resource was declared, filed or stored.	
	Issued	Date of formal issuance (e.g. publication) of the resource.	
	Modified	Date on which the resource was changed.	
	Next version due	Date on which the resource is due to be superseded.	
	Updating frequency	How often the resource is updated.	
	Valid	The date (often a range) of validity of a resource.	

Examples	For a press release approved and sent to editors on 2 December 2002 but not available for public viewing until 11:00 a.m. the following day date.created: 2002-12-02 date.issued: 2002-12-03T11:00
	For an e-mail created on 3 July and received on 4 July date.created: 2003-07-03 date.acquired: 2003-07-04T06:37
	For a spreadsheet which will be replaced at the end of the financial year date.cut-offDate: 2004-03-31
	For a consultation document completed on 20 March 2003, released only to the department for comment on 30 March, and put on the website for open consultation on 10 April with a closing date of 30 May date.created: 2003-03-20 date.available: 2003-03-30 date.issued: 2003-04-10 date.valid: 2003-04-10/2003-05-30
	For a home page that went live on 6 January 2000 date.issued: 2000-01-06
	The same home page the following May, after it has been edited date.issued: 2000-01-06 date.modified: 2000-05-01
	For a database originally created in 1997 but updated monthly since then date.created:1997-09-09 date.updatingFrequency: monthly
HTML syntax	<meta content="2003-04-30" name="DC.date.issued" scheme="W3CDTF"/>
	<meta content="2002-11-25" name="DC.date" scheme="W3CDTF"/>
Encoding schemes include	Government Data Standards Catalogue – http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/gdsc/html/default.htm W3C – http://www.w3.org/TR/NOTE-datetime (schema at http://dublincore.org/2003/03/24/dcq#W3CDTF) ISO 19115 – http://www.anzlic.org.au/asdi/metaiso.htm#iso (frequency of update)
Mapped to	DC – date http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/date DC – dateAccepted http://purl.org/dc/terms/dateAccepted DC – dateAvailable http://purl.org/dc/terms/available DC – dateCopyrighted http://purl.org/dc/terms/dateCopyrighted DC – dateCreated http://purl.org/dc/terms/created DC – dateIssued http://purl.org/dc/terms/issued DC – dateModified http://purl.org/dc/terms/modified DC – dateSubmitted http://purl.org/dc/terms/dateSubmitted DC – dateValid http://purl.org/dc/terms/valid AGLS – Refinements: created; modified; valid; issued IEEE LOM – LifeCycle.Contribute.Date

Description 2.9

Definition	An account of the content of the resource.	
Obligation	Optional.	
Purpose	Helps the user decide	if the resource fits their needs.
Notes	The description could cover: Approach to subject (e.g. critique, explanation, beginners guide) Reason for production of resource (e.g. to inform, invite comments) Groups and organisations referred to Events covered List of key fields (database) or chapters Key outcomes Broad policy area Level (e.g. academic, basic) Any other useful information. Keep the description as brief as possible and try not to repeat information that could	
Not to be confused with	be neid in another tag	(e.g. Title, Coverage or Subject).
Refinements	Abstract	A summary of the content of the resource.
	Table of contents	A list of sub-units of the content of the resource.
Examples	Home-School agreem description: A brief his and people connected	ntents: Document history/Introduction/Preparation/Lists of
HTML syntax	<pre><meta content="The elements and refinements that provide the structure for metadata used by the UK public sector, along with introductory text" name="DC.description"/> <meta content="Leaflet for parents explaining the purpose of the introduction of Home-School agreements, which are compulsory for all maintained schools" name="DC.description"/> <meta content="Policy and scope/ Implementation support/Management processes/Change management/Complying with the e-GIF" name="DC.description.tableOfContents"/></pre>	
Encoding schemes include	_	
Mapped to	DC – Description http: AGLS – Description GI Gateway – Abstract GILS – Abstract IEEE LOM – General.	

2.10 Digital signature

Definition	To be decided.
Obligation	Optional.
Purpose	-
Notes	The National Archives will examine what metadata is likely to be created by digital signature technology and how far it is of relevance/use in records management when the adoption of this technology is further advanced in the UK Government. Changes will be made to this element when this work is completed.
Not to be confused with	_
Refinements	-
Examples	-
HTML syntax	-
Encoding schemes include	_
Mapped to	-

2.11 Disposal

Definition	The retention and disposal instructions for the resource.		
Obligation	Optional.		
Purpose	Helps the user manage resources and ensure that they are not kept after they are needed or disposed of before their time.		
Notes	It is recommended that all web pages have a review date, so webmasters can easily locate pages before they become out of date and take necessary action, e.g. modify them and send the original to their organisation's records office.		
	Many of the refinemer management purpose	nts will be used almost entirely for long-term records s.	
	at the folder level. ERI destroyed in accordan	records management systems (ERMS) is generally managed MS manage the disposal of resources to ensure they are only ce with an agreed disposal schedule and retained for periods ed to retain the resource.	
	sub-elements such as	psal event and Disposal date (plus potentially other Disposal export destination) are the 'building blocks' of rules S to determine how the content will be handled when certain	
	Further information is available from the National Archives Record Management website, including Requirements for electronic records management systems: functional requirements and Requirements for electronic records management systems: metadata standard.		
	Guidelines for UK Government websites has further information on archiving websites.		
Not to be confused with	_		
Refinements	Auto remove date	The date on which the resource will automatically be removed from the system. AutoRemoveDate is used for machine-generated removals where there is no need for human intervention and review.	
	Disposal action	The action to be taken once the condition is reached.	
	Disposal authorised by	The identity of the role, the person or the policy authorising the disposal.	
	Disposal comment	The reason for disposal.	
	Disposal conditions	An event that triggers disposal of the resource, e.g. closure of folder.	
	Disposal date	The date the disposal action is due to take place, i.e. from the disposal event, plus the disposal time period.	
	Date of last review	The date the schedule for disposal was last reviewed.	
	Disposal export destination	The location where an exported resource will be disposed, e.g. National Archives for permanent preservation.	
	Disposal export status	Information about the progress of the export, e.g. pending, already executed, failed.	
	Disposal review	The date on which the resource should be reviewed to determine the need to retain it.	
	Disposal review details	The details of the review decision which has been taken.	

Refinements (continued)	Disposal reviewer details	The identity of the reviewer.	
	Disposal schedule ID	The disposal schedule used to determine the disposal of the resource.	
	Disposal time period	A specific period of time following a specific event determining the period for which the resource must be kept for business purposes.	
Examples	For a resource which will need to be sent to National Archives for archiving after a set period disposal conditions: Five years after completion of programme Action: Retain until transfer to National Archives		
	For a web page which states that 'The final report will be published in August 2003' disposal.review: 2003-08-01		
	For a resource that will automatically be removed on 3 September 2003, without a review taking place disposal.autoRemoveDate: 2003-09-03		
	Other Disposal action: Expor	t	
	Disposal authorised by: Sysadmin		
	Disposal comment: Selected under Operational Selection Policy # 77		
	Disposal export destination	ation: The National Archives	
	Disposal review details	s: Substantial duplication of records in ABC/12/1/33	
HTML syntax	<pre><meta 2003-08-20"="" name="eGMS.c content="/></pre>	lisposal.autoRemoveDate" scheme="W3CDTF"	
	<meta content="2003-10-20" name="eGMS.c</th><th>lisposal.review" scheme="W3CDTF"/>		
Encoding schemes include	http://www.pro.gov.uk/r W3C - Date formats (I http://www.w3.org/TR/I	Disposal list (Destroy, Review, Export) ecordsmanagement/erecords/2002reqs/2002metadatafinal.pdf Disposal date, Review date, Date of last review) NOTE-datetime (schema at 003/03/24/dcq#W3CDTF)	
Mapped to	-		

2.12 Format

Definition	The physical or digital	The physical or digital manifestation of the resource.	
Obligation	Optional.		
Purpose	Allows the user to sea	Allows the user to search for items of a particular format.	
Notes	Have separate metadata for each format of the resource, rather than one entry with several formats listed. Use the Relation element to indicate when the resource is available in other formats.		
	Format may include the media type or dimensions of the resource. It may also be used to determine the software, hardware or other equipment needed to display or operate the resource. Examples of dimensions include size and duration. Recommended best practice is to select a value from a controlled vocabulary (e.g. the list of Internet Media Types (MIME) defining computer media formats).		
Not to be confused with	content. Format includ	Type – Format looks at the physical format of the resource; Type considers the content. Format includes hard or electronic copy, and the software needed to access the resource; Type describes the category of the information in the resource, e.g. minutes, annual report, job advertisement.	
Refinements	Extent	The size or duration of the resource.	
	Medium	The material or physical carrier of the resource.	
Examples	For a travel guide with format: Text. Book with		
	For a database format: Text/vnd.ms-access extent: 345+mb		
	For a software application format: Application/vnd.ms-access		
	For a web page in HTML format: Text/html		
	For a Word document format: Text/MS Word		
HTML syntax	<meta content="Microsoft Word" name="DC.format"/>		
	<meta content="image/gif" name="DC.format.medium" scheme="IMT"/>		
	<meta content="27 KB" name="DC.format.extent"/>		
Encoding schemes include	http://www.iana.org/as	Internet Media Type (IMT) Scheme – http://www.iana.org/assignments/media-types/index.html PRONOM – http://www.records.pro.gov.uk/pronom	
Mapped to	DC – Format http://pui AGLS – Refinements: IEEE LOM – Technica		

2.13 Identifier

Definition	An unambiguous reference to the resource within a given context.	
Obligation	Mandatory if applicable.	
Purpose	Allows a user to search for a specific resource or version.	
Notes	Recommended best practice is to identify the resource by means of a string or number conforming to a formal identification system. Be cautious about using the URL as it can change, although it will often be the best identifier available. Identification codes automatically allocated by records and content management systems can be used.	
	It is not always possible to find a unique identifier for a resource, especially if it is not practical to use the URL. Examples include forms or leaflets that are produced by the organisation and need to be easily identified. While these usually have a code allocated (e.g. SA100 for a tax return form) this code is rarely universally unique ('SA100' is also a biplane, an amplifier, a set of kitchen scales, a marine antenna, a broadband service unit, a caller ID unit for telephones, a smoke alarm, a bus stop in Ottawa and an MP3 player).	
		e 'more unique' by prefixing them with the IARN (Information or departmental code), which is allocated to each government by by HMSO.
	The OeE is investigating the use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) and other persistent unique identifiers. The OeE has set up a proof of concept with TSO.	
Not to be confused with	Location – Location indicates the physical location of the resource, not its electronic file-path or URL.	
Refinements	Bibliographic citation	A bibliographic reference for the resource.
	Case ID	To identify the case-handling environment.
	Fileplan ID	The reference derived from the fileplan. This is a culmination of information inherited from higher levels of aggregation in the fileplan.
	System ID	Typically, a machine-generated running number allocated when the file is first created. This will typically be used by the internal processes and will rarely be visible to the end user, although it can be a useful tool for administrators accessing other information about the file-path object (e.g. interrogating the audit trail).
Examples	For a resource with an automatically generated identifier identifier: DTR/CA/NATS/2000-8769B	
	identifier: [ISBN] 0711504083	
	identifier: [URI] http://www.e-envoy.gov.uk/e-gif	
	For a tax return form, the Inland Revenue IARN followed by the form's code identifier: IR000-SA100	
	General identifier.systemId: 071	11504083
	identifier.filePlanId: Oe	E/250/332/40/06
	identifier.bibliographicCitation: Byrne, Q. (1994). A question of data. In Government Online Review (ed John Mayre), 2: 4-15.	

HTML syntax	<meta content="http://purl.oclc.org/NET/e-GMS_v1" name="DC.identifier"/>	
	<meta content="0711504083" name="DC.identifier" scheme="ISBN"/>	
	<meta content="79455334100" name="DC.identifier.filePlanId"/>	
Encoding schemes include	URI – http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2396.txt or http://purl.org/dc/terms/URI ISBN – http://www.isbn.org/standards/home/index.asp ISSN – http://www.issn.org:8080/English/pub IARN – http://www.inforoute.hmso.gov.uk/	
Mapped to	DC – Identifier http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/identifier AGLS – Identifier IEEE LOM – Split into General.Catalogentry.Entry and General.Catalogentry.Catalog. If the value is a URL, then also Technical.Location	

2.14 Language

Definition	A language of the intellectual content of the resource.		
Obligation	Recommended.		
Purpose	Enables users to limit their searches to resources in a particular language.		
Notes	The use of language codes simplifies the inputting of the Language element. Most users will learn the relevant codes quickly. Most systems can be set so that the name of the language is displayed in full, which is more user-friendly.		
	Use of the Language element is especially important for resources that will be loaded onto the internet. It is an invaluable means for people to limit their searches to items that are relevant to their own needs.		
	For existing systems using other codes from ISO 639, it should be possible to continue with these and map to 639-2/T.		
Not to be confused with	-		
Refinements	-		
Examples	For a resource written in English language: eng		
	For a resource written in Welsh and English language: [ISO 639-2/T] cym language: [ISO 639-2/T] eng		
	For a Polish translation of a resource originally written in Portuguese. (Use Relation to link to the original Portuguese version) language: [ISO 639-2/T] pol		
HTML syntax	<meta content="eng" name="DC.language" scheme="ISO 639-2/T"/>		
	<meta content="cym" name="DC.language" scheme="ISO 639-2/T"/>		
Encoding schemes include	ISO 639-2 – http://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2		
Mapped to	DC – Language http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/language AGLS – Language GI Gateway – Language GILS – Language of resource IEEE LOM – General.Language		

2.15 Location

Definition	The physical location of	of the resource.
Obligation		
	Optional.	
Purpose	Enables the physical form of the resource to be found.	
Notes	Location will mainly be used for items held in a physical format, e.g. paper files. This is especially relevant for items listed in a metadatabase (a catalogue containing the metadata of resources but not the resources themselves). Metadatabases may refer to items not available in electronic format. It will also be valuable for electronic resources stored on physical media, e.g. magnetic tapes or CD-ROMs.	
Not to be confused with	Identifier – The URL or filename refers to an electronic, machine-readable pathway, not a physical location. Such information should go in the Identifier element. Coverage – This element concerns what the resource is about and not where the resource is.	
Refinements	Current location	The temporary place where the resource is located, e.g. the name and address of a person who has checked out a disc.
	Home location	The place where the resource is normally stored.
Examples	General location: Storeroom 16	5, Box 38
	location: House of Commons Library, Hansard Room, disc 1874D	
	location: Hackbridge, Acme Storage Facility, Room 84B	
HTML syntax	<meta content="House of Commons Library, Hansard Room, disc 1874D" name="eGMS.location"/>	
	<meta name="eGMS.I
Room 84B"/>	ocation" content="Hackbridge, Acme Storage Facility,
Encoding schemes include	Government Data Standards Catalogue – http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/gdsc/html/default.htm	
Mapped to	_	

2.16 Mandate

Definition	Legislative or other mandate under which the resource was produced.		
Obligation	Optional.		
Purpose	Clarifies the legislative or other mandate for the business activity producing the records.		
Notes	A balance needs to be struck between the usefulness of this information and the overhead cost involved in collecting it.		
	Organisations using electronic document or records management systems may choose to use the sub-element with a broader approach than indicated, capturing the mandate details at class level and cascading this down through inheritance to the records below.		
	Recommended practice is to exclude very broad legislative provisions, e.g. Companies Act 1989, and concentrate on the capturing of exceptional and specific powers, e.g. Charities Act 1993, section 8.		
	It is recommended that a link to the legislative provisions be given if one exists. UK statutes are available online at http://www.hmso.gov.uk/legis.htm		
	There may be little point in capturing all of the sub-elements if the business environment means that they tend to overlap (e.g. the power or purpose used conduct the business function is the same as the purpose for which personal collected, or one of these (or both) equates to a Data Protection Act (DPA) Paexempt category.		
Not to be confused with	Rights – Exemption from the data subject access provisions of the DPA 1998 is covered by the Rights element.		
Refinements	Authorising statute	The Act of Parliament or other legislation authorising the capture of information or development of the resource.	
	Data protection exempt category	One or more exemption clauses as defined in the DPA Part 4, which applies to this resource.	
	Personal data acquisition purpose	Reason for the collection and storage of personal data.	
Examples	For a resource that has been produced by order of an Act of Parliament Mandate.authorisingStatute: Land Registration Act 2002 c.9		
HTML syntax	<pre><meta content="Companies Act 1985" name="eGMS.mandate"/></pre>		
Encoding schemes include	_		
Mapped to	AGLS – Mandate		

2.17 Preservation

Definition	Information to support the long-term preservation of a resource.	
Obligation	Optional.	
Purpose	Enables users now and in the future to read, interpret and use the resource.	
Notes	Preservation will mainly be used by records managers and others engaged in the long-term storage of official records. It will be used to support departmental migration activity, sustainability and archival preservation of the resource, and to preserve aspects of the provenance of the resource across transfer of custody between departments and to The National Archives Record Management Department. A variety of approaches may have to be taken to sustain and preserve electronic resources and their components across technical platforms. Information on the technical environment that produced the original objects greatly improves the chances of such approaches being achieved successfully and may allow digital archaeological reconstruction where past management has been lacking (and costs are justified). Some of this information may need to be included in an archival description or custody documentation.	
	need to be mandated importance. Additiona (possibly requiring au	egies across government emerge, some of the refinements may in future for resources identified as being of long-term ally, some will concern the original environment of the records tomatic capture at declaration stage) and others may be evel for resources at platform or format migration.
Not to be confused with	Relation.hasFormat – This refers to another resource which is essentially the same intellectual content presented in another format. Format – This provides information about the format of the resource for current processing; Preservation provides additional information intended to facilitate long-term preservation.	
	Preservation.originalFormat – This refers to the format in which the resource was first made.	
Refinements	Original format	The original format of the resource.
Examples	For a resource that was originally created in WordStar version 2 but has since been converted to Word Preservation.originalFormat: WordStar v2	
HTML syntax	<meta content="Microsoft Word 2002 (10.3416.2501) SP-1" name="eGMS.preservation"/>	
	<meta content="Microsoft Word XP" name="eGMS.preservation"/>	
Encoding schemes include	PRONOM – http://www.records.pro.gov.uk/pronom	
Mapped to	-	

2.18 Publisher

Definition	An entity responsible for making the resource available.		
Obligation	Mandatory if applicable.		
Purpose	Enables users to find a resource published by a particular organisation or individual. It can also be referred to by those wanting to re-use or republish the resource elsewhere, or to purchase a copy of the resource.		
Notes	Publisher is used here in its widest sense, so an organisation that places an information resource on a website is the publisher, even if no hard-copy version is made available. The publisher is the person or organisation a user needs to contact in order to obtain permission to republish the information contained in the resource or to obtain copies in a different format.		
	A publisher has certain legal rights and responsibilities regarding the resource, so should always be named.		
Not to be confused with	Creator/Contributor – The publisher is the organisation or person who makes the resource available to the public (in the traditional sense of publishing a book or in the latest sense of releasing the resource on a website). The publisher is the entity that the user would contact to obtain new copies or discuss copyright issues. The Creator, and to some extent the Contributor, are responsible for the content of the resource. The user would therefore contact the Creator to find out, for example, why the particular policy described in the resource was made or what the process was to contribute to the discussion. In many cases, the Publisher and Creator will be the same.		
Refinements	-		
Examples	General publisher: London Borough of Lewisham, Town Hall, Catford, London SE6 4RU, 020 8314 6000, enquiries@lewisham.gov.uk		
	publisher: The Stationery Office, St Crispins, Duke Street, Norwich NR3 1PD, 0870 610 5522, esupport@theso.co.uk		
	publisher: The Cabinet Office, Office of the e-Envoy, Stockley House, 130 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1LQ, ukgovtalk@e-envoy.gsi.gov.uk		
HTML syntax	<pre><meta content="The Cabinet Office, Office of the e-Envoy, Stockley House, 130 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1LQ, ukgovtalk@e-envoy.gsi.gov.uk" name="DC.publisher"/></pre>		
	<meta content="The Stationery Office, St Crispins, Duke
Street, Norwich NR3 1PD, 0870 610 5522, esupport@theso.co.uk" name="DC.publisher"/>		
Encoding schemes include	Government Data Standards Catalogue – http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/gdsc/html/default.htm		
Mapped to	DC – Publisher http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/publisher AGLS – Publisher, Availability IEEE LOM – LifeCycle.Contribute.Entity		

2.19 Relation

Definition	A reference to a related resource.		
Obligation	Optional.		
Purpose	Enables the user to find other resources that are related to a resource, or to group together individual resources which then form a collection.		
Notes	Recommended best practice is to reference the resource by means of a string or number conforming to a formal identification system, i.e. the referenced resource's Identifier. When using refinements, use the most specific one applicable. Relation can be use to allow cascading retrieval of interrelated objects, especially if used in conjunction with the Aggregation element. (More information can be found in The National Archives' Metadata Standard). It is also invaluable for linking items in multiple parts different versions of the same resource and items available in multiple formats.		
Not to be confused with	Source – Do not use Source if it is more appropriate to put this data in the Relation element, i.e. it may be more accurate to use the refinement Relation.isVersionOf. Preservation.originalFormat – Refers to the format in which the resource was first made; Relation.hasFormat refers to another resource which is essentially the same intellectual content presented in another format.		
Refinements	Conforms to	A reference to an established standard to which the resource conforms.	
	Has format	The described resource pre-existed the referenced resource, which is essentially the same intellectual content presented in another format.	
	Has version	The described resource has a version edition or adaptation, namely the referenced resource.	
	Has part	The described resource includes the referenced resource either physically or logically.	
	Is defined by	The described resource is given an effective working definition by the referenced resource.	
	Is format of	The described resource is the same intellectual content of the referenced resource, but presented in another format.	
	Is part of	The described resource is a physical or logical part of the referenced resource. Comment: When the described resource is part of another, it may be possible for it to inherit metadata elements from the parent resource. For example, the subject metadata of a folder may be inherited by all of the files within that folder.	
	Is referenced by	The described resource is referenced, cited or otherwise pointed to by the referenced resource.	
	Is replaced by	The described resource is supplanted, displaced or superseded by the referenced resource.	
	Is required by	The described resource is required by the referenced resource to support its function, delivery or coherence of content.	

Refinements (continued)	Is version of	The described resource is a version edition or adaptation of the referenced resource. A change in version implies substantive changes in content rather than differences in format. Comment: Includes translations of resources.	
	Provides definition of	The described resource provides an effective working definition of an item whose usual name is given in the value.	
	Reason for redaction	The reason for the publication of a redaction or extract.	
	Redaction	The described resource has a version with some part of the content marked or removed to make the remainder of the content releasable.	
	References	The described resource references, cites or otherwise points to the referenced resource.	
	Requires	The described resource requires the referenced resource to support its function, delivery or coherence of content.	
	Replaces	The described resource supplants, displaces or supersedes the referenced resource.	
	Sequence no	The resource's allocated number in a sequence to which it belongs. Comment: This refinement has been deprecated.	
Examples	For a publication with an associated press release relation: Press release 2002-01-03, http://www.idea.gov.uk/news/press/030102.htm For a website which replaces an earlier website with similar content		
	relation.replaces: www.open.gov.uk		
	For version 2 of the e-GMS, showing its link to version 1 relation.isVersionOf: http://purl.oclc.org/NET/e-GMS_v1		
	For a folder that groups together files on a particular issue relation.hasPart: DAA/FIN37/22/2001/LBR2001-08-13 relation.hasPart: DAA/FIN37/22/2002/LBR2001-08-14 relation.hasPart: DAA/FIN37/22/2002/LBR2001-08-17		
	For a file that belongs in the above folder relation.isPartOf: DAA/FIN37/22/2001		
	For a document that is No. 7 in the 'Information Management' series relation.isPartOf: Information management series sequenceno: 7		
	For a resource interpreting a set of statistics, but not listing those statistics relation.requires: 398762342X		
	For an HTML document that was originally made available in hard copy relation.isFormatOf: [ISBN] 0711504237		
	For an XML schema document which requires another XML schema document to be available to the schema processor relation.requires: IR/SAelements-2002-v1.0		
	NationalInsuranceNu	providing a definition of the XML data type mberType itionOf: NationalInsuranceNumberType	

HTML syntax	<meta content="Press release 2002-01-03, http://www.idea.gov.uk/news/press/030102.htm" name="DC.relation"/>	
	<meta content="398762342X" name="DC.relation.requires" scheme="ISBN"/>	
	<meta content="0711504083" name="DC.relation.isFormatOf" scheme="ISBN"/>	
	<meta content="http://www.foo.bar/explanation.pdf" name="DC.relation.hasFormat" scheme="URI"/>	
Encoding schemes include	URI – http://purl.org/dc/terms/URI ISBN – http://www.isbn.org/standards/home/index.asp ISSN – http://www.issn.org:8080/English/pub	
Mapped to	DC – relation http://purl.org/dc/terms/isPartOf DC – relation.isPartOf http://purl.org/dc/terms/isPartOf DC – relation.hasPart http://purl.org/dc/terms/hasPart DC – relation.isVersionOf http://purl.org/dc/terms/isVersionOf DC – relation.hasVersion http://purl.org/dc/terms/isVersion DC – relation.hasVersion http://purl.org/dc/terms/isFormatOf DC – relation.hasFormatOf http://purl.org/dc/terms/isFormatOf DC – relation.hasFormat http://purl.org/dc/terms/hasFormat DC – relation.references http://purl.org/dc/terms/references DC – relation.isReferencedBy http://purl.org/dc/terms/isRequiredBy DC – relation.requires http://purl.org/dc/terms/requires DC – relation.requires http://purl.org/dc/terms/requires DC – relation.replacedBy http://purl.org/dc/terms/replacedBy DC – relation.conformsTo http://purl.org/dc/terms/replaces DC – relation.conformsTo http://purl.org/dc/terms/conformsTo AGLS – Refinements: IsPartOf/HasPart; IsVersionOf/HasVersion; IsFormatOf/HasFormat; IsReferencedBy/References; IsRequiredBy/Requires; IsReplacedBy/Replaces GI Gateway – Dataset association: Additional information source GILS – Refinements: Cross reference title; Cross reference relationship; Cross reference linkage; Linkage; Linkage type	

2.20 Rights

Definition	Information about rights held in and over the resource.		
Obligation	Optional.		
Purpose	Indicates who has the right to see, copy, redistribute, republish or otherwise make use of all or part of the resource.		
Notes	If possible, provide a link to a resource giving more details about the Rights marking, e.g. the Crown copyright statement at http://www.hmso.gov.uk/docs/copynote.htm		
	Typically, the rights will be defined by the owner or custodian of the resource.		
	Use of metadata does not infer any compliance with the Data Protection Act (DPA), Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) or Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The role of metadata is to aid in locating information.		
	Rights indicators for DPA, EIR and FOIA These indicators can be used to tag information with the conclusion on the disclosability of the resource the last time it was assessed. In general, a disclosability indicator set to 'Y' means that the information was judged to be disclosable according to that provision, and an 'N' means that it was judged not to be disclosable. Where the 'N' assessment has been made, the relevant exemption should be cited. This assists future colleagues faced with a similar judgement about the same resource to track what has been the previous decision. In the case of FOIA, where quite a number of exemptions 'decay' over time, there is also a sub-element "Last FOI disclosability review", where the date of the last review can be recorded to assist in understanding how the assessment might be expected to be different this time.		
	Public bodies will have different requirements for this area according to their business environment and functions. The obligation level on the sub-elements has been set to 'M', default value being 'Y', on the grounds that this should ensure the minimum administrative effort in most circumstances. This has deliberately been restricted to two possible values. Organisations could implement business rules internally if their circumstances mean that it is more appropriate to have the default set to 'N' and/or if 'Y' is deemed to mean 'Y' or 'not applicable'. Resolving different policies on this when migrating content from one system to another would require processing.		
Not to be confused with	Accessibility – Accessibility indicates whether particular users will be able to access or use the resource; Rights indicates if they are allowed to. Audience – Audience tells you who the content is designed for; Rights is the place to list the individuals or groups who are allowed to see the resource.		
Refinements	Copyright	Statement and identifier indicating the legal ownership and rights regarding use and re-use of all or part of the resource.	
	Custodian	The user or role identifier with local management powers over the resource, e.g. assignment and maintenance of access control markings.	
	Descriptor	Refines the meaning of a protective marking, e.g. Policy, Contracts, Personnel. It may be used with group access permissions to determine access rights.	
	Disclosability to DPA data subject (Deprecated)	Whether the resource can be disclosed ('Y' or 'N') in accordance with the DPA.	

Refinements (continued)	DPA data subject access exemption (Deprecated)	Whether the resource is exempt from DPA access provisions ('Y' or 'N').	
	EIR disclosability indicator	Whether the resource can be disclosed ('Y' or 'N') in accordance with EIR.	
	EIR exemption	Whether there are exemptions to access to the resource ('Y' or 'N') in accordance with EIR.	
	FOIA disclosability indicator	Whether the resource can be disclosed ('Y' or 'N') in accordance with FOIA.	
	FOIA exemption	Whether there are exemptions to access to the resource ('Y' or 'N') in accordance with FOIA.	
	FOIA release details	The details of the past or future release of the resource to public view either by general publication or by release in response to an individual request.	
	FOIA release date	The date of past or future release.	
	Group access	Name of a group or groups that have the right to access the resource.	
	Individual user access list	Names of individuals having access to the resource.	
	Last FOIA disclosability review	The date of the previous formal decision regarding the disclosability of a resource.	
	Previous protective marking	Protective marking previously applied to a resource.	
	Protective marking	The minimum level of security required to have access to the resource.	
	Protective marking change date	The date the previous protective marking was superseded.	
	Protective marking expiry date	Date on which the existing protective marking becomes invalid.	
Examples	General rights.copyright: Crow	n copyright http://www.hmso.gov.uk/docs/copynote.htm	
	rights.EIRexemption example: Confidentiality EIRs 1992, s. 4		
	rights.FOlexemption e	example: National security FOIA s. 24	
HTML syntax		<meta content="Crown copyright http://www.hmso.gov.uk/docs/copynote.htm" name="DC.rights.copyright"/>	
	<meta content="Classified" name="DC.rights"/>		
Encoding schemes include	Legislation – Legislation covering rights of access to official information often has its own encoding scheme W3C – http://www.w3.org/TR/NOTE-datetime (schema at http://dublincore.org/2003/03/24/dcq#W3CDTF) Manual of Protective Security Rights		
Mapped to	DC – Rights http://pur AGLS – Rights GI Gateway – Access	constraints coess constraints; Refinements: General access constraints; control	

2.21 Source

Definition	A reference to a resource from which the present resource is derived.	
Obligation	Optional.	
Purpose	Enables the user to find resources that have been developed using the content of a particular resource (e.g. all items based on a named set of statistics).	
Notes	The described resource may be derived from the Source resource in whole or in part. Recommended best practice is to reference the Source by means of a string or number conforming to a formal identification system, i.e. the referenced resource's Identifier.	
Not to be confused with	Relation – Do not use Source if it is more appropriate to put this data in the Relation element, i.e. it may be more accurate to use the refinement Relation.isVersionOf.	
Refinements	_	
Examples	For a report based on figures gathered during a survey source: Figures derived from Wired in Whitehall survey by the Committee of Departmental Librarians 1998 http://www.aslib.co.uk/proceedings/2001/jan/03.html	
HTML syntax	<meta content="Figures derived from Wired in Whitehall survey by the Committee of Departmental Librarians 1998 http://www.aslib.co.uk/proceedings/2001/jan/03.html" name="DC.source"/> <meta content="Standard is derived from the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative" name="DC.source"/>	
Encoding schemes include	URI – http://purl.org/dc/terms/URI ISBN – http://www.isbn.org/standards/home/index.asp ISSN – http://www.issn.org:8080/English/pub	
Mapped to	DC – Source http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/source AGLS – Source GILS – Sources of data IEEE LOM – Relation.Resource	

2.22 Status

Definition	The position or state of the resource.
Obligation	Optional.
Purpose	Enables the user to search for a resource according to its status. It may also be used as a reference by a user who wants to know the resource's status.
Notes	The status of a resource includes:
	 The extent to which it has been developed or completed, i.e. is it a first draft, final draft or completed draft? Is it awaiting approval? If it has been approved, then by whom? The version number The purpose of the resource. This is not the purpose of the content (see Description) but the purpose in relation to the status of the resource. This data should apply to the described resource only, not to earlier versions.
Not to be confused with	_
Refinements	-
Examples	For a series of documents created in the development of a policy statement status: Draft v0.1. For consideration by Team status: Draft v0.2. For consideration by Department status: Draft v0.3. For consideration by Minister status: Draft v0.4. Approved by Minister. For open consultation status: Draft v0.5. Following open consultation. For final approval by Minister status: Version 1.0. For publication status: Version 2.0. For publication
HTML syntax	<meta content="Version 2.0 For publication" name="eGMS.status"/>
	<pre><meta content="Draft v2 Approved by Minister. For open consultation" name="eGMS.status"/></pre>
Encoding schemes include	IEEE LOM Status Encoding Scheme – http://ltsc.ieee.org/wg12/
Mapped to	-

2.23 Subject

Definition	A topic of the content	of the resource.
Obligation	Mandatory (Category	refinement).
Purpose	Enables the user to se	earch by the topic of the resource.
Notes	Two different approaches to information seeking are commonly used: browsing through a directory (also known as drill-down or navigation) and searching by direct entry of keywords. The Category refinement is intended to support the first of these, browsing through a directory of broad classes, while the Keyword refinement supports direct search.	
	The values for all Subject refinements should be drawn from encoding schemes, also known as controlled vocabularies, thesauri or authority lists. There are different encoding schemes for each refinement. It is important to tag each value entered to indicate the source scheme.	
	For guidance on choosing Subject.category values see Guide to Meta-tagging with the GCL. For guidance on using an encoding scheme for keywords, see Specialised vocabularies and the GCL.	
	Use the unrefined Subject element for additional uncontrolled terms if they will make it easier for people to find the resource.	
	The obligation of this element rests with the Subject.category refinement.	
	When records management software is used to manage the resources, it may be possible to omit certain metadata elements that are inherited from a parent resource. For example, the Subject metadata of a folder may be inherited by all of the files within that folder. If the files are exported for use in another system, a mechanism is needed to associate the inherited metadata with the files.	
Not to be confused with	Type – Subject terms indicate the subject matter of the resource, i.e. what the resource is about, rather than what it is. For example, do not use 'Maps' as a subject term if the resource is a map; in this instance, put 'map' in the Type element. Use 'maps' as a subject term if the resource is about maps, map-making, cartography, etc.	
	Coverage – Coverage contains information about the resource content's relation to place and time. This can be thought of as a sub-section of Subject.	
Refinements	Category	At least one term from the Government Category List (GCL) must be added to this refinement and this should reflect the main subject of the resource. Other terms may be added where other similar types of encoding schemes are needed for browsing. Comment: This is to allow users to drill down through the directories of portals such as DirectGov, from very broad categories (e.g. Business and industry) to narrower categories (e.g. Advertising, Imports).
	Keyword	The words or terms used to describe, as specifically as possible, the subject matter of the resource. These should be taken from a controlled vocabulary or list.
	Person	Subject.person should be used when a resource is about a person. Note: Do not confuse with Addressee or Creator.
	Process identifier	Indicates a specific service or transaction, using an identifier taken from a recognised list.

Refinements	Programme	The broader policy programme to which this resource relates
(continued)	Trogramme	directly. Comment: There is no official definition of a programme or what differentiates it from a project. As a general rule, programmes are broad government policy initiatives that take several years or more to complete, e.g. e-Government or Civil Service Reform. Projects are more specific and manageable chunks that make up the larger programme. It will be useful to agree with your team, or even with your entire organisation, what is a programme and what is a project. Bear in mind that this is used mainly to find all items belonging to a particular project or programme. Think objective. Do not use these if they have no particular value to you or your users.
	Project	The specific project that this resource relates to directly. Comment: See comment above under Programme.
Examples	For a policy document on heart disease subject: NHSP CHD subject.category: Heart disease and stroke subject.keyword: Heart attacks; Coronary heart disease; Treatment; Prevention subject.programme: The NHS Plan subject.project: Coronary heart disease For one of a series of documents looking at take-up of private healthcare by various societal groups (using the semi-colon as separator for multiple values) subject.category: Private health care; Minority groups subject.keyword: Private health care; Greek Cypriots; Croats For a website giving advice to citizens travelling abroad (repeating element for multiple values) subject.category: Tourism subject.keyword: Foreign travel subject.keyword: Travel advice subject.keyword: British embassies subject.keyword: Consulates For a website giving biographical information about a minister subject.category: ministers subject.person: Douglas Alexander	
HTML syntax	<pre><meta content="Information management" name="eGMS.subject.category" scheme="GCL"/> <meta content="En-0383 Joined-up writing" name="eGMS.subject.keyword" scheme="CurriculumOnline"/></pre>	
Encoding schemes include	Category: Government Category List — http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/gcl.asp SIC — UK Standard Industrial Classification http://www.nationalstatistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/sic/downloads/UK_SIC_Vol2 (2003).pdf Keyword: Seamlessuk subject taxonomy — http://www.seamlessuk.info/supportsub_tax.asp	

Encoding schemes	National Curriculum metadata standard –	
(continued)	http://www.nc.uk.net/metadata/index.html	
	ERIC – Educational Resources Information Centre thesaurus http://searcheric.org	
	MeSH – Medical Subject Headings http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html	
	LCSH – Library of Congress Subject Headings http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso	
	Specialist local/organisational thesauri	
	Person:	
	Government Data Standard Catalogue –	
	http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/gdsc/html/default.htm	
Mapped to	DC – Subject http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/subject	
	AGLS – Subject	
	GI Gateway – Keywords	
	GILS – Subject terms uncontrolled; Refinement: Uncontrolled term.	
	Controlled subject index; Refinement: Subject thesaurus; subject terms controlled;	
	controlled term	
	IEEE LOM – General.Keyword or Classification.Purpose=Discipline/Idea	
	http://ltsc.ieee.org/wg12/	

2.24 Title

Definition	A name given to the resource.	
Obligation	Mandatory.	
Purpose	Enables the user to find a resource with a particular title or carry out more accurate searches. The title is commonly used as the key point of reference in the list of search results.	
Notes	The title should be the formal title. If the resource does not have a formal title, then it is recommended to create a meaningful title. The meta tag should be customer focused: make it brief and meaningful rather than clever and catchy.	
	For an alternative title, add any form of the title used as a substitute or alternative to the formal title of the resource, including a name by which the resource is normally known, abbreviations and translations. If a resource's official or formal title is one which members of the public would find incomprehensible, it is recommended that an additional, meaningful name be given to it.	
	If the resource is an e-mail and the subject line is unclear, give a meaningful title as the main title, and use the original subject line as the alternative title.	
	The title should be in the same language as the resource. If the resource is in more than one language, the title should be in the main language(s) of the resource, with alternative titles in other languages.	
	Think <i>list</i> . It may be useful to add values such as version number, status (e.g. draft, draft for consultation) or date if the item is one of many with the same title, so that when they all appear in a list it is easy to find the right one (see example).	
	The title should be written in sentence case. This is much easier on the eye.	
	If the resource is an electronic folder containing electronic documents, use the usual folder name as the title.	
Not to be confused with		
Refinements	Alternative title Any form of the title used as a substitute or alternative to the formal title of the resource.	
Examples	For an e-mail with an informal and uninformative subject line title: ZitKwik application demonstration 2002-09-12 title.alternative: Software demo Thursday	
	For a document commonly known by an informal title title: The Stephen Lawrence inquiry: report of an inquiry by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny title.alternative: The Macpherson report	
	For a series of items with the same title but with different versions. (This is much more helpful than a long list of items all called 'Tax return guidance') title: Tax return guidance 2002 title: Tax return guidance 2003 title: Tax return guidance 2004 title: Tax return guidance 2005 For a sequence of documents on one subject title: Plans for the restructuring of the Department – draft title: Plans for the restructuring of the Department – draft 2 title: Plans for the restructuring of the Department – draft 3 title: Plans for the restructuring of the Department – final 2003-01-08 title: Plans for the restructuring of the Department – revised 2003-01-17	

HTML syntax	<meta content="e-Government Metadata Standard version 2" name="DC.title"/>
	<meta content="eGMS 2" name="DC.title.alternative"/>
Encoding schemes include	_
Mapped to	DC – Title http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/title AGLS – Title GI Gateway – Title; Alternative title GILS – Folder title; Document title IEEE LOM – General.Title

2.25 Type

Definition	The nature or genre of the content of the resource.	
Obligation	Optional.	
Purpose	Enables the user to find a particular type of resource.	
Notes	Best practice is to include relevant terms from DCMI Type (where there is an appropriate type listed), as well as a more specific term. Specific terms may be taken from the e-GMS Type Encoding Scheme (e-GMSTES), which also serves to provide examples making it clearer what is meant by Type. The e-GMSTES is granular but its use is flexible; users may wish to add on their own Types and/or remove those that are not applicable. Note that Aggregation appeared in e-GMS v1.0 as a refinement of Type, but is now an element in its own right.	
	an element in its own right.	
Not to be confused with	Format – Format refers to the physical format of the resource, including the software application used to create, read and edit it; Type refers to the content of the resource.	
	Subject – Type describes what the resource is instead of what it is about.	
Refinements	See 'Encoding schemes include' below.	
Examples	For a record of a meeting type: text/minutes For a visual map type: image/map	
HTML syntax	<meta content="minutes" name="DC.type" scheme="e-GMSTES"/>	
	<pre><meta content="maps" name="DC.type" scheme="e-GMSTES"/></pre>	
Encoding schemes include	DCMI Type – http://dublincore.org/documents/dcmi-type-vocabulary e-GMS Type Encoding Scheme (e-GMSTES) – http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/metadata_document.asp?docnum=679	
Mapped to	DC – Type http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/type AGLS – Type IEEE LOM – Educational.LearningResourceType	

3 Appendix – Links and references

Related documents

e-Government Metadata Standard v2

http://purl.oclc.org/NET/e-GMS_v2

e-Government Interoperability Framework (e-GIF) and Technical Standards Catalogue (TSC)

http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/egif.asp

Government Data Standards Catalogue

http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/gdsc/html/default.htm

UK GovTalk Schema Guidelines

http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/eservices.asp

IEEE/LOM mapping to e-GMS

http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/metadata.asp?page=1&order=title

e-GMS Audience Encoding Scheme (e-GMSAES)

http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/metadata.asp?page=1&order=title

e-GMS Type Encoding Scheme (e-GMSTES)

http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/metadata.asp?page=1&order=title

e-GMS Application Profile

http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/metadata_document.asp?docnum=805

Standards and other organisations

AGLS - Australian Government Locator Service

http://www.naa.gov.au/recordkeeping/gov_online/agls/summary.html

DCMI – Dublin Core Metadata Initiative http://www.dublincore.org

GI Gateway – Geographical Information Gateway http://www.gigateway.org.uk/default.asp

GILS - Government Information Locator Service http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/gils/

IEEE - Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. http://www.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp

ISO – International Organization for Standardization http://www.iso.ch

TNA - The National Archives http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/

W3C - Worldwide Web Consortium http://www.w3.org

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Publication date: April 2004

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Ref: 261847/0404/D8

ISBN: 0 7115 0456 3