

Australian Standard™

**AGLS metadata element set**

**Part 1: Reference description**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee IT-021, Records Management. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 14 November 2002 and published on 6 December 2002.

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The following are represented on Committee IT-021:

- Australian Society of Archivists
- Department of Education and Training, NSW
- Institute of Internal Auditors, Australia
- Institution for Information Management
- Monash University
- National Archives of Australia
- Public Record Office Victoria
- Records Management Association of Australia

Additional interests participating in the preparation of this Standard:

- ACT Government
- Ausdoc Information Management
- Australia-New Zealand Land Information Council (ANZLIC)
- Commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
- Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
- Commonwealth Department of Immigration & Multicultural & Indigenous Affairs
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
- Distributed Systems Technology Centre (DSTC)
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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by Standards Australia Committee IT-021, *Records Management*.

In addition to the work of Committee IT-021 valuable contributions have been received from several other organizations.

The information in this two part Standard has been adapted from the AGLS (Australian Government Locator Service) metadata standard prepared by the AGLS Working Group for use in government agencies.

The proposed AGLS metadata element set has been available on the National Archives of Australia website [http://www.naa.gov.au/recordkeeping/gov\\_online/agls/](http://www.naa.gov.au/recordkeeping/gov_online/agls/) since 1998. The members of IT-021, Records Management decided that it should be expanded to cover non government sectors and published as an Australian Standard and invited the AGLS Working Group to become a subcommittee of IT-021.

The AGLS metadata element set provides a set of metadata elements and associated usage guidelines designed to improve the visibility, accessibility and interoperability of online information and services.

This Standard consists of the following parts:

AS

5044 AGLS metadata element set

5044.1 Part 1: Reference description (this Standard)

5044.2 Part 2: Usage guide

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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## FOREWORD

### Development history

The AGLS element set had its origins in the work of the Information Management Steering Committee (IMSC), an interdepartmental committee established by the then Commonwealth Office of Government Information Technology (OGIT). The IMSC was established in 1996 at the request of the then Chief Government Information Officer, Andy McDonald and was chaired by the then Deputy Director-General of the National Library, Eric Wainwright. The Committee's report, *The Management of Government Information as a National Strategic Resource* (August 1997) proposed frameworks for government information policy and the deployment of associated technologies into the 21st century.

Development of the AGLS element set began in December 1997 with an invitational workshop held at the National Archives of Australia. The workshop brought together representatives of federal and state/territory government agencies, other interested parties such as the Federal Libraries Information Network, and the academic research community.

The development objective of the AGLS working group was to produce a set of metadata elements which would improve the visibility, accessibility and interoperability of government information and services through the provision of standardized Web-based resource descriptions which enable users of search engines to locate the information or service that they require. The work of this cross-jurisdictional and interdisciplinary working group led to the development of the 19 elements in the AGLS set.

Since 1998 the use of AGLS has spread beyond the public sector for which the standard was originally developed. This process has been accelerated by the use of AGLS by various cross-sectoral web portal initiatives. In recognition of the wide potential adoption of AGLS within Australia, Standards Australia decided to adapt and issue AGLS as an Australian Standard.

### Relationship to Dublin Core and other online resource discovery metadata initiatives

AGLS extends the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set (DCMES) of 15 descriptors documented on the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) website at: <http://dublincore.org/document/dcmes/>. The DCMES was also issued by the American National Standards Institute as ANSI/NISO Z39.85-2001 on 10 September 2001.

AGLS is a more complex element set than the Dublin Core Standard, containing a number of element qualifiers which enable it to describe more categories of resources, organizations and services. AGLS is compatible and interoperable with the Dublin Core element set. AGLS is a generic metadata set which any sector or community of interest may use, but particular communities (e.g. the health and education communities) may wish to use their own specific metadata standards. AGLS can coexist with other metadata standards based on different semantics.

# STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

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## Australian Standard AGLS metadata element set

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### Part 1: Reference description

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#### 1 SCOPE

This Standard is for cross-domain resource description. Here, a resource is defined to be anything that has identity; this is the definition used in Internet RFC 2396 'Uniform Resource Identifiers (URI): Generic Syntax' by Tim Berners-Lee et al. This Standard is intended for use by any organization or individual creating or managing information sources or services that are locatable via the Internet. In particular, it is intended for information about resources and services on the World Wide Web. For the purposes of AGLS metadata, a resource will typically be an online information or service resource, but may be applied more broadly to people and organizations, and information or services that are not available online.

This Standard describes the AGLS element set and qualifiers. It is not the purpose of this Standard to define the detailed criteria by which the element set and qualifiers will be implemented in specific projects and applications by individuals and organizations.

This part of the Standard, *AGLS Metadata Element Set, Part 1: General*, contains the formal definition of the AGLS Metadata Element Set. This Part is not intended to be used on its own and should be applied in conjunction with *AGLS Metadata Element Set, Part 2: Usage Guide*, which interprets the AGLS standard and gives advice on how to implement it.

#### 2 REFERENCED STANDARDS

##### AS

- 15489 Records Management
- 15489.1 Part 1: General
- 15489.2 Part 2: Guidelines

##### ISO

- 3166 Codes for representation of names of countries.
- 639 Codes for the representation of names of languages
- 639-2 Part 2: Alpha-3 code
- 8601 Data elements and interchange formats—Information interchange—Representation of dates and times

##### RTIME

- Internet Media Types  
<http://www.isi.edu/in-notes/iana/assignments/media-types/media-types>