Australian Standard™

Information technology—Procedures for achieving metadata registry content consistency

Part 1: Data elements

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee IT-027, Data Management and Interchange.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from ISO/IEC TR 20943-1:2003, *Information technology—Procedures for achieving metadata registry (MDR) content consistency*—Part 1: *Data elements*.

The objective of this Standard is to provide Australian database and data managers with tools to develop data elements and conceptual models for use in metadata registries.

This Standard is Part 1 of AS 20943, *Information technology—Procedures for achieving metadata registry content consistency*, which is published in parts as follows:

Part 1: Data elements (this Standard)
Part 3: Value domains

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

As this Standard is reproduced from an international standard, the following applies:

(a) Its number appears on the cover and title page while the international standard number appears only on the cover.

(b) In the source text 'this International Standard' should read 'this Australian Standard'.

(c) A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

References to International Standards should be replaced by references to Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards, as follows:

Reference to International Standard		*Australian Standard*	
ISO/IEC		AS ISO/IEC	
11179	Information technology—Metadata registries (MDR)	11179	Information technology—Metadata registries (MDR)
11179-1	Part 1: Framework for the specification and standardization of data elements	11179.1	Part 1: Framework
11179-2	Part 2: Classification for data elements	11179.2	Part 2: Classification for data elements
11179-3	Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes	11179.3	Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes
11179-4	Part 4: Rules and guidelines for the formulation of data definitions	11179.4	Part 4: Formulation of data definitions
11179-5	Part 5: Naming and identification principles for data elements	11179.5	Part 5: Naming and identification principles for data elements
11179-6	Part 6: Registration of data elements	11179.6	Part 6: Registration
15452	Information technology—Specification of data value domains	15452	Information technology—Specification of data value domains

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INTRODUCTION

The exchange of metadata between metadata registries based on International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) 11179 *Information technology — metadata registries (MDR)*, depends not only on registry software that conforms to the standard, but also on metadata contents that are comparable between registries. While the standard has provisions for data specification and registration, there are pragmatic issues pertaining to populating the registries with content. Based on the experiences of organizations that are implementing the standard, a Technical Report to explore content issues will help current and future users.

Metadata registries can be used to register data elements, value domains, and associated attributes for many kinds of organizational data resource collections. Metadata registries can store information on data elements used on forms, represented in enterprise data models, contained in EDI message sets, and described in documents and standards, as well as those data elements that are part of computer system applications. Some organizations use the registry to record essential facts about how data elements are used in existing applications, while other organizations use the registry as a repository of standard data elements to be used as models for data elements in application development. ISO/IEC 11179-6 specifically addresses the development and population of metadata registries.

ISO/IEC 11179-3 models a data element and its associated data element concept. Conceptualization and articulation of rules and relationships are needed in the creation of data element concepts, data elements, and value domains. Explication of the various possible levels of data elements and data element concepts and their relationships would greatly assist in the creation of shareable, well-formed data. Relationship and inheritance from the most generalized data element to the most specialized application data element need to be specified. Reuse of data value domains should be enabled and regularized.

While metadata registries can be used for storing information about a variety of metadata entities, this report addresses only data elements and associated metadata items. The goal of this paper is to ensure that there is a common understanding of the content of the data element attributes so that metadata can be shared between registries, despite their differences.

This Technical Report is based ISO/IEC 11179-3 of the six-part ISO/IEC standard that describes the organization of a registry for managing the semantics of data. The standard specifies the structure of a registry in the form of a conceptual model. The conceptual model is not intended to be a logical or physical data model for a computer system.

NOTES

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

Information technology—Procedures for achieving metadata registry content consistency

Part 1:
Data elements

1 Scope

1.1 Background

An ISO/IEC 11179-based metadata registry (MDR) (hereafter referred to as a "registry") is a tool for the management of shareable data; a comprehensive, authoritative source of reference information about data. It supports the standardization and harmonization processes by recording and disseminating data standards, which facilitates data sharing among organizations and users. It provides links to documents that refer to data elements and to information systems where data elements are used. When used in conjunction with an information database, the registry enables users to better understand the information obtained.

A registry does not contain data itself. It contains the metadata that is necessary to clearly describe, inventory, analyse, and classify data. It provides an understanding of the meaning, representation, and identification of units of data. The standard identifies the information elements that need to be available for determining the meaning of a data element (DE) to be shared between systems.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of ISO/IEC TR 20943-1:2003 is to describe a set of procedures for the consistent registration of data elements and their attributes in a registry. ISO/IEC TR 20943-1:2003 is not a data entry manual, but a user's guide for conceptualizing a data element and its associated metadata items for the purpose of consistently establishing good quality data elements. An organization may adapt and/or add to these procedures as necessary.

1.3 Scope

The scope of ISO/IEC TR 20943-1:2003 is limited to the associated items of a data element: the data element identifier, names and definitions in particular contexts, and examples; data element concept; conceptual domain with its value meanings; and value domain with its permissible values.

1.4 Registration approach — data elements and value domains

There is a choice when registering code sets and other value domains in an ISO/IEC 11179 metadata registry. Some Registration Authorities treat these sets as value domains, and others treat them as data elements. For the purposes of ISO/IEC TR 20943-1:2003, the choice will always be to treat the sets as data elements unless explicitly stated. This choice is made to help illustrate the way to register many different kinds of data elements, including examples for registering standard code sets as data elements.