

Australian Standard[®]

AGLS Metadata Standard

Part 1: Reference description



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee IT-021, Records and Document Management Systems. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 3 May 2010.

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Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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Part 1: Reference description

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by Standards Australia Committee IT-021, Records and Document Management Systems to supersede AS 5044.1—2002, *AGLS metadata element set, Part 1: Reference description*.

AS 5044 consists of the following parts:

AS

5044 AGLS Metadata Standard

5044.1 Part 1: Reference description (this Standard)

5044.2 Part 2: Usage guide

This Standard uses the term ‘informative’ to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

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

The National Archives of Australia made the AGLS metadata element set available on its website in 1998. The members of Committee IT-021, Records and Document Management Systems decided to expand it to cover non-government sectors, and invited the AGLS Working Group to become a subcommittee of IT-021. Standards Australia published the Standard in 2002 and renamed it the AGLS metadata element set. Omitting the word ‘government’ from the title reflected that, with this version of the Standard, the audience was no longer limited to the public sector.

This revision is renamed ‘AGLS Metadata Standard’. This takes into account changes introduced by the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) in January 2008 in support of automated processes for identifying and interpreting the meanings implied in natural language (known as ‘semantic inferencing’).

This AGLS Metadata Standard provides a set of metadata properties and associated usage guidelines to improve the visibility, manageability and interoperability of online information and services.

The major changes to the 2002 edition are—

- (a) revising terminology, property descriptions and recommended formatting to remain consistent with the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI);
- (b) assigning free standing descriptive labels to metadata terms;
- (c) a clear distinction between Vocabulary Encoding Schemes and Syntax Encoding Schemes;
- (d) including a DCMI property not previously in the AGLS standard (conformsTo);
- (e) including four new DCMI properties (accessRights, dateCopyrighted, rightsHolder and license);
- (f) introducing two new AGLS properties (dateLicensed and protectiveMarking);
- (g) introducing three additional sets of terms (Agent Metadata Terms, Availability Metadata Terms and Administrative Metadata Terms);
- (h) deprecation of one element refinement from the previous standard (DC.coverage.postcode);
- (i) changes to the obligation status of some properties;
- (j) including a new obligation status ‘Recommended’;

- (k) updating references to the most recent versions of Request for Comment (RFC) standards and ISO standards;
- (l) examples in eXtensible Hypertext Markup Language (XHTML); and
- (m) expanding the AGLS Audience Vocabulary Encoding Scheme.

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FOREWORD

Development History

The AGLS Metadata Standard (formerly known as the Australian Government Locator Service) 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 then Chief Government Information Officer, Andy McDonald, established the IMSC in 1996. Chaired by the then Deputy Director-General of the National Library, Eric Wainwright, the Committee released its report, *The Management of Government Information as a National Strategic Resource*, in August 1997. This report proposed frameworks for government information policy and the deployment of associated technology 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 was to produce a set of metadata elements which would improve the visibility, availability and interoperability of government information and services through the provision of standardised web-based resource descriptions which enable users to locate the information or service that they require.

From its inception, the use of AGLS spread beyond the public sector for which the standard was originally developed. The use of AGLS by various cross-sectoral web portal initiatives accelerated this process. In recognition of the wide potential adoption of AGLS within Australia, Standards Australia decided to adapt and issue AGLS as an Australian Standard. Standards Australia first issued the Standard in 2002, incorporating a set of 19 elements.

Since 1998, notions of best practice in the Semantic Web have evolved to include the assignment of formal domains and ranges in addition to definitions in natural language. Domains and ranges specify what kind of described resources and value resources are associated with a given property. These relationships can be used to support automated processes for identifying and interpreting the meanings implied in natural language (known as ‘semantic inferencing’).

The current version of the Standard takes into account changes introduced by the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) in January 2008.

Today the development objective of the AGLS Working Group is to maintain a set of metadata properties to improve the visibility, availability and interoperability of information and services through the provision of standardised resource descriptions which enable users to locate the information or service that they require.

Relationship to Dublin Core

AGLS is an application profile of Dublin Core metadata standard (<http://dublincore.org/>). The International Organization for Standardization issued the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set (DCMES) as ISO 15836:2003. The American National Standards Institute issued the DCMES as ANSI/NISO Z39.85:2007.

AGLS is a more complex set of properties than the Dublin Core standard, containing several sub-properties enabling it to describe more categories of resources and allow richer description of resources. AGLS is entirely compatible and interoperable with Dublin Core. AGLS does not displace any other metadata standard. AGLS can coexist with other metadata standards based on different semantics.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard **AGLS Metadata Standard**

Part 1: Reference description

1 SCOPE

The AGLS Metadata Standard is an Australian Standard for cross-domain resource description. A resource is defined as 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 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 can be applied more broadly to people and organizations, and information or services that are not available online.

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

This Part 1 of AS 5044 contains the formal definition of the AGLS Metadata Standard. It is not intended to be used on its own and should be applied in conjunction with AS 5044.2, which interprets and explains how to use AGLS metadata properties to describe resources at an abstract level to make them easier to locate. Part Two also gives advice on how to implement AS 5044.

2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referenced in this Standard:

AS ISO

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

AS/NZS ISO

- 19115 Geographic information—Metadata

ISO

- 639 Codes for the representation of names of languages
 - 639-1 Part 1: Alpha-2 code
 - 639-2 Part 2: Alpha-3 code
 - 639-3 Part 3: Alpha-3 code for comprehensive coverage of languages
- 3166 Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions
 - 3166-1 Part 1: Country codes
- 8601 Data elements and interchange formats—Information interchange—Representation of dates and times
- 15836 Information and documentation—The Dublin Core metadata element set