

Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM) Essential Metadata Elements

The following is a set of recommended metadata elements that can be used to as a *boilerplate* for the development of organizational metadata and templates. Users are strongly encouraged to consider the following as a starting place for template development and not a solution to minimizing the standard. The set represents an expansion to the purely mandatory elements specified by the CSDGM. The set is best applied to GIS data and imagery maintained in standard horizontal coordinate systems. For more specialized data and data maintained in vertical and local horizontal coordinate systems, additional metadata elements become essential. For more information about CSDGM element definitions and domains see the following documents located at the FGDC Metadata Publication website, <http://www.fgdc.gov/metadata/metadata-publications-list>

- *Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata Workbook, Vers. 2.0*
- *Metadata Quick Guide*

Legend:

- bold text** = CSDGM mandatory element
- plain text** = CSDGM mandatory if applicable (MIA) element
- italicized text* = CSDGM optional element
- stylized text* = use of element is conditional

Section One: Identification

Originator

Publication_Date

Title

Abstract

Purpose

Time_Period_of_Content

Currentness_Reference

Progress

Maintenance_and_Update_Frequency

West_Bounding_Coordinates

East_Bounding_Coordinates

North_Bounding_Coordinates

South_Bounding_Coordinates

Theme_Thesaurus

Theme_Keywords

Access_Constraints

Use_Constraints

Point_of_Contact

Contact_Organization (*preferred*) or **Contact_Person**

Contact_Position

Address_Type

Address

City

State_or_Province

Postal_Code

Contact_Voice_Telephone

- *If data are available online:*
Online_Linkage

Section Two: Data Quality

Logical_Consistency_Report
Completeness_Report
Process_Description
Process_Date

- *If source data were used:*
Source_Originator
Source_Publication_Date
Source_Title
Source_Online_Linkage
Source_Scale_Denominator
Type_of_Source_Media
Source_Time_Period_of_Content
Source_Currentness_Reference
Source_Citation_Abbreviation
Source_Contribution
- *If data assessments performed:*
Attribute_Accuracy_Report (if applicable)
Horizontal_Positional_Accuracy_Report (if applicable)
Vertical_Positional_Accuracy_Report (if applicable)
- *If aerial photography or imagery:*
Cloud_Cover

Section Three: Spatial Data Organization Information

Direct_Spatial_Reference_Method

Section Four: Spatial Reference Information

Horizontal_Datum
Ellipsoid_Name
Semi-Major_Axis
Denominator_of_Flattening_Ratio

Horizontal Coordinate System (compound element)

If Geographic (Lat/Lon):
Latitude_Resolution
Longitude_Resolution
Geographic_Coordinate_Units

or

If Planar (projected) data:
Planar_Coordinate_Encoding_Method
Abscissa_Resolution
Ordinate_Resolution
Planar_Distance_Units

If Map Projection:

Map_Projection_Name

< **projection parameters** – vary with Projection >

or

If Grid Coordinate System:

Grid_Coordinate_System_Name

< **coordinate system parameters** - vary with Coordinate System >

- *Additional elements are required for data maintained using:*

Distance_and_Bearing_Representation

Local_Planar_Horizontal_Coordinate_System

Local_Horizontal_Coordinate_System

Vertical_Coordinate_System

Section Five: Entity and Attribute Information

Entity_and_Attribute_Overview

and/or

Entity_and_Attribute_Detailed_Description

if the data includes a database that is not documented, you are strongly encouraged to develop the detailed description

Section Six: Distribution Information

Distributor_Contact

Contact_Organization (*preferred*) or **Contact_Person**

Contact_Position

Address_Type

Address

City

State_or_Province

Postal_Code

Contact_Voice_Telephone

Distribution_Liability

Section Seven: Metadata Reference

Metadata_Date

Metadata_Contact

Contact_Organization or **Contact_Person**

Contact_Position

Address_Type

Address

City

State_or_Province

Postal_Code

Contact_Voice_Telephone

Metadata_Standard_Name

Metadata_Standard_Version