TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

ISO/IEC TS 11179-30

First edition
2019-11

Information technology — Metadata registries (MDR) —

Part 30:
Basic attributes of metadata

Reference number
ISO/IEC TS 11179-30:2019(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC/JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 32, *Data management and interchange*.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 11179 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

Data processing and electronic data interchange rely heavily on accurate, reliable, controllable and verifiable data recorded in databases. A prerequisite for correct and proper use and interpretation of data is that both users and owners of data have a common understanding of the meaning and representation of the data. To facilitate this common understanding, a number of characteristics, or attributes, of the data have to be defined. These characteristics of data are known as "metadata", that is, "data that describes data". ISO/IEC 11179-3 provides a conceptual metamodel for the attributes of data elements and associated metadata to be specified and registered as metadata items in a metadata registry (MDR).

This document applies to the definition, specification and contents of collections of metadata, including interchanging or referencing among such collections.

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Information technology — Metadata registries (MDR) —

Part 30:
Basic attributes of metadata

1 Scope

This document specifies basic attributes which are required to describe data elements and associated metadata, and which might be used in situations where a complete ISO/IEC 11179-3 metadata registry is not appropriate (e.g. in the specification of other International Standards).

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 11179-3, *Information technology — Metadata registries (MDR) — Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 11179-3 apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

4 Conformance

4.1 Overview of conformance

Conformance may be claimed to some or all of the basic attributes. Conformance claims shall specify a degree of conformance, as described in 4.2.

Conformance statements with respect to this document shall also be explicit as to which portions of this document conformity is being claimed. This may be done by reference to the relevant clauses.

4.2 Degree of conformance

4.2.1 General

The distinction between “strictly conforming” and “conforming” implementations is necessary to address the simultaneous needs for interoperability and extensions. This document describes specifications that promote interoperability. Extensions are motivated by needs of users, vendors, institutions, and industries, and:

a) are not directly specified by this document;

b) are specified and agreed to outside this document; and

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