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Document management — Electronic content/document management (CDM) data interchange format

Gestion de documents — Format d'échange de données pour la gestion de documents/du contenu électronique

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Foreword

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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ISO 22938 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 171, *Document management applications*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Application issues*.

Introduction

This International Standard specifies a consistent interchange format for data contained in electronic content/document management (CDM) systems, including documents, their associated resources, and retrieval index values that are stored in, or managed by, these technologies. Such a standard should facilitate the *exact* interchange of CDM data, i.e. the standard should not require that the data be irreversibly modified or packaged within a format that does not allow the reconstruction of the original data. Therefore, this International Standard avoids choosing one particular data format and anointing it as the interchange standard for CDM. Rather, this International Standard specifies a common markup format, based on the XML (eXtensible Markup Language), which encapsulates all forms of CDM data. A DTD (document type definition) describes the XML markup used for CDM data transfer. The XML format is a W3C (World Wide Web Consortium) standard, adopted in February 1998. XML is extensible, so that additional CDM formats may be easily specified by appropriately updating the DTD.

The purpose of this International Standard is to define standards for information interchange in a way that benefits both the consumers and vendors of content/document management systems. Some possible benefits are as follows:

a) document information can be both exported from and imported to one standards-compliant CDM system to another;

b) disparate CDM systems within an enterprise (due to autonomous selection, replacement, or merger/acquisition) will be able to exchange or consolidate CDM information.

To this end, the standards are defined with the goal of striking a balance between being either too restrictive or too general. They should be broad enough to encompass all common CDM information types and all common uses of CDM systems, as well as ones that might be expected in the future. On the other hand, the standards should be restrictive enough so that CDM vendors do not have inordinate difficulty complying with the standards.