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Part 1: Framework

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formation — Métadonnées pour ressources d'apprentissage —*

Partie 1: Charpente

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Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
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Contents

Page

Foreword	v
Introduction.....	vi
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	2
4 Abbreviated terms	6
5 Principles governing the development of ISO/IEC 19788	6
5.1 A multipart standard	6
5.2 Development driven by user requirements	6
5.3 Multilingual equivalencies and multicultural requirements support	7
5.4 Support for various levels of granularity	7
5.5 Re-use of international standards and specifications	7
5.6 User extensions	7
6 Specification of MLR data elements	7
6.1 Introduction.....	7
6.2 Data element specification attributes.....	7
6.3 Data element specification: Matrix template	12
6.4 A "Data element specification" example	12
7 MLR data elements	13
7.1 Data element	13
8 Resource class	14
8.1 Definition of a Resource class	14
8.2 Attributes of a Resource class.....	14
8.3 Example of the definition of a Resource class.....	15
8.4 Predefined Resource classes	15
9 Predefined rule sets	16
9.1 Introduction.....	16
9.2 MLR string	16
9.3 Date	17
9.4 Date & Time	17
9.5 Duration	18
10 Metadata learning resource record	18
10.1 Definition of a MLR record.....	18
10.2 Attributes of a MLR record	18
11 Data element groups	19
11.1 Introduction.....	19
11.2 Data element group	19
11.3 Data element group specification attributes	19
11.4 Specification of a data element group	21
11.5 Tree notation for data element group specifications	24
12 Specification of application profiles.....	24
12.1 Introduction.....	24
12.2 Application profile attributes	25
12.3 Data element specification in an application profile specification	26
12.4 Issues related to vocabularies	26
12.5 Specification of an application profile	26

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13	Rules governing the management and addition of new parts of the multipart MLR.....	27
13.1	Introduction	27
13.2	Categorization of ISO/IEC 19788 Parts	27
13.3	Content of parts specifying data elements	27
13.4	Content of parts specifying MLR application profiles	29
13.5	Other rules.....	30
Annex A	(informative) Clause 3 terms and definitions: ISO French and Chinese.....	31
Annex B	(normative) MLR Identifiers	46
Annex C	(informative) Concept Maps for the MLR-1	49
Bibliography		53
Index of Clause 3 terms and definitions		54

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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. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

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

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/IEC 19788-1 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 36, *Information technology for learning, education and training*.

ISO/IEC 19788 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Learning, education and training — Metadata for learning resources*:

— *Part 1: Framework*

— *Part 2: Dublin Core elements*

The following parts are under preparation:

— *Part 3: Basic application profile*

— *Part 5: Educational elements*

— *Part 6: Availability, distribution, and intellectual property elements*

Technical elements will form the subject of a future Part 4.

Introduction

The primary purpose of ISO/IEC 19788 is to facilitate: (1) the description of a learning resource by providing a standards-based approach to the identification and specification of the metadata elements required to describe a learning resource, e.g. as a metadata learning resource (MLR) record; and (2) the search, discovery, acquisition, evaluation, and use of learning resources, for instance by learners, instructors or automated software processes. The interoperability of these functions can be achieved through harvesting or federated search processes, among other technologies and solutions. ISO/IEC 19788 is based on identified user requirements.

This part of ISO/IEC 19788 includes rules for the assignment and management of identifiers, and the development of subsequent parts fulfilling specific user needs.

Additionally, this part of ISO/IEC 19788 specifies how to define application profiles.

At the same time, ISO/IEC 19788 takes into account the diversity of cultural and linguistic contexts in which learning resources and their metadata are likely to be created and exploited. ISO/IEC 19788 also facilitates the sharing and reuse of learning resource descriptions by providing specific elements to support metadata harvesting.

ISO/IEC 19788 aims to specify data elements relating to learning resources to be expressed in a range of established formats, providing optimal compatibility with IEEE 1484.12.1-2002 and ISO 15836:2009 (see Bibliography), while also addressing user-driven requirements and uses not explicitly addressed in those two standards. These data elements are used to form the description of a learning resource.

In addition to this part of ISO/IEC 19788, ISO/IEC 19788-2 and ISO/IEC 19788-3, ISO/IEC 19788 is modularly structured with all subsequent parts having a distinct scope. Each of these parts represents a specified set of user requirements for the identification and specification of data elements having a particular focus and intended use in the description of a learning resource. This includes categories of data elements focused on technical perspectives, educational (pedagogical) aspects, availability and intellectual property aspects, classification schemes, life cycle management, registration, etc. This also includes the use of application profiles stating the rules for combining metadata elements from various parts of ISO/IEC 19788 and other specifications to support the description of a learning resource, e.g. a MLR record, in a particular context, as well as that of a particular jurisdictional domain, organization, public administration, etc.

The identification and specification of particular metadata elements are not included in this part of ISO/IEC 19788 but in subsequent parts. Also excluded from this part of ISO/IEC 19788 are the specification of bindings for data elements (e.g. XML bindings) and the description of particular application profiles. These will be considered in subsequent parts. Nevertheless, XML snippets can be used in an informal way in examples.

The following aspects might be addressed in a subsequent edition of ISO/IEC 19788-1 or in another part of ISO/IEC 19788:

- additional data element specification attributes;
- registration of MLR records (see 3.23) and assignment of their unique identifiers;
- detailed rules governing coded domains;
- Person as a learning resource.