



SPATIAL METADATA ISO 19115 NAP

MODERNIZING ALBERTA'S SPATIAL
METADATA PROFILE FROM CGDSM FGDC TO
ISO 19115 NAP

BACKGROUND

The current GoA version of FGDC's metadata profile is based on the FGDC: CSDGM standard created in 1998. Since then the FGDC has stopped updating their metadata profile and instead recommended that organizations begin the transition to the current International Standards Organization (ISO) metadata profile for geographic information.

Changing to the new profile will improve geospatial metadata management and keep Alberta aligned with the rest of Canada as the Federal Government has fully implemented NAP as of May 31, 2014. This alignment with federally accepted standards is especially relevant in light of the Joint Oil Sands Monitoring program (JOSM).

ISO NAP IS:

- MORE FLEXIBLE
- USES STANDARDIZED DESCRIPTORS VIA CODELISTS
- DEPICTS RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN DATASETS & COLLECTIONS (PARENT/CHILD)
- INTERNATIONAL SCOPE
- ACCOMODATES NEW TECHNOLOGIES (SERVICES)

Alberta

NOTES

ISO is organized around key building blocks called packages. The package abbreviations are listed below and these form the backbone of how the metadata becomes organized.

HOW ISO IS ORGANIZED

PACKAGE ABBREVIATIONS	
CI	CITATION
DQ	DATA QUALITY
DS	DATASET
EX	EXTENT
FC	FEATURE CATALOGUE
GM	GEOMETRY
LE	LINEAGE EXTENDED
LI	LINEAGE
MD	METADATA
MI	METADATA FOR IMAGERY
RS	REFERENCE SYSTEM
SV	SERVICES
QE	DATA QUALITY EXTENDED

OTHER BENEFITS

Metadata creation and maintenance can be streamlined as ISO allows for the implementation of modular metadata units. Referred to as 'snippets', these modular units can be created and edited as a single component (contact, source, process) but referenced by multiple records using XML linking language. Consequently, updating one contact snippet would allow for all organizational metadata records to become up to date.

ISO is also a more robust standard that allows for more in-depth documentation by incorporating affiliate ISO documentation standards like data quality. Thus, providing an 'umbrella' for complex datasets to be documented under.



WHAT IS GEOSPATIAL METADATA?

Geospatial metadata or geographic metadata is a type of metadata that is applicable to objects that have an explicit or implicit geographic extent, in other words, are associated with some position on the surface of the Globe.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF MODERNIZING TO ISO?

- ISO NAP is the Canadian geospatial metadata standard
- ISO NAP is being updated and maintained
- ISO NAP will continue to have more tools and applications developed.