

*Citation for published version:*

Patel, M 2000, 'ISO/IEC 11179 : Specification and Standardization of Data Elements: Combining multiple metadata standards in implementations: User experience and requirements', Paper presented at First SCHEMAS Workshop: Combining multiple metadata standards in implementations: User experience and requirements, Bath, UK United Kingdom, 10/05/00 - 11/05/00.

*Publication date:*  
2000

*Document Version*  
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication](#)

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# *ISO/IEC 11179 : Specification and Standardization of Data Elements*

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UKOLN is funded by the Library and Information Commission, the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) of the Higher Education Funding Councils, as well as by project funding from the JISC and the European Union.

1 UKOLN also receives support from the University of Bath where it is based.

# *Contents*

- Purpose of ISO/IEC 11179
- Fundamental Concepts
- ISO/IEC 11179 - Six parts
- Examples of compliant registries

ISO - International Organisation for Standardisation

IEC - International Electrotechnical Commission



# *Purpose of ISO/IEC 1179*

- Family of standards for informational and organisational structure of metadata registries
- International standard for formally expressing the semantics of data elements in a consistent manner
- Consistency allows for interoperability



# *ISO/IEC 11179 Overview*

ISO/IEC 11179 consists of 6 parts:

Part 1 -Framework

Part 2 -Classification for Data Elements

Part 3 -Basic Attributes of Data Elements

Part 4 -Rules and Guidelines for the  
formulation of Data Definitions

Part 5 -Naming and Identification principles  
for Data Elements

Part 6 -Registration of Data Elements

Parts 4-6 are standards

Part 3 is under going revision

Parts 1-2 past final draft stage (Jan 2000)



# *ISO/IEC 11179-1*

## Framework for the Specification and Standardization of Data Elements

- Introduces fundamental ideas
- Provides context for associating individual parts
- Consolidates definitions from all the parts



# *Fundamental Concepts ...*

**Data Element:** a unit of data for which the definition, identification, representation and permissible values are specified by means of a set of attributes

**Object class:** a set of ideas, abstractions, or things in the real world that can be identified with explicit boundaries and meaning and whose properties and behaviour follow the same rules

**Property:** the human perception of a single characteristic of an object class in the real world. It has no particular associated means of representation by which the property can be communicated



# *Fundamental Concepts*

**Representation:** the part of a data element having a value domain, datatype and other representational specifications

**Data Element Concept:** an idea that can be represented in the form of a data element, described independently of any particular representation

**Value Domain:** a set of restricted permissible values





# ISO/IEC 11179-2

## Classification for Data Elements

- Provides procedures and techniques for associating DE concepts and DEs with classification schemes
- Provides for the classification of DE components



# ISO/IEC 11179-3

## Basic Attributes of Data Elements

**Name** - Label assigned to the DE

**Identifier** - Unique id assigned to the DE

**Version** - Version of the DE

**Registration Authority** - An organisation authorised to register the DE

**Language** - Language in which the DE is specified

**Definition** - A statement that clearly represents the concept and essential nature of the DE

**Obligation** - Indicates whether the DE is required to always or sometimes be present (mandatory, conditional, optional)

**Datatype** - Indicates the type of data that can be represented in the value of the DE

**Maximum Occurrence** - Indicates any limit to repeatability of the DE

**Comment** - A remark concerning the application of the DE



# ISO/IEC 11179-4

## Rules and Guidelines for the formulation of Data Definitions

- Requirements for clear definitions of DEs
- Rules and guidelines for clear definitions

A DE definition must: be unique, be singular, state the concept (not its negative), be a descriptive phrase or statement, expand abbreviations, not contain embedded definitions



# ISO/IEC 11179-5

## Naming and Identification Principles for DEs

- Rules for registration identification of data
- Guidelines for structured naming conventions for DEs

Attributes to name and identify a DE:

name, context, registration authority identifier,  
data identifier, version identifier



# ISO/IEC 11179-6

## Registration of Data Elements

- Structure and assignment of International Registration Data Identifier
- Organisational roles involved in registration
- Procedure for registering DEs



# *Examples*

ISO/IEC 11179 compliant registries

Environmental Data Registry:

<http://www.epa.gov/edr/>

Australian National Health Information Knowledgebase:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/services/health/nhik.html>



# References

ISO/IEC 11179

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