

# Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM) Essential Metadata Elements

The following is a set of recommended metadata elements that can be used to as a *boilerplate* for the development of organizational metadata and templates. Users are strongly encouraged to consider the following as a starting place for template development and not a solution to minimizing the standard. The set represents an expansion to the purely mandatory elements specified by the CSDGM. The set is best applied to GIS data and imagery maintained in standard horizontal coordinate systems. For more specialized data and data maintained in vertical and local horizontal coordinate systems, additional metadata elements become essential. For more information about CSDGM element definitions and domains see the following documents located at the FGDC Metadata Publication website, <http://www.fgdc.gov/metadata/metadata-publications-list>

- *Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata Workbook, Vers. 2.0*
- *Metadata Quick Guide*

## Legend:

- bold text** = CSDGM mandatory element
- plain text** = CSDGM mandatory if applicable (MIA) element
- italicized text* = CSDGM optional element
- stylized text* = use of element is conditional

## Section One: Identification

**Originator**

**Publication\_Date**

**Title**

**Abstract**

**Purpose**

**Time\_Period\_of\_Content**

**Currentness\_Reference**

**Progress**

**Maintenance\_and\_Update\_Frequency**

**West\_Bounding\_Coordinates**

**East\_Bounding\_Coordinates**

**North\_Bounding\_Coordinates**

**South\_Bounding\_Coordinates**

**Theme\_Thesaurus**

**Theme\_Keywords**

**Access\_Constraints**

**Use\_Constraints**

*Point\_of\_Contact*

**Contact\_Organization** (*preferred*) or **Contact\_Person**

*Contact\_Position*

**Address\_Type**

*Address*

**City**

**State\_or\_Province**

**Postal\_Code**

**Contact\_Voice\_Telephone**

- *If data are available online:*  
*Online\_Linkage*

## Section Two: Data Quality

**Logical\_Consistency\_Report**  
**Completeness\_Report**  
**Process\_Description**  
**Process\_Date**

- *If source data were used:*  
**Source\_Originator**  
**Source\_Publication\_Date**  
**Source\_Title**  
*Source\_Online\_Linkage*  
*Source\_Scale\_Denominator*  
**Type\_of\_Source\_Media**  
**Source\_Time\_Period\_of\_Content**  
**Source\_Currentness\_Reference**  
**Source\_Citation\_Abbreviation**  
**Source\_Contribution**
- *If data assessments performed:*  
*Attribute\_Accuracy\_Report (if applicable)*  
*Horizontal\_Positional\_Accuracy\_Report (if applicable)*  
*Vertical\_Positional\_Accuracy\_Report (if applicable)*
- *If aerial photography or imagery:*  
*Cloud\_Cover*

## Section Three: Spatial Data Organization Information

**Direct\_Spatial\_Reference\_Method**

## Section Four: Spatial Reference Information

*Horizontal\_Datum*  
**Ellipsoid\_Name**  
**Semi-Major\_Axis**  
**Denominator\_of\_Flattening\_Ratio**

**Horizontal Coordinate System (compound element)**

*If Geographic (Lat/Lon):*  
**Latitude\_Resolution**  
**Longitude\_Resolution**  
**Geographic\_Coordinate\_Units**

*or*

*If Planar (projected) data:*  
**Planar\_Coordinate\_Encoding\_Method**  
**Abcissa\_Resolution**  
**Ordinate\_Resolution**  
**Planar\_Distance\_Units**

*If Map Projection:*

**Map\_Projection\_Name**

< **projection parameters** – vary with Projection >

or

*If Grid Coordinate System:*

**Grid\_Coordinate\_System\_Name**

< **coordinate system parameters** - vary with Coordinate System >

- *Additional elements are required for data maintained using:*

**Distance\_and\_Bearing\_Representation**

**Local\_Planar\_Horizontal\_Coordinate\_System**

**Local\_Horizontal\_Coordinate\_System**

*Vertical\_Coordinate\_System*

## **Section Five: Entity and Attribute Information**

**Entity\_and\_Attribute\_Overview**

*and/or*

**Entity\_and\_Attribute\_Detailed\_Description**

*if the data includes a database that is not documented, you are strongly encouraged to develop the detailed description*

## **Section Six: Distribution Information**

**Distributor\_Contact**

**Contact\_Organization** (*preferred*) or **Contact\_Person**

*Contact\_Position*

**Address\_Type**

*Address*

**City**

**State\_or\_Province**

**Postal\_Code**

**Contact\_Voice\_Telephone**

**Distribution\_Liability**

## **Section Seven: Metadata Reference**

**Metadata\_Date**

**Metadata\_Contact**

**Contact\_Organization** or **Contact\_Person**

*Contact\_Position*

**Address\_Type**

*Address*

**City**

**State\_or\_Province**

**Postal\_Code**

**Contact\_Voice\_Telephone**

**Metadata\_Standard\_Name**

**Metadata\_Standard\_Version**