

The FAIRness Project

Building Trust and FAIRness into Finding and Using Government Data

Chief Data Officers Council and Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology

Project Co-Chairs

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Federal Committee on
Statistical Methodology

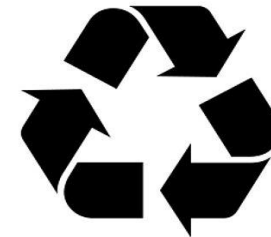
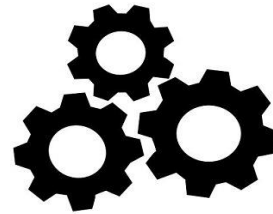
FAIRness Project Purpose and Basic Information

- Project info: <https://github.com/DOI-DO/dcat-us/wiki>
- Improve users' experience (internal and external to the federal government) to find, access, and use federal data.
 - The Evidence Act requires a comprehensive federal data catalog that supports implementing the new data access authorities and responsibilities under Title III of the Evidence Act.
 - Decreases burden and increases interoperability across:
 - Data.gov
 - GeoPlatform.gov
 - The Standard Application Process portal
 - Agencies Enterprise Data Inventories
 - Supports the Zero Trust Data Pillar and Open Science
 - Builds on FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable)

What is FAIRness?

Federal data to citizens are improved when they are consistently...

Findable **A**ccessible **I**nteroperable **R**eusable



FAIR enables Search, Discovery, Security, and Sharing

How?

Consistently Document your Datasets!

FAIRness Project Core Team and Advisory Group

Core Team Members from:

- U.S. Census Bureau
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Interior
- Environmental Protection Agency
- General Services Administration
- Office of Management and Budget
- National Center for Education Statistics
- National Center for Health Statistics
- National Institute of Standards and Technology

Advisory Group Representatives from:

- Chief Data Officers Council
- Chief Information Officers Council
- Chief Information Security Officers Council
- Federal Geographic Data Committee
- Interagency Council on Statistical Policy
- National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Office of Management and Budget

FAIRness Project Deliverables

- Three deliverables:
 - **Updated DCAT-US Schema to a US profile of DCAT version 3**, aligning the schema with international standards and geospatial metadata in the GeoPlatform, and improving adoption by software vendors and open-source technologies.
 - **A proposed governance model** for updating and maintaining the federal metadata schema profiles in accordance with data inventory and data cataloging standards.
 - **A strategic two-year sequencing (i.e., transition) plan** to improve and integrate government-wide metadata cataloging to facilitate data users being able to easily find, access, assess for fitness-for-use, and use federal data.

DCAT-US 3.0: What's important? Why?

Outcomes

- Improved and consistent user experience
- Increase automation
- Enhance data sharing, reuse, and security
- Fill significant legal, regulatory, and policy gaps for documenting data
- Decrease maintenance costs

How

- Optimize finding and sharing data by standardizing metadata production and use
- Improve FAIR maturity of data assets
- Support for Dataset Series simplifies metadata handling for large collections of datasets
 - Time series, map series
- Clearly mark restrictions: license, access, use, and CUI
- Leverage controlled vocabularies as reference data to eliminate ambiguity and standardize terminology and use
- Streamline and unify catalogs to reduce duplication
- Consistent, open, and trusted discovery
- Data and service assets are documented consistently across the U.S. Government

Task 1, DCAT-US 3.0 Schema Update

- Draft specification for review: <https://doi-do.github.io/dcat-us>
- Extended comment period ended on December 31, 2023.
- 188 total tickets received.
- The team has finalized development of the schema.
- Next step: provide draft schema to the project advisory group and Office of Management and Budget.

Tasks 2 and 3, Governance Plan and Sequencing/Transition Plan

- Governance Plan: draft in process/under review. Questions considered:
 - Which agencies and/or councils make up the governance group?
 - How is the decision-making process structured?
 - Which agencies/councils/committees provide staff support?
 - How is the process funded?
- Sequencing Plan: draft in process/under review. The plan potentially will include:
 - What OMB Needs to consider.
 - What councils need to consider.
 - What agencies need to consider.
 - What service providers (Data.gov, GeoPlatform.gov, Standard Application Process) need to consider.

Thanks!

Current draft DCAT-US 3.0 specification:
<https://doi-do.github.io/dcat-us/>