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FGDC

Metadata standards

At its May 25, 2016 meeting, the FGDC Standards WG recommended the following standards for FGDC endorsement:

- INCITS/ISO 19115-1:2014[2014] Geographic information - Metadata - Part 1: Fundamentals
- INCITS/ISO 19157:2013[2014] Geographic information - Data quality

The FGDC Metadata Coordinator also plans to submit proposals for FGDC endorsement of the following standards, after they have been approved and published as ISO standards:

- ISO/DTS 19115-3 Geographic information -- Metadata -- Part 3: XML schema implementation of metadata fundamentals
- ISO 19157-2 Geographic information -- Data Quality Part 2: XML Schema Implementation

FGDC Standards WG charter

The latest FGDC Standards WG charter, which is published at http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/organization/FGDC-SWG/SWG_Charter.pdf, dates back to the 1990s. Much of the content is still relevant, and is carried over to the draft revised FGDC Standards WG charter. The draft revised charter:

- cites more recent authorities;
- contains a bibliography of works cited; and
- references initiatives such as the Geospatial Platform, NSDI Strategic Plan and the National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) management plan

The CG ballot to approve the revised FGDC Standards WG charter closed on July 29. Voting results: 11 Yes, 0 No, 18 no response.

INCITS Technical Committee L1 and ISO Technical Committee 211

Glenn Guempel, USGS, is the new chair of INCITS Technical Committee L1. The FGDC staff director and his deputy endorsed the nomination of Glenn Guempel as INCITS L1 Chair.

Sweden now serves as ISO Technical Committee 211 Secretariat. Norway relinquished the ISO TC 211 Secretariat.

Open Geospatial Consortium

Catalogue Services (CAT) Standard version 3.0

OGC® announced the release of OGC Catalogue Services (CAT) Standard version 3.0 on July 12.

OGC® Catalogue Services support publishing and searching metadata records for geospatial data, services, and related information. Metadata can be queried and presented for evaluation and further processing. Catalogue services support discovery and binding to registered information resources.

OGC® Catalogue Services 3.0 - General Model (12-168r6) describes the common architecture for OGC Catalogue Services. It specifies interfaces between clients and catalogue services through abstract models. The common architecture is platform neutral and uses UML notation. Catalogue Services 3.0 aligns better than CAT 2.0.2 with other OGC standards, provides a developer-friendly OpenSearch Geo API, supports querying via temporal extents, and improves distributed search.

This is the first time that OGC has released a standard with an implementation test and implementations that have passed the test. The CSW 3.0 compliance test suite is available on the OGC validation web site. Two reference implementations (pycsw and Esri Geoportal Server) are available to re-use, implement, or customize: see <https://github.com/opengeospatial/cite/wiki/Reference-Implementations>.

OGC® Catalogue Services 3.0 Specification - HTTP Protocol Binding

OGC announced the release of OGC® Catalogue Services 3.0 Specification - HTTP Protocol Binding on July 12

OGC® Catalogue Services 3.0 Specification - HTTP Protocol Binding specifies the HTTP profile of CAT 3.0 and mapping of the Catalogue abstract model interface to HTTP protocol binding.

In HTTP protocol binding, operation requests and responses are sent between clients and servers using HTTP GET and/or HTTP POST. Two request encodings are defined in this standard. KVP is suitable for use with HTTP GET, while XML is suitable for use with HTTP POST.

This standard defines operations that allow a client to get a service description document for the catalogue (GetCapabilities); interrogate the service about the kinds of data available (GetDomain); retrieve records from the catalogue (GetRecordById and GetRecords); and add, modify and remove records from the catalogue service (Transaction, Harvest, UnHarvest).

OGC Abstract Specification Topic 11: Metadata

The OGC and ISO TC/211, which maintains ISO 19115, align standards whenever possible. ISO has adopted many OGC standards, while OGC references fundamental ISO Standards in its Standards Baseline. The ISO 19115 metadata Standard was updated in 2014 and numerous organizations now mandate use of this most recent version: hence, there was a proposal to update of OGC Abstract Specification Topic 11: Metadata from ISO 19115:2003 to ISO 19115-1:2014.

History:

1. The OGC Architecture Board (OAB) completed its review on 2016-02-28.
2. OGC® requested public comment on the update of OGC Abstract Specification Topic 11: Metadata from ISO 19115:2003 to ISO 19115-1:2014. The OGC Architecture Board (OAB) and the Metadata Domain Working Group (DWG) approved the update. The period for public comment closed May 7. Several comments highlighted dependencies on the previous version of the Abstract Specification Topic.
3. The candidate standard was presented to the Technical Committee (TC) during the Closing Plenary of the June 2016 Dublin TC meeting. At the June 2016 OGC TC meeting, members approved an electronic vote to approve [16-032r2] "ISO 19115-1:2014 Geographic information – Metadata – Part 1: Fundamentals" as an update to the OGC Abstract Specification, Topic 11.
4. TC approved the start of electronic vote 2016-06-23.
5. The ballot to update Abstract Specification Topic 11 - Metadata to ISO 19115-1:2014 opened on July 20. It will close on September 3.

Community standards

OGC has introduced a new type of standard called a "community standard" that addresses widely implemented existing standards such as GeoTIFF.

Contact

Contact your agency's representative(s) to OGC for more information.

Geospatial-Intelligence Standards WG (GWG)

The GWG Geospatial Web Services Focus Group met on March 17. The GWG 16-2 voting meeting was held on June 22, 2016.

Contact

For more information, contact Julie Maitra, FGDC representative to GWG, or your agency's representative to GWG.

Monthly standards update

The July 2016 standards tracking workbook may be downloaded from

https://www.fgdc.gov/standards/monthlyStandardsUpdate/2016-07/2016-07_StandardsUpdate.xlsx/view.

The benefit and use of the standards tracking workbook is under evaluation.

The standards tracking workbook (Excel) has been maintained since February 2011. There is a worksheet for each year, and within each worksheet, there are columns to track standards over the months.

The standards tracking workbook now covers over 300 standards from FGDC, INCITS Technical Committee L1, ISO Technical Committee 211, OGC, and other standardization activities. The effort is very time-intensive, due to the amount of information that is collected, reviewed, and corroborated.

The FGDC Standards Program Manager requests input from people working with standards. Questions:

- Is your agency aware of the standards update resource?
- Has your agency downloaded it?
- How have you used it?
- Do you have suggestions for improving its use/effectiveness?

Other items of interest

- The Library of Congress provides descriptions of various geospatial data formats: see http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/formats/fdd/gis_fdd.shtml. Not all are open data formats.
- Implementation Guidelines for National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP) Ver. 2.2, https://data.gov.in/sites/default/files/NDSAP_Implementation_Guidelines_2.2.pdf, from the National Informatics Centre, Government of India, proposes that geospatial data should be published in GML or KML.
- The European Data Portal recommends that geospatial data should be published in open data formats like GeoJSON and KML. These formats can easily be imported into/exported from mapping tools like Open Street Map and CartoDB. See Choosing the right format for open data, <https://www.europeandataportal.eu/elearning/en/module9/#/id/co-01>.
- The Research Data Alliance has established a metadata standards directory on GitHub: see <http://rd-alliance.github.io/metadata-directory/>. The directory lists both the FGDC Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata and ISO 19115. FGDC members might be interested in reviewing the directory for metadata standards that apply to their domains.

Events

Year	Month	Date(s)	Event	Location
2016	August	08/01-08/05	UN-GGIM	New York, New York
		08/08-08/11	65th Annual SES Conference	Denver, Colorado
		08/11	GWG Geospatial Web Services Focus Group	Chantilly, VA
	September	09/13	CG	
		09/14	FGDC Metadata WG	
		09/19-09/23	OGC	Orlando, FL
		09/26-09/30	INSPIRE Conference 2016	Barcelona, Spain
		09/30	INCITS L1/U.S. TAG	
	October	10/11	CG	
		10/13	FedGeoDay	Washington, DC
		10/24-10/28	World Standards Week	Washington, DC
	November	11/08	CG	
		11/11	INCITS L1/U.S. TAG	
		11/28-12/02	GSDI 15th World Conference	Taipei, Taiwan
		11/28-12/02	ISO TC 211 Plenary and meetings	Redlands, CA
	December	12/04-12/08	OGC	Taichung, Taiwan
		12/13	CG	
	2017	March	03/20-03/24	OGC
June		06/26-06/30	OGC	St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

Contact

Julie Binder Maitra

FGDC Standards Program Manager

Phone: 703-648-4627

Email: jmaitra@usgs.gov

Web: www.fgdc.gov/standards

LinkedIn

Profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/juliebindermaitra>

FGDC Standards WG: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8243676>