Metadata

Metadata provides information about the distinct items, such as: means of creation, purpose of the data, time and date of creation, creator or author of data, placement on a network (electronic form) where the data was created, what standards used etc.

The main purpose of metadata is to facilitate in the discovery of relevant information, more often classified as resource discovery. Metadata also helps organize electronic resources, provide digital identification, and helps support archiving and preservation of the resource.

An element of metadata describes an information resource, or helps provide access to an information resource. A collection of such metadata elements may describe one or many information resources.

Metadata can be created either by automated information processing or by manual work. Elementary metadata captured by computers can include information about when a file was created, who created it, when it was last updated, file size and file extension.

Metadata shall primarily created by humans to enhance access and usage of content and provide information that computers are not yet able to interpret including subject, keywords, abstract.

Metadata is typically structured according to a standardised concept using a well defined metadata scheme, including: metadata standards and metadata models.

Metadata syntax refers to the rules created to structure the fields or elements of metadata. A single metadata scheme may be expressed in a number of different markup or programming languages, each of which requires a different syntax. For example, Dublin Core may be expressed in plain text, HTML, XML and RDF.

KML

Keyhole Markup Language (KML) is an XML-based format for storing geographic data and associated content and is an official Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standard. KML is a common format for sharing geographic data with non-GIS users as it can be easily delivered on the Internet and viewed in a number of free applications, including Google Earth and ArcGIS Explorer. KML files have either a .kml or .kmz (for compressed or zipped KML files) file extension. KML is an XML based file format used to display geographic data in an Earth browser such as Google Earth, Google Maps, and Google Maps for mobile. KML uses a tag-based structure with nested elements and attributes and is based on the XML standard.

KML can be composed of both feature and raster elements including points, lines, polygons, and imagery, as well as related content like graphics, pictures, attributes, and HTML. Whereas datasets in ArcGIS are typically seen as separate and homogeneous elements (for example, point feature classes can only contain points, rasters can only contain cells or pixels and not features), a single KML file can contain features of different types as well as imagery.