



## Environmental Dataset Gateway (EDG)

Connecting EPA's Environmental Resources

A number of Environmental Dataset Gateway (EDG) Stewards have inquired about ways to document their metadata in order to maximize EDG capabilities. Individuals may be interested in optimizing their records to perform well in a search or in ensuring that they can find their particular contributions at the EDG. Recommendations are provided below that may help individuals improve their metadata in general and optimize the content such that it is discovered easily and consistently at the EDG.

- ***Optimizing results:*** When providing a title and describing your data in your metadata record, it is helpful to include both the full name of the dataset as well as the dataset acronym (where applicable) in the title, abstract, and keywords sections of the record. Including both the full name of the dataset and the acronym in your records will help ensure your metadata are discovered in EDG searches. This will also help different types of users (e.g., those that know your dataset by its the full name versus those who know it only by its acronym) to find your records more easily.
- ***Finding your own records at the EDG:*** One of the best ways for your metadata to be consistently discovered in EDG records searches is to include your office name in the record title. This makes it easier for individuals to find your data when searching, helps you select your records from the EDG, and promotes uniformity of EDG content. For best results, the office name should be spelled out consistently; for example, "US EPA Region 8". When the name is included consistently in all record titles, contributors can include the name in quotes when searching the EDG to find their records. The consistent naming convention is particularly useful when the name is used in REST outputs to provide links to just those records in the EDG that match the name (see [Reusing EDG Components](#) for more information about REST outputs).
- ***Documenting Online Linkage:*** The EDG uses the primary and secondary linkage elements in each metadata record in a specific way. The primary linkage in a metadata record generally links to the dataset or resource described by the metadata and the secondary linkage generally links to a supporting website, if applicable. For offices that provide downloadable data to the EDG Data Download Locations site, it is recommended that the download location URL be referenced as the primary linkage and the office or program website or other informational URL be referenced as the secondary linkage. This helps ensure that the download, website, and preview buttons all work as expected at the EDG. As such, it is important that records that are being made available to the public include a primary link that points to the dataset being described, whether that is a service, an FTP site, or a link to an http site where the data can be downloaded.