

fact sheet

DRI Factsheet Series No. 1:
Metadata and the DRI. Oct. 2013

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Metadata and the DRI

DRI uses metadata (often described as ‘data about data’) to enhance content searchability, discoverability and support overall data management. DRI conducted a comprehensive survey of Irish social science and humanities institutions, and determined the most prevalent metadata standards in use nationally.¹ These metadata standards were mapped to track commonalities, in order to create guidelines and to ensure DRI’s search results are comprehensive and accurate.

Metadata Standards

DRI believes it is good practice to support selected existing metadata standards rather than creating a new metadata standard for the Repository.

DRI will capture, create and utilise descriptive, administrative, structural, technical and preservation metadata.

Phase 1 of our metadata review determined how the Repository will support the following standards: Dublin Core (Simple and Qualified), MODS, EAD, MARCXML.

Phase 2 of this process will work towards the inclusion of additional standards.

Metadata in DRI

DRI will require a number of mandatory fields for all ingested objects to facilitate information retrieval and promote content discoverability. We encourage the creation of rich metadata, and will therefore display all the metadata elements provided for an object or collection.

DRI recommends the use of controlled vocabularies, and has collated a list of those most widely used here:
www.dri.ie/vocabularies

Public Access to Metadata

DRI supports the sharing and reuse of data where possible, and all metadata in the Repository will be publicly accessible and licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution Licence (CC-BY).² The CC-BY licence is in line with DRI’s advocacy for the principles of Open Access.³



1. *Digital Archiving in Ireland: National Survey of the Humanities and Social Sciences*. DRI Series no. 1 (Oct. 2012) <http://dri.ie/digital-archiving-in-ireland-2012.pdf>

2. <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

3. See *Open Access for Data and the Digital Repository of Ireland, ent*, (Feb 2014) Accessible at: www.dri.ie/publications