Frequently Asked Questions

What does the *undetermined* data type mean when I see results in Geodisy?

Geodisy harvests all kinds of data, and not all of those data types are explicitly geospatial. *Undetermined* can have multiple meanings:

- The data in question is related to place, but is not a traditional geospatial file. Examples include:
    - Statistical data about a place, such as a survey of residents of Vancouver
    - Weather data such as a comma separated value file of weather information for a province. Although the data is about a place, it is a CSV file without, say, point geospatial coordinates
- The data set *is* geospatial, but the detection systems in Geodisy were not able to classify by type. Geospatial data comes in a huge variety of formats, and not all of them are common or detectable by all software. Examples include:
    - Data in older formats, such as Esri .e00 interchange formats
    - Uncommon spatial data types, such as Spatialite databases

This does not mean that data sets will not work with a geographic information system, only that they are not downloadable as shapefiles or raster data from the *Geodisy* interface. They are still downloadable from the original source repository, by following the **More details at** link

What kind of data is being searched in Geodisy?

Although *Geodisy* is a geospatial search tool, it searches for any type of data which has a geographic component in the *description* of the data. This means that it's possible to find data **about** a place. A map-based search has traditionally returned only items that can be viewed in an application specifically for mapping, but Geodisy returns all types of data. Searching for data in Nigeria will return survey data **about** Nigeria, even though the data set may not contain latitude/longitude points or imagery.

What is the ISO 19115 metadata link?

All items appearing in *Geodisy* will have [ISO 19115] (https://www.iso.org/standard/26020.html) geospatial metadata created when added to Geodisy, which is an international standard used for describing geographic data. This ensures that:

- all metadata appearing in *Geodisy* will have a consistent, standardized schema
- Geographic information not present in the source record but discovered by *Geodisy* will be added to metadata in consistent fashion
- Metadata will be readable and usable by modern geographic information systems

Where can I find links to guides about Geodisy and how it works?

Documentation for Geodisy can be found on its home page: https://ubc-library.github.io/geodisy

Brief user guides are available for:

- Adding metadata to records so that they're easily discoverable by Geodisy: Depositor guide
- [Connecting your Dataverse repository to Geodisy at Canada's Federated Research Data Repository: Institutional guide

How do Dataverse records become Geodisy records?

Researchers need only deposit their data into a Dataverse repository with a connection to an instance of Geodisy. If the deposit contains appropriate information in the record *or* in the associated files:

- The record will be harvested by *Geodisy*
- Any geographic information found in the study record and associated files will be automatically harvested

- A unique record for each file containing data will be created in *Geodisy*, and will have a geographic area created for it based on its description or file content
- in the case of multiple files with data, multiple *Geodisy* records will be created for each appropriate piece of data, and related files shown
- ISO 19115 standardized metadata will be created
- Links to the source repository will be created
- Bounding boxes for data being harvested will be generated and made searchable by the interface
- Download links will be generated for valid file types