



APS: Master Data Dictionary & Coding Instrument

Study: The American Periphenomenal Survey (APS)

Division: Cascadia (Region 10)

Version: 3.2 (Golden Master)

Status: Operational

1. INTRODUCTION & SCOPE

This document serves as the authoritative definition for all variables, data types, and terminology used within the APS Digital Registry and Field Operations. It ensures semantic consistency across the SQL/NoSQL backend, the intake forms, and analyst reports.

2. METADATA VARIABLES (System Generated)

timestamp

- **Data Type:** DATETIME (ISO 8601)
- **Definition:** The exact UTC moment the record was committed to the database.
- **Source:** System generated upon POST request.

log_id

- **Data Type:** STRING (Format: **CAS-XXXXXX**)
- **Definition:** Unique primary key for the entry. "**CAS**" denotes Cascadia Division.
- **Source:** System generated.

3. RESPONDENT PROFILE (Demographics)

age_group

- **Data Type:** ENUM
- **Definition:** The generational cohort of the subject.

- **Valid Values:** "18-25", "26-35", "36-45", "46-55", "56-65", "66+"

gender

- **Data Type:** STRING
- **Definition:** Self-identified gender of the subject.
- **Valid Values:** Open Text (Standardized to M, F, NB, Other during analysis).

occupation

- **Data Type:** STRING
- **Definition:** The primary trade or professional background of the subject.
- **Significance:** Used to assess "Witness Reliability" (e.g., specialized training) and socioeconomic patterns.

cultural_bg

- **Data Type:** STRING (Open Text)
- **Definition:** The primary cultural or spiritual lens through which the subject views the world.

worldview

- **Data Type:** ENUM
- **Definition:** Analyst assessment of the subject's ontological baseline.
- **Valid Values:** REL (Religious), AGN (Agnostic), SPI (Spiritual), SIM (Simulation Theory), UNK (Unknown).

witness_status

- **Data Type:** ENUM
- **Definition:** The social configuration of the witness at the time of the event.
- **Valid Values:**
 - ALONE: Subject was solitary. (High risk of hallucination/misperception).
 - WITNESS_1: Subject was with one other person.
 - WITNESS_GROUP: Subject was with 3+ people. (High credibility / Mass Observation).
 - UNCERTAIN: Subject cannot recall or status is ambiguous.

4. THE EVENT (Phenomenology & Narrative)

narrative

- **Data Type:** TEXT (Long)
- **Definition:** The raw, verbatim account of the experience as provided by the subject.

attribution

- **Data Type:** STRING (Long Text)
- **Definition:** The subject's personal hypothesis regarding the origin or nature of the anomaly (e.g., "Aliens," "Military Drone," "Ghost," "Sleep Paralysis").
- **Significance:** This measures **Belief Systems**, not objective reality. It allows the APS to track how cultural narratives (e.g., pop culture movies) influence how people interpret ambiguous events.
- **Coding Protocol:** Do not correct the subject. If they say "Angel," code it as "Angel."

location_state

- **Data Type:** ENUM (Code)
- **Definition:** The geopolitical jurisdiction of the event.
- **Valid Values:** WA, OR, ID, BC, AK, NORCAL, OTHER.

location_specific

- **Data Type:** STRING
- **Definition:** Granular location data (e.g., "Olympic National Park, Hoh River Trail").

5. HIGH STRANGENESS INDICATORS (Checklist)

phenom_silence ("The Oz Factor")

- **Definition:** A sudden, unnatural cessation of ambient environmental noise (birds, wind, insects).

phenom_hum

- **Definition:** Persistent low-frequency mechanical vibration or noise with no visible source.

phenom_time

- **Definition:** Subjective or objective discrepancy in time passage (Missing Time).

phenom_fear

- **Definition:** Sudden onset of irrational dread or "fight or flight" response absent of a visible threat.

phenom_tech

- **Definition:** Unexplained failure of electronics, battery drainage, or vehicle stalling in proximity to the anomaly.

phenom_ozone

- **Definition:** Presence of acrid, sulfurous, or metallic odors.

phenom_paralysis

- **Definition:** Inability to move voluntary muscles during the encounter (Sleep Paralysis).

phenom_nausea

- **Definition:** Physical physiological reaction including vertigo, headache, or nausea.

6. LEGAL & PRIVACY FLAGS (Critical)

permission_level

- **Data Type:** ENUM
- **Definition:** The explicit consent granted by the data subject regarding the publication of their narrative.
- **Valid Values:**
 - **PUBLISH_ANON:** **Full Archive.** Subject authorizes public display of anonymized narrative.
 - **PRIVATE_DATA:** **Data Only.** Subject restricts usage to internal statistical analysis only. Narrative must NOT be published.

contact_info

- **Data Type:** STRING (Encrypted)
- **Definition:** Personally Identifiable Information (PII) provided for follow-up.
- **Security:** Must be redacted in all public datasets. Access restricted to Directorate Level.

7. TERMINOLOGY DEFINITIONS

Periphenomena (*n.*)

- **Etymology:** Greek *peri-* ("around," "fringe") + *phainomena* ("observable occurrences").
- **Definition:** The collective category of observable events, anomalies, or interactions that manifest at the boundaries of human perception and consensus reality. Unlike "Paranormal," it refers strictly to observable data without assuming a cause.

Liminal Space (*n.*)

- **Definition:** A physical or psychological threshold; a transition zone (e.g., waiting rooms, dusk, shorelines) where reality feels "thin."