**Name of Standard:** Europeana Data Model (EDM)

**URL:** <https://pro.europeana.eu/resources/standardization-tools/edm-documentation> (leads to various documentation and the schema files)

**Related Resources:**

* EDM Defintion (<https://pro.europeana.eu/files/Europeana_Professional/Share_your_data/Technical_requirements/EDM_Documentation//EDM_Definition_v5.2.8_102017.pdf>), most comprehensive description of classes and properties of EDM, including some that might not currently be in use
* EDM Primer (<https://pro.europeana.eu/files/Europeana_Professional/Share_your_data/Technical_requirements/EDM_Documentation/EDM_Primer_130714.pdf>) gives an overview of the development of EDM and provides some illustrative examples
* EDM Mapping Guidelines (<https://pro.europeana.eu/files/Europeana_Professional/Share_your_data/Technical_requirements/EDM_Documentation/EDM_Mapping_Guidelines_v2.4_102017.pdf>) with descriptions of all current classes and properties
* EDM Roadmap (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1omFFf4KsNZAAnaOUvXOvxRc1nmrKcLHxrrB58KwLY2g/edit#>)
* EDM schema files (<https://github.com/europeana/corelib/tree/master/corelib-edm-definitions/src/main/resources/eu>)

**Summary (1-2 sentences):**

The EDM has been developed as part of the various projects that brought to life [Europeana](https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en), the cross-domain aggregator for cultural heritage. The portal includes digital/digitised objects from libraries, archives, museums and archaeological collections and hence EDM includes bits and pieces from the dominating standards in these domains (and others). There have been smaller specialist projects coming out of Europeana, e.g. on audio-visual content or the topic of fashion, which have reused EDM and extended it to fit their specific purposes. Europeana also collaborated with the [Digital Public Library of America](https://dp.la/) (DPLA) on the aspect of rights information.

**Discussion:**

1. **Background (a few words)**
   1. **What kind of a standard is it? (Conceptual model, ontology, …)**The core of EDM still is Dublin Core (dc and dcterms) element, which results from the heritage of its predecessor, the Europeana Semantic Elements (ESE). In addition, there are loans from other standards (ORE - Open Archives Initiative Object Reuse and Exchange / RDFS - Resource Description Framework Schema / DCAT - Data Catalogue Vocabulary / SKOS - Simple Knowledge Organization System) and Europeana’s own classes and properties. It is an object-centric conceptual model aiming at RDF/Semantic Web implementation (providing “a framework for collecting, connecting and enriching metadata”).
   2. **Who maintains this standard?**The Europeana Network Association (<https://pro.europeana.eu/>)
   3. **How old is it?**Work started in 2007. The latest version of Mapping Guidelines is from October 2017 as is version 5.2.8. of the EDM Definition. The latest commit on GitHub for the schema dates from July 2018.
   4. **What is its stated purpose and scope?**Bridge gaps between different metadata standards used in the cultural heritage domain in order for the data from libraries, archives, museums and other heritage institutions to appear in a meaningful way in a cross-cultural, multilingual context such as Europeana.
2. **Relation to Archival Description (1-2 sentences)**
   1. **expand on 1d**While these standards are not effectively represented or referenced in EDM in its current form, the development/history of EDM included review and evaluation of domain-specific standards from MARC21 to FRBR-oo to CIDOC-CRM to EAD (2002 at that point of time).   
      In terms of EAD, Europeana’s engagement with the Archives Portal Europe as the archives domain aggregator has led to various approaches of [mapping EAD to EDM](https://pro.europeana.eu/page/ead-edm). The main challenge in this context has been the hierarchical approach of EAD including the concept of inheriting information from higher levels of description to the file/item level, which doesn’t necessarily fit well with EDM’s object-centric approach.   
      That being said, a lot of this is in the implementation of EDM within the Europeana portal rather than within the data model itself, which includes options to indicate hierarchical and sequential relationships.
   2. **If archival description is outside the stated purpose/scope, explain how it could be used for archival metadata**An additional challenge for representing descriptive archival metadata (read “finding aids” in their hierarchical form) is EDM’s triad of the classes <edm:ProvidedCHO> (Cultural Heritage Object) including most of the descriptive metadata of the object, the <edm:WebResource> as the digital representation of the object along with e.g. rights information with regard to access/re-use, and the <ore:Aggregation> binding both of these together as well as establishing potential relationships with other objects. In the classic approach to hierarchical levels between the collection/fonds and the file/item, there isn’t necessarily a way to include a digital representation of these levels, which often only hold a title and - maybe - an identifier.
3. **What it does well (1-2 sentences) and 4. Shortcomings (1-2 sentences)**In my opinion, EDM’s strength and weaknesses are in its endeavour of bringing together data from - sometimes - very different domains and traditions. There are good aspects in the model with regard to e.g. breaking it down to DC elements for the main descriptive metadata and thereby agreeing on general terminology rather than accommodating “different terms for the same thing”. On the other hand, this general view also comes with the need to compromise.
4. **Possible Impact on Structured Archival Data (2-5 sentences)**One area within EDM might be of interest for EAS, especially for EAD: rights declaration using Creative Common licences as well as some additional [rights statements](https://pro.europeana.eu/page/available-rights-statements). These are now maintained by the [Rights Consortium](https://pro.europeana.eu/resources/standardization-tools/rightsstatements-org) of Europeana and DPLA and others, i.e. they seem to be getting more attention. There might be a possibility there to (a) be more specific with regard to what’s currently captured in <accessrestrict> and <userestrict> and (b) to perhaps be more interoperable.

The Archives Portal Europe has tried to integrate this information via a combination of EAD and [METSRights](https://www.loc.gov/standards/rights/METSRights.xsd), creating a [specific profile](http://www.archivesportaleuropefoundation.eu/images/docs/apeMETS/apeMETSRights.xsd) of the latter.