

# Introduction to Metadata

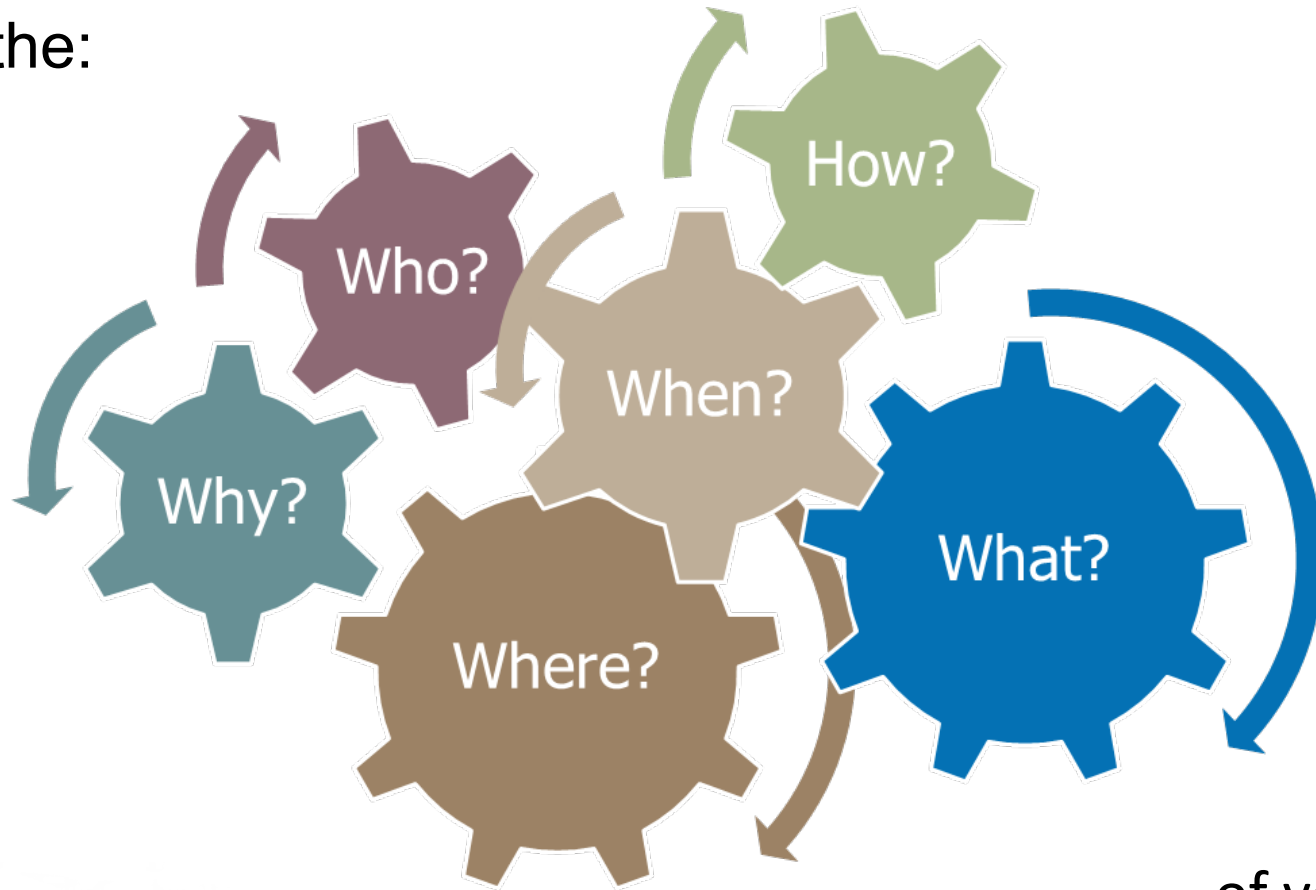
## What is Metadata?



# Data About Data

Metadata is the data, or information, about the data.

It is the:



of your data

# Data Reporting

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## Who

- created the data?
- manages the data?

## Where

- is the study area?
- can I access the data?

## What

- is the data content?
- source data was used?

## How

- was the data created?
- is the data distributed?

## When

- is the time period of the content?
- was the data created?

## Why

- was the data created?
- are there missing values?

# A Label For Your Data

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# A Label For Your Data

entity

attributes

sources

responsible party

publication place

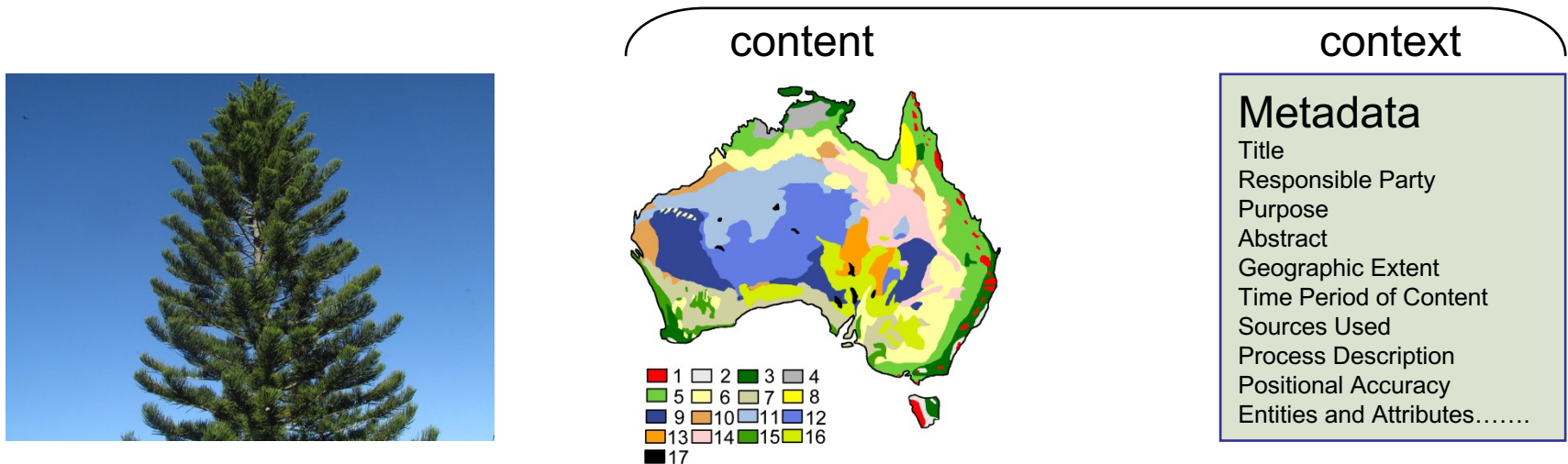




# Metadata Is Part of the Data

Metadata gives context to data content

## DATA



**phenomena**

**map / image / database**

**metadata**

*abstraction*

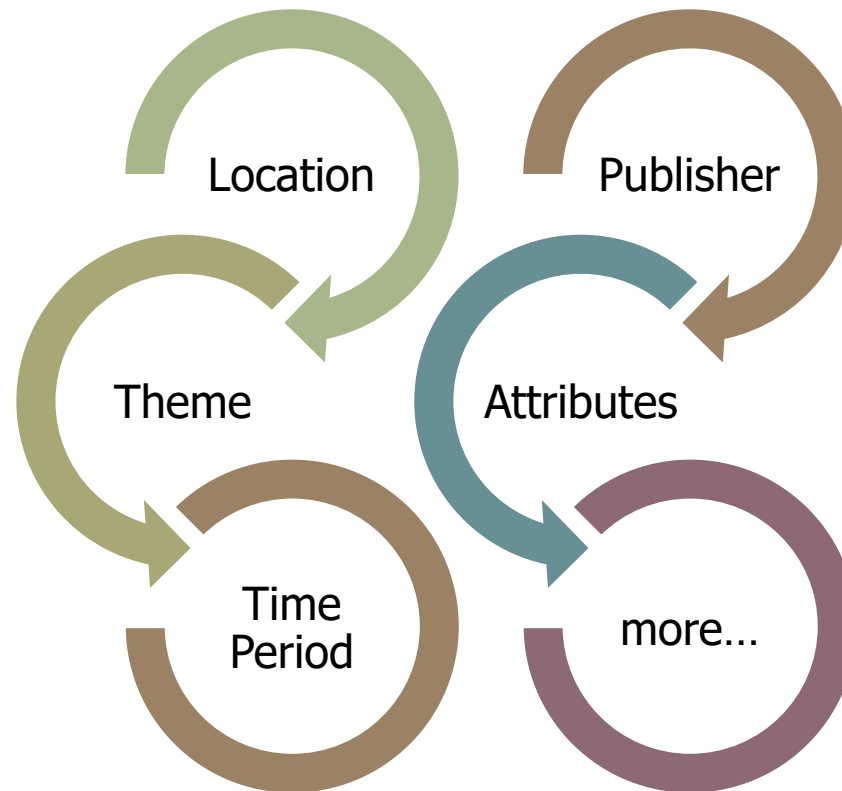
*abstraction*



# Metadata Aids Data Discovery

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Metadata enables users to search for data by:



# Metadata Aids Data Discovery

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Metadata enables users to search their own:

Data  
Management  
System

- Geographic Information System (GIS)
- Database Management System (DBMS)
- other...

Metadata enables user to search external:

Data  
Distribution  
Systems

- Data Catalogs
- Data Servers
- Web-mapping Applications
- other...



# Spatial Data Infrastructure

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tools



people



**Spatial Data Infrastructure**



policies

Data communities and organizations  
can facilitate data sharing by  
establishing a

that coordinates  
the type of data to be shared  
and establishes tools, standards  
and policies for the benefit of  
data producers and consumers



# National Spatial Data Infrastructure

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The U.S. National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) was developed to improve data sharing and use among all sectors of government, academia, and the private sector

## NSDI

### National Spatial Data Infrastructure

...a set of actions and new ways of **accessing**, **sharing** and **using** geographic data that enables far more comprehensive analysis of data to help decision-makers choose the best course(s) of action

access

share

use

# The NSDI and Geospatial Platform

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The Geospatial Platform (GeoPlatform.gov) is the implementation component of the NSDI for the delivery of data, services, and applications that support informed decision-making about national and regional issues

## Geospatial Platform

...provides shared and trusted geospatial **data**, **services**, and **applications** for use by the public and by government agencies and partners to meet their mission needs

data

services

applications

# Metadata Supports the NSDI

Metadata supports the NSDI by fueling the Geospatial Platform with needed information

