

Metadata

PDF document may include general information, such as the document's title, author, and creation and modification dates. Such global information about the document (as opposed to its content or structure) is called metadata and is intended to assist in cataloguing and searching for documents in external databases. Beginning with PDF 1.4, metadata may also be specified for individual components of a document.

Metadata may be stored in a PDF document in either of the following ways:

- In a metadata stream (PDF 1.4) associated with the document or a component of the document
- In a document information dictionary associated with the document

NOTE Document information dictionaries is the original way that metadata was included in a PDF file. Metadata streams were introduced in PDF 1.4 and is now the preferred method to include metadata.