

WMO Core Metadata Profile 2, Key Performance Indicators

World Meteorological Organization

Date: 2026-01-07

Version: 2.1.0

Document location: <https://wmo-im.github.io/wcmp2/kpi/wcmp2-kpi-DRAFT.html>

Task Team on WIS Metadata (TT-WISMD)^[1]

Expert Team on Metadata Standards (ET-Metadata)^[2]

Standing Committee on Information Management and Technology (SC-IMT)^[3]

Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (INFCOM)^[4]

Copyright © 2024-2025 World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Table of Contents

1. Overview	3
1.1. Purpose	3
1.2. Scope	3
1.3. Audience	3
1.4. How to use	3
1.5. Scoring	3
1.6. Reference implementation	4
1.7. Conventions	4
2. Key performance indicators	6
2.1. Good quality title	6
2.2. Good quality description	7
2.3. Time intervals	9
2.4. Graphic overview for metadata records	10
2.5. Links health	11
2.6. Contacts	12
2.7. Persistent identifiers	14

Chapter 1. Overview

1.1. Purpose

This document is intended to define Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in support of the WMO Core Metadata Profile (WCMP). KPIs provide measurable and valuable quality assessment rules over and above the rulesets put forth by WCMP.

The core driver of WCMP KPIs is continuous improvement and useability of discovery metadata as part of the WMO Information System (WIS).^[5]

1.2. Scope

This document is bound to the WCMP 2 specification and codelists. All other metadata specifications or representations are not in scope.

1.3. Audience

The target stakeholder audiences for this document include (but are not limited to):

- Metadata providers (NCs, DCPCs)
- WIS2 Global Discovery Catalogues (GDCs)
- WIS2 Nodes
- GAW World Data Centres (WDCs)
- WIS2 Monitoring
- Metadata implementers (generation, ingest)

1.4. How to use

The KPIs in this document are designed to help metadata providers in the curation of discovery metadata, as well as GDCs to measure the quality of metadata from data providers.

In order to improve quality:

- providers should use the KPIs to build into their metadata generation
- WIS2 Global Services and consumers should use the KPIs in order to quality assess discovery metadata and provide subsequent feedback to providers

1.5. Scoring

Each KPI assesses a number of criteria associated with metadata quality, resulting in a raw score, as well as a percentage. This approach supports weighted rubric scoring.

1.6. Reference implementation

The TT-WISMD maintains `pywcmp`^[6], as the reference WCMP validation utility, which includes:

- validation against WMO Core Metadata Profile 2, Annex A: Conformance Class Abstract Test Suite (Normative)
- validation against the KPIs described in this document

Documentation on installation, configuration and usage can be found on the `pywcmp` website.

`pywcmp` is provided as a resource to the community, under continuous improvement. Contributions are welcome and can be facilitated by the WMO.

1.7. Conventions

1.7.1. Symbols and abbreviated terms

Table 1. Symbols and abbreviated terms

Abbreviation	Term
AJAX	Asynchronous JavaScript and XML
CSV	Comma-separated values
DCPC	Data Collection and Production Centres
DOI	Digital Object Identifier
GAW	Global Atmospheric Watch
GDC	Global Discovery Catalogue
HTML	Hypertext Markup Language
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol
HTTPS	Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure
INSPIRE	Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation
MIME	Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions
NC	National Centre
OGC	Open Geospatial Consortium
pywcmp	WMO implementation of WCMP validation
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
WCMP	WMO Core Metadata Profile
WDC	World Data Centre
WIS	WMO Information System

Abbreviation	Term
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
XHR	XMLHttpRequest

- [1] <https://community.wmo.int/governance/commission-membership/commission-observation-infrastructures-and-information-systems-infcom/commission-infrastructure-officers/infcom-management-group/standing-committee-information-management-and-technology-sc-imt/expert-team-metadata-0>
- [2] <https://community.wmo.int/governance/commission-membership/commission-observation-infrastructures-and-information-systems-infcom/commission-infrastructure-national-representatives/infcom-management-group/standing-committee-information-management-and-technology-sc-imt/et-metadata>
- [3] <https://community.wmo.int/governance/commission-membership/commission-observation-infrastructures-and-information-systems-infcom/commission-infrastructure-officers/infcom-management-group/standing-committee-information-management-and-technology-sc-imt>
- [4] <https://community.wmo.int/governance/commission-membership/infcom>
- [5] <https://community.wmo.int/activity-areas/wmo-information-system-wis>
- [6] <https://github.com/wmo-im/pywcmp>

Chapter 2. Key performance indicators

2.1. Good quality title

2.1.1. WCMP Properties

- `properties.title`

2.1.2. Rationale for measurement

The title is the first element of metadata information displayed and helps with initial identification. Meaningful and relevant information makes it easier for users to understand the resource.

In the context of WIS2 Global Discovery Catalogues, the product title and description are the two most relevant elements in the WCMP metadata record. These two elements are presented to the users in search results and on the product description page. They should highlight the product's key characteristics to assist users with relevant search results.

2.1.3. Measurement

The length is not too short or too long, contains less than three acronyms and is represented in sentence case. Spelling and grammar are correct.

2.1.4. Guidance

The title should be as specific as possible. For example, if the product only contains one parameter, this can be stated in the title; however, if the product contains numerous parameters, then a more general term should be used in the title, and the parameters stated elsewhere in the metadata record (description, themes, keywords, etc.).

2.1.5. Rules

Table 2. Good quality title rules

Rule	Score
The title is present	1
The title has 3 words or more	1
The title has 150 characters or less	1
The title has only printable characters (numbers and letters) and round brackets	1
The words in title are represented in "Sentence case"	1
The title contains less than 3 acronyms (words with all upper case)	1

Rule	Score
The title <i>does not</i> contain bulletin header (regular expression: <code>[A-Z]{4}\d{2}[\s_]*[A-Z]{4}</code>)	1
The title passes a basic spellcheck	1

Total possible score: 8 (100%)

2.2. Good quality description

2.2.1. WCMP properties

- `properties.description`

2.2.2. Rationale for measurement

The description facilitates ease of understanding and discovery and so is a key element of metadata information displayed as part of search results. Extensive and meaningful descriptive information allows for users to both understand and properly evaluate a metadata record and its respective resource in support of data access, visualization and exploitation.

In the context of WIS2 Global Discovery Catalogues, the product title and description are the two most relevant elements in the WCMP metadata record.

2.2.3. Measurement

The description shall not be too short or too long and not contain HTML markup. Spelling and grammar are correct. Bulletin templates should not be used to populate the description.

2.2.4. Guidance

The description should provide a clear and concise statement that enables the reader to understand the content of the dataset. For guidance when completing the description, consider the following:

2.2.4.1. Relevant recommendations

Aim to be understood by non-experts

- Avoid adding a scientific description

Describe the contents of the resource and the key aspects or attributes that are represented

- Limit information in the description to the specific resource that is being described, i.e. do not include general background information
- Explain briefly what is unique about this resource and, if appropriate, how it differs from similar resources
- State any other limiting information, such as time period of data validity or geographic coverage

Spell out uncommon acronyms only once

- Avoid jargon and unexplained abbreviations
- Avoid spelling out commonly used acronyms which are already understood by the general public

Write using present or past tenses

- Avoid using future verb tense when possible

Use simple paragraph(s) only

- Avoid including HTML and CSV tables or extra spaces to control display of text

Add purpose of data resource where relevant (e.g. for survey data)

- Avoid citing external sources to this resource
- Avoid copying text from a journal article verbatim because this can lead to copyright violation concerns. Additionally, abstracts for journal articles are not intended to describe the provided resource and do not meet the metadata requirements. Related papers can be referenced in the metadata record links.

2.2.4.2. Spell checking recommendations

- Dictionary by Merriam-Webster: America's most-trusted online dictionary^[1]
- Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus^[2]

2.2.5. Examples

```
"properties": {  
  ...  
  "description": "For WMO Information System 2.0 (WIS 2.0) DWD provides a Global  
Cache Service. It offers the possibility to download cached core data from a single  
source. An automatic download is made possible by messages that are distributed  
worldwide and contain the actual download link. Subscription to receive the messages  
is possible via Global Brokers. General notes: 1) Maximum message size is limited to  
8192 bytes, 2) Connected Global Brokers are Global Broker MF and Global Broker CMA, 3)  
During the test phase the data is not yet cached for 24 hours",  
  ...  
}
```

2.2.6. Rules

Table 3. Good quality description implementation rules

Rule	Score
The description has between 16 and 2048 characters	1
The description does not contain markup (HTML)	1
The description passes a basic spellcheck	1

Rule	Score
The description <i>does not</i> contain a bulletin template	1

Total possible score: 4 (100%)

2.3. Time intervals

2.3.1. WCMP properties

- `time.interval`
- `additionalElements.temporal.interval`

2.3.2. Rationale for measurement

Temporal information is a significant characteristic of weather, climate, and water data and is critical for users to know which time periods are covered by products and how often new products are received.

2.3.3. Measurement

The time interval is present and contains and has a corresponding resolution.

2.3.4. Guidance

Ensure that the temporal extent resolution is present in the metadata record.

2.3.4.1. Examples

```
"time": {
  "interval" : ["2020-10-30", ".."],
  "resolution": "P1D"
}
```

2.3.5. Rules

Table 4. Temporal information implementation rules

Rule	Score
The begin is less than the end or open.	1
Only one of the interval extents may be open (begin or end but not both).	1
For every interval there is a corresponding resolution present.	1

*Total possible score: (begin less than end + only one interval open + resolution) / (total intervals *

2.4. Graphic overview for metadata records

2.4.1. WCMP properties

- `$.links[?(@.rel=="preview")]`

2.4.2. Rationale for measurement

A graphic overview of the product provides the user with a high level preview which can assist with the initial assessment or evaluation as part of search results presentation.

2.4.3. Measurement

The presence of a **preview** link is checked that it contains a URL to a common web image file type.^[3]

2.4.4. Guidance

In addition to the presence of the graphic overview image it would also be valuable to provide consistent image dimensions (e.g. 800x800 pixels) such that all images are normalized and scaling/alignment of overview images can be applied consistently by web applications rendering search results.

Examples of catalogues displaying graphic overviews:

- [GISC DWD](#)
- [EUMETSAT Product Navigator](#)

2.4.4.1. Examples

```
{
  "rel": "preview",
  "type": "image/png",
  "title": "Browse graphic",
  "href": "https://example.org/path/to/browse.png"
}
```

2.4.5. Rules

Table 5. Graphic overview for metadata records implementation rules

Rule	Score
A graphic overview element is present	1
A graphic overview URL resolves successfully	1

Rule	Score
A graphic overview URL content is a common web image file type (check MIME type, content header/magic number)	1

*Total possible score: (present link + resolves + image file type) / (total graphic overviews * 3) (100%)

2.5. Links health

2.5.1. WCMP properties

All properties with linked information (URLs).

- `links[*].href`
- `properties.themes[].concepts[].url`
- `properties.themes[*].scheme`
- `properties.contacts[].links[].href`

2.5.2. Rationale for measurement

Broken links damage the user experience and gives the impression to users that a website is not maintained (88% of the online consumers are less likely to return to a site after a bad experience^[4]). In addition, having numerous broken links affects the reputation and rank of your website when indexed by mass market search engines.

HTTPS is increasingly becoming a requirement for numerous agencies as the suggested protocol instead of HTTP. Non-HTTPS links in a WCMP document often leads to mixed content errors in web applications deployed via HTTPS and using AJAX/XHR design patterns. HTTPS supports secure, authoritative and trustworthy links as part of WIS metadata.

2.5.3. Measurement

The number of broken links in each individual metadata record. Broken links include links which, when accessed, result in a 4xx or 5xx HTTP error.^[5]

Also being measured is the use of HTTPS (with a valid SSL certificate) as the link protocol throughout WIS Metadata.

2.5.4. Guidance

Ensure that all links resolve and are accessible via HTTPS.

2.5.4.1. Examples

```
"links": [
```

```
{
  "rel": "search",
  "type": "text/html",
  "title": "WOUDC - Data - Station List",
  "href": "https://woudc.org/data/stations"
}
```

```
"links": [
  {
    "rel": "related",
    "type": "application/geo+json",
    "title": "Global Broker (Toulouse)",
    "href": "mqtt://[yourAccount]:[yourPassword]@globalbroker.meteo.fr:8883/",
    "channel": "cache/a/wis2/#",
    "distribution": {
      "maxMSGsize": 4096,
      "unit": "bytes"
    }
  }
]
```

```
"links": [
  {
    "rel": "subscribe",
    "type": "application/geo+json",
    "title": "Global Broker (Toulouse)",
    "href": "mqtt://[yourAccount]:[yourPassword]@wis2.dwd.de:8883/",
    "channel": "cache/a/wis2/deu/dwd/data/core/weather/analysis-
prediction/forecast/model/#"
  }
]
```

2.5.5. Rules

Table 6. Links health implementation rules

Rule	Score
Link resolves successfully	1
Link has a valid media type	1

Total possible score: (link resolves) / (total links * 1) (100%)

2.6. Contacts

Metadata records should contain information regarding the contact with the role **host** and how to

contact them via email.

2.6.1. WCMP properties

- `$.properties.contacts[?(@.roles=="host")]`
- `$.properties.contacts[?(@.roles=="host")].emails`
- `$.properties.contacts[?(@.roles=="host")].contactInstructions`

2.6.2. Rationale for measurement

Information of the host allows the user to contact the host in case of anything related to accessing the data.

2.6.3. Measurement

The presence of host information and supporting contact properties (email and contact instructions).

2.6.4. Guidance

- Specify a host. Note that a host does not have to be the same as the main point of contact, principal investigator
- Include an email for the host
- Include contact instructions for the host

2.6.4.1. Examples

```
"properties": {
  ...
  "contacts": [
    {
      "organization": "WMO Lead Centre for Long-Range Forecast Multi-Model
Ensemble",
      "phones": [
        {
          "value": "+82-2-2181-0486",
          "role": "office"
        },
        {
          "value": "+82-2-2181-0489",
          "role": "fax"
        }
      ],
      "emails": [
        {
          "value": "lc_lrfmme@korea.kr",
          "role": "work"
        }
      ]
    }
  ]
}
```

```

    ],
    "addresses": [
      {
        "deliveryPoint": "61 16-GIL YEOUIDAEBANG-RO DONGJAK-GU SEOUL",
        "city": "SEOUL",
        "postalCode": "07062",
        "country": "Republic of Korea"
      }
    ],
    "contactInstructions": "email",
    "links": [
      {
        "href": "https://www.wmolc.org/"
      }
    ],
    "roles": [
      "host"
    ]
  }
]
...
}

```

2.6.5. Rules

By detecting the presence of the contact with the role **host**. See WCMP2, clause 7.

Table 7. Host information implementation rules

Rule	Score
The contact with the role host is included.	1
The host contact email is included.	1
The host contact instruction element is included.	1

Total possible score: 3 (100%)

2.7. Persistent identifiers

2.7.1. WCMP properties

- **properties.externalIds**

2.7.2. Rationale for measurement

Persistent identifiers allow data to be accessible and citable. They make research data easier to

access, reuse and verify, thereby making it easier to build on previous work, conduct new research and avoid duplicating already existing work.

2.7.3. Measurement

Whether persistent identifier information is available, can be successfully identified, and provides citation instructions.

2.7.4. Guidance

- Provide a persistent identifier
- Provide a 'Cite as' template as a link object with `rel="cite-as"`

2.7.4.1. Examples

```
"properties": {  
  ...  
  "externalIds": [{  
    "scheme": "https://doi.org",  
    "value": "https://dx.doi.org/10.14287/10000001"  
  }]  
  ...  
}
```

For a citation:

```
"properties": {  
  ...  
  "links": [  
    ...  
    {  
      "rel": "cite-as",  
      "title": "Cite as: WMO/GAW Ozone Monitoring Community, World Meteorological  
Organization-Global Atmosphere Watch Program (WMO-GAW)/World Ozone and Ultraviolet  
Radiation Data Centre (WOUDC) [Data]. Retrieved [YYYY-MM-DD], from https://woudc.org.  
A list of all contributors is available on the website. doi:10.14287/10000004",  
      "type": "text/html",  
      "href": "https://dx.doi.org/10.14287/10000004"  
    }  
  ]  
  ...  
}
```

2.7.5. Rules

Table 8. Persistent identifiers implementation rules

Rule	Score
The external identifiers object is present	1
At least one scheme is equal to https://doi.org , https://arks.org , or https://handle.net	1
At least one citation exists as a link object with <code>rel="cite-as"</code>	1

Total possible score: 3 (100%)

[1] <https://www.merriam-webster.com>

[2] <https://dictionary.cambridge.org>

[3] https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/Media/Formats/Image_types#Common_image_file_types

[4] <https://review42.com/web-design-statistics>

[5] <https://httpstatuses.com>