

DIGITAL LEARNING OBJECT METADATA STANDARD (ABCORE)

Category:	Learning Content Systems
Effective Date:	[proposed: January 1, 2006]
Review Date:	[proposed: January 1, 2009]

Summary:

All developers and publishers must catalogue digital learning objects according to the metadata elements and guidelines defined in this Standard. The Standard is commonly referred to as ABCore.

Specification:

Digital learning objects that are stored in repositories for use across the educational system in Alberta must be catalogued using the metadata elements defined in this Standard and following the guidelines published in the document, Digital Learning Object Metadata Standard Guidelines (Alberta Education 2005).

The elements and guidelines are not specific to any particular metadata database or metadata creation tool; therefore, they are general in nature.

This Standard applies to all developers and publishers of digital learning objects, specifically:

- Alberta Education and its contractors;
- Educational publishers under contract to Alberta Education; and,
- Education providers that develop digital learning objects with the intent of sharing them outside of their jurisdictions.

ABCORE

This Standard has adopted the name ABCORE to indicate that it is an application profile, which is the Alberta subset of CanCORE. CanCORE is the Canadian subset of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Learning Object Metadata (LOM) Standard.

Mandatory and Recommended Element List

The following table lists the Mandatory and Recommended elements. “Mandatory” means that the elements must be included in a learning object metadata record. “Recommended” elements should be strongly considered for use unless they do not apply to a particular learning object.

The shaded elements do not contain content.

LOM Number	LOM Element Name	M = Mandatory R = Recommended
1	GENERAL	M
1.1	Identifier	M
1.1.1	• Catalog	M
1.1.2	• Entry	M
1.2	Title	M
1.3	Language	M
1.4	Description	M
1.5	Keyword	M
2	LIFE CYCLE	M
2.3	Contribute	M
2.3.1	• Role	M
2.3.2	• Entity	M
2.3.3	• Date	M
3	META-METADATA	M
3.1	Identifier	M
3.1.1	• Catalog	M
3.1.2	• Entry	M
3.2	Contribute	M
3.2.1	• Role	M
3.2.2	• Entity	M
3.2.3	• Date	M
3.3	Metadata Schema	M
4	TECHNICAL	M
4.1	Format	M
4.2	Size	M
4.3	Location	M
4.7	Duration	R
5	EDUCATIONAL	R
5.2	Learning Resource Type	R
5.5	Intended End User Role	R
6	RIGHTS	M
6.2	Copyright and Other Restrictions	M
6.3	Description	R
9	CLASSIFICATION	R
9.1	Purpose	R
9.2	Taxon Path	R
9.2.1	• Source	R
9.2.2	• Taxon	R
9.2.2.2	○ Entry	R

Definitions

Application Profile:	A subset of an international standard that includes associated guidelines for implementation.
Digital Learning Object:	A type of learning resource consisting of a collection of digital media assets (digital components that cannot be disaggregated) that support a learning experience to address a curricular outcome for an identified audience.
Metadata:	A classification schema that makes it possible to search for and locate digital learning objects stored in a repository. Each element describes a specific aspect of the learning object, such as title, language, format, and description.
Repository:	An application that contains learning objects.

Rationale:

A common application profile makes it possible to search across repositories and exchange digital learning objects.

Timeline:

This Standard applies to all digital learning objects produced after January 1, 2006. However, developers and publishers are strongly advised to update the metadata of existing digital learning objects to comply with this Standard.

In the future, this Standard may be revised in response to national and international developments related to accessibility standards, such as the IMS AccessForAll Metadata Specification (July 2004).

Contact:

Technology Standards
Stakeholder Technology Branch
E-mail: tso@learning.gov.ab.ca

See also: Digital Learning Object Metadata Standard Guidelines (Alberta Education 2005).