The Role of Metadata Standards

Metadata provides descriptive and contextual details for discovering, accessing, interpreting, and managing data. High-quality metadata ensures accuracy and interoperability across systems, and the adoption of metadata standards or schemas facilitates data sharing and collaboration, making data understandable and reusable.

What is a metadata standard?

A comprehensive framework that outlines a consistent approach for organizing and representing data.

Metadata standardization is crucial for data usefulness and for comparing data sets.

Discipline-specific schemas address specific elements needed by a particular field.

Where can you find existing standards?
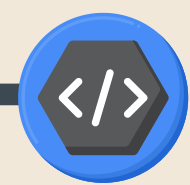
https://rdamsc.bath.ac.uk

The Research Data Alliance (RDA) Metadata Standards Catalog is a collaborative, open directory of metadata standards applicable to research data. You may search or browse for standards by name, discipline, subject, funder, or data type.

When choosing a standard, you should ask the following questions:

Is there a particular standard baked into the system or repository you plan to use?

What standards are similar projects and others in your field using?

How big is the user community around this metadata standard?

Stay tuned In the upcoming months, the Data Literacy Series will highlight particular metadata standards, their structures, and how they are applied.
We will also provide tips on metadata creation and introduce crosswalk tools to automate conversion between different schemas.

Want to learn more? Contact us: rds@library.ucsb.edu