

NISO Registration

Registration Title: **Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS) Version 3.0**

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URL of electronic copy: <http://www.loc.gov/standards/mods/v3/mods-3-0.xsd>

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This XML schema is for the encoding of descriptive metadata. It is a derivative of the MARC 21 bibliographic format in its element semantics and is highly compatible with MARC 21 metadata. It is particularly relevant to digital libraries for the description of complex digital objects, although it also could be used with all forms of digital and non-digital materials. It is related to Z39.2 (ISO 2709), standard for information interchange, which defines the MARC 21 syntax. MODS records may use other NISO standards for content of elements, such as Z39.84 a DOI in <identifier> or a Z39.53 (ISO 639-2) in <language>.

Relation to Z39.85 (Dublin Core) is minimal, and only in that MODS includes a list of descriptive metadata elements. However, Dublin Core is only a list of elements, while MODS is both a list of elements (largely derived from MARC 21) and a syntax (using XML schema language).

MODS was developed in the Library of Congress' Network Development and MARC Standards Office with the participation initially of a variety of external experts. After the initial draft, an open discussion list was established to elicit feedback. Version 2.0 was a result of much discussion between participants from diverse institutions. Version 3.0 was recently issued, and also was a result of collaboration between LC and implementors and other interested experts. Thus it is a product of broad consensus among interested parties. LC expects that changes made will be on the basis of need in the user community. The MODS discussion list currently contains members from over 20 countries. LC is considering establishing an editorial board in the future. The Library of Congress will provide the function of maintenance agency for this standard by providing documentation, continuing to receive feedback about the standard's use, and modifying the schema where appropriate. LC will also provide tools to enable the conversion to and from MODS to other metadata formats.