MEDIN Discovery Metadata Standard interpretation of GEMINI 2.1.

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A common query received by MEDIN is how the MEDIN Discovery Standard differs to the GEMINI2.1 Standard. It is a common misconception that the MEDIN standard is an entirely new standard and different to GEMINI2.1. This is not true and the MEDIN standard should be considered as an interpretation of GEMINI2.1 whereby MEDIN have taken a step further and specified the use of certain term lists to be used for a specific element or in some cases changed an obligation for an element – for example changed Conditional to Mandatory. In all cases however a MEDIN discovery metadata record is compliant with the GEMINI2.1 standard. The reason for making the additional specifications for the MEDIN standard is so that when the metadata records are made available through the MEDIN portal the user can conduct more powerful searches. For example, searching by a marine keyword from a term list. Some additional information is also useful for other MEDIN specific processes such as recognising which Data Archive Centre the data set is held by. This document aims to clarify the MEDIN interpretation of the GEMINI2.1 standard.

This document is also aimed at individuals who work in multidisciplinary organisations who may have issues justifying different approaches for generating and editing discovery metadata i.e. the MEDIN standard for marine data and GEMINI2.1 for other environmental data. In this instance it should be clarified that the MEDIN standard is an interpretation of the GEMINI 2.1 standard and if the software that is used to generate and edit metadata can include the specified vocabularies used by MEDIN then there should not be any significant issue.

In some instances MEDIN has given specific guidance on how to complete each element over and above the guidance that GEMINI 2.1 has given, however, this is not detailed in this document.

This document is aimed at a general user and based on the comparison of the MEDIN Standard version 2.3.6 and GEMINI2.1. For a more specific technical investigation the user should download the most recent versions of the standards from the websites and complete the up-to-date comparison themselves.

Specification of term lists (controlled vocabularies) for MEDIN. Note we do not show all the term lists that are already defined by GEMINI.

GEMINI Element number and name	MEDIN Element number and name	MEDIN specified controlled vocabulary and details of implementation	MEDIN Obligation for use of the controlled vocabulary in the element or subelement	MEDIN obligation for the element
5.6 Keywords	11. Keywords	BODC Parameter Discovery Vocabulary (P021) available at http://vocab.ndg.nerc.ac.uk/client/vocabServer.jsp This keyword is mandatory.	M	M
5.6 Keywords	11. Keywords	L131 (Vertical Coordinate Coverage's) at http://vocab.ndg.nerc.ac.uk/client/vocabServer.jsp . This keyword or the element 'vertical extent information' must be completed.	C	See text
5.6 Keywords	11. Keywords	If xml files are being collected using the MEDIN OAI harvesting process an additional keyword is required to allow the data discovery service to distinguish MEDIN records from other records such as NERC. The required term to use in the xml fragment is NDGO0001 from the N010 vocab at http://vocab.ndg.nerc.ac.uk/client/vocabServer.jsp	C	M
5.20 Responsible Organisation; subelement Organisation Name	22. Responsible Party; subelement Organisation Name	Where an organisation is given this must be taken from the European Directory of Marine Organisations (http://seadatanet.maris2.nl/edmo/)	M	M
5.15 Vertical extent information	14. Vertical extent information	This element should only be filled in if the Coordinate Reference System (CRS) is registered in the 'European Petroleum Survey Group (EPSG) database. http://info.ogp.org.uk/geodesy/ If you do not have the defined CRS you should complete the vertical extent vocabulary defined in Element 11 – Keywords, to describe the vertical extent of the resource. One of the elements '11: vertical extent keyword'; or '14: vertical extent information' must be completed.	M	See text

5.16 Spatial Reference System	15. Spatial Reference System	This should be derived from the EPSG register of geodetic parameters (http://www.epsg.org/Geodetic.html).	M	M
5.19 Data Format	23. Data Format	M010 'MEDIN data format categories' available at http://vocab.ndg.nerc.ac.uk/client/vocabServer.jsp	M	O
5.14 Extent	13. Extent	MEDIN strongly recommends the use of the SeaVox Sea Areas salt and freshwater body gazetteer available as vocabulary C191 at http://vocab.ndg.nerc.ac.uk/client/vocabServer.jsp	O	O

Differences in obligation

Element 22; Responsible Party. MEDIN specifies that the custodian, originator and metadata point of contact is provided whereas GEMINI states that 'at least a distributor should be given'.

Element 16.1; Start Date of the dataset or series is mandatory in MEDIN but in GEMINI either the start or end date may be left null.

Element 29; Metadata Language. This element is mandatory in MEDIN and 'conditional – required for INSPIRE' in GEMINI.

Additional Elements

MEDIN has three additional elements in the Discovery Standard which are aimed at improving the management of the records and providing a link between descriptions of the resource types, series and datasets. These are:

Element 27 – Metadata Standard Name – Mandatory, one occurrence allowed

Element 28 – Metadata Standard Version – Mandatory, one occurrence allowed

Element 30 – Parent ID - Optional, one occurrence allowed