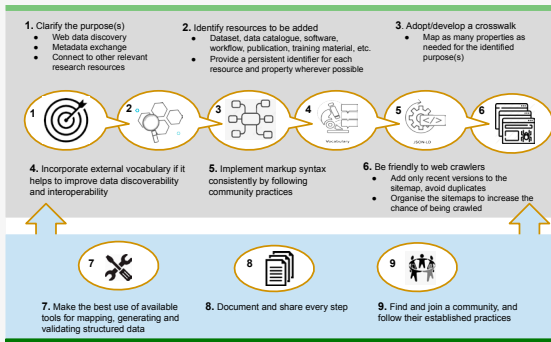# RDA

Guidelines for Publishing Structured Metadata on the Web

The Challenge:

Publishing structured metadata on the web can provide a simple and efficient means to increase the FAIRness of research resources, however, the adoption of structured metadata requires a consistent implementation across data repositories in order to enable better interoperability of metadata, and therefore improve discoverability, accessibility and reusability of data.

1. Clarify the purpose(s)
- Web data discovery
- Metadata exchange
- Connect to other relevant research resources

2. Identify resources to be added
- Dataset, data catalogue, software, workflow, publication, training material, etc.
- Provide a persistent identifier for each resource and property wherever possible

3. Adopt/develop a crosswalk
- Map as many properties as needed for the identified purpose(s)

4. Incorporate external vocabulary if it helps to improve data discoverability and interoperability

5. Implement markup syntax consistently by following community practices

6. Be friendly to web crawlers
- Add only recent versions to the sitemap, avoid duplicates
- Organise the sitemaps to increase the chance of being crawled

7. Make the best use of available tools for mapping, generating and validating structured data

8. Document and share every step

9. Find and join a community, and follow their established practices

Produced by: Research Metadata Schemas WG

https://www.rd-alliance.org/group/research-metadata-schemas-wg/outcomes/guidelines-publishing-structured-metadata-web

What is the solution?

The Research Metadata Schemas Working Group has produced "Nine recommendations for publishing structured metadata on the web", based on community consultation and subsequent works. The nine recommendations cover the whole process of publishing structured metadata, tools that can help the process and the community engagement for sharing and contributing to common practices.

What is the impact?

Data repositories would benefit greatly from the recommendations that guide the process of implementing structured metadata. The consistent implementation across data repositories enhances both semantic and syntactic metadata interoperability on the web, which not only makes FAIRer metadata but also enables the creation of better data aggregation and data discovery applications to realise the full potential of open data.

Find out more about the Recommendation from the Research Metadata Schemas WG

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