

DC Agent Qualifiers

DC Working Draft - 10 December 1999

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Status of this document

This document is a Working Draft of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative [[DCMI](#)], and is intended to reflect consensus reached within the Agents Working Group [[DCAGENTS](#)] of the DCMI.

This is the **FINAL** version of the Working Draft. Publication as a Final Working Draft does not imply endorsement by the DCMI. This document has been submitted to the DCMI Usage Committee as input into the development of the Qualifiers for the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set.

Comments and feedback should be sent to the working group mailing list, dc-agents@mailbase.ac.uk, the archives for which may be browsed at <<http://www.mailbase.ac.uk/lists/dc-agents/>> (NOTE, you must be a [member](#) of the WG to post messages to the WG) or, alternatively, send your feedback to the [Editor](#) of this Working Draft.

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1. Introduction

The qualifiers below are recommended for the Creator, Contributor and Publisher elements (collectively called the Agent elements) of the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set [[DCMES](#)]. To meet the semantic needs of the Dublin Core element set, the qualifiers are aimed at identifying the Agent, not for providing descriptive information about the agent. (However, the latter can still be accommodated.) The identification of Agents is not universal, and as such, different communities will require different qualifiers for this purpose. The qualifiers for the Agent elements are a proposed set of core of qualifiers to address this requirement.

The proposed qualifiers were established by reviewing a number of existing projects [[AGENT-REVIEW](#)] and summarising their usage of agent qualifiers [[AGENT-SUMMARY](#)]. A set of criteria for evaluating Dublin Core Qualifiers was also observed [[QUALIFIER-CRITERIA](#)].

2. Proposed Qualifiers

The five proposed Agent qualifiers are described below. All of the five qualifiers are optional and there is no implied or direct dependencies between them. However, some of the qualifiers have associated vocabulary or encoding schemes (value qualifiers) and these must only be used with the named qualifier.

2.1. Agent Type

Name:	Agent Type
Qualifier Type:	Value Component
Definition:	Indicates the type of the entity for the named Agent
Comment:	The values are defined in the "DC Agent Type" vocabulary (value qualifier) which is maintained by DCMI. Other terms may be used but are not recommended.
Associated Value Qualifiers:	The DC Agent Type vocabulary (referred to as DCAT1) contains the following terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual human that acts as an agent. Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A group that that acts as an agent. Typical examples of organizations are associations, institutions, business firms, nonprofit enterprises, governments, government agencies, cultural groups, and religious bodies. Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A non-persistent and time-based activity that acts as an agent. Typical examples of events are conferences, conventions, meetings, exhibitions, expositions ,festivals, athletic contests, workshops, and expeditions. Object <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A device that acts as an agent. Typical examples of objects are mechanical instruments, electronic services, non-human entities, and appliances.

2.2. Agent Name

Name:	Agent Name
Qualifier Type:	Value Component
Definition:	The formal or common name of the Agent
Comment:	Typically, this would be the name which is used to refer to the Agent. <p>The "Family Name First" encoding (value qualifier) may also be used to express the order of the components of the Name.</p> <p>Vocabularies of Names may also be used as values for this qualifier.</p>
Associated Value Qualifiers:	The "Family Name First" encoding (referred to as FNF) in which the family name of the Agent appears first, followed by a comma, then all other names.

Note: The FNF encoding is primarily used for when the Agent Name is of "Person" Agent Type.

Examples: Mary Jane Smith
Smith, Mary Jane (*Note: Encoding here is "FNF"*)
Acme Corporation
7th Dublin Core Workshop
Alpha Telescope 14B99

2.3. Agent Affiliation

Name: Agent Affiliation

Qualifier Type: Value Component

Definition: The organization with which the named Agent was associated when involved with the resource

Comment: The named Agent can be further identified with reference to its affiliated organization.

Examples: Acme Corporation
Dublin Core Metadata Initiative
NASA

2.4. Agent Role

Name: Agent Role

Qualifier Type: Value Component

Definition: Indicates the role played by the named Agent

Comment: The values are defined in externally maintained and controlled vocabularies (value qualifiers). Such lists of terms may be used and should be clearly identified with a unique vocabulary name. Some vocabularies may contain values which would not make sense when used with one or more of the three agent elements. It is important that such usage be identified and not recommended.

Values for Agent Role may also come from uncontrolled lists of terms.

Associated Value Qualifiers: The recommended vocabularies for the Role qualifier are:

- MARC Code List for Relators [[MARC](#)] (referred to as **MARC-RELATOR**).

NOTE: In the MARC Relator vocabulary, the "Publisher" value should not be used with the Creator or Contributor elements. Also, the MARC Relator vocabulary is not recommended for use with the Publisher element.

- The "Agents Facet" section of the Getty's Art and Architecture Thesaurus [[AAT](#)] (referred to as **AAT**).

NOTE: Only the Agents Facet terms from the AAT thesaurus are allowed.

2.5. Agent Identifier

Name:	Agent Identifier
Qualifier Type:	Value Component
Definition:	An unambiguous reference to the named Agent within a given context
Comment:	Recommended best practice is to identify the named Agent by means of a string or number conforming to a formal identification system. The recommended encoding (value qualifier) is the Uniform Resource Identifier. In some cases, the Identifier may provide or lead to more information about the named Agent.
Associated Value Qualifiers:	The Uniform Resource Identifier [URI] (referred to as URI) should be used to encode the value.
Examples:	http://www.person-id.net/555-555-555-55-555 http://national-library.com/smith/mary/jane/000001 ldap://publisher.com/cn=Corky-Smith,o=NASA,c=US urn:agents:smith-55555B

3. References

- [AAT] Gettys Art and Architecture Thesaurus
<http://shiva.pub.getty.edu/aat_browser/titles.html>
- [AGENTS-REVIEW] Dublin Core Agents Working Group - Review of Agent Qualifier Usage
<<http://www.mailbase.ac.uk/lists/dc-agents/files/qualifier-summ.html>>
- [AGENTS-SUMMARY] Dublin Core Agents Working Group - Summary Table of Agent Qualifier Usage
<<http://www.mailbase.ac.uk/lists/dc-agents/files/qualifier-table.html>>
- [QUALIFIER-CRITERIA] Dublin Core Criteria for Evaluating Qualifiers
<<http://www.mailbase.ac.uk/lists/dc-general/1999-11/0029.html>>
- [DCAGENTS] Dublin Core Agents Working Group
<<http://purl.org/dc/groups/agents.htm>>
- [DCMES] Dublin Core Metadata Element Set: Reference Description
<http://purl.org/dc/about/element_set.htm>
- [DCMI] Dublin Core Metadata Initiative Home Page
<<http://purl.org/dc/>>
- [MARC] MARC Code List for Relators
<<http://www.loc.gov/marc/relators/re9802r1.html>>
- [URI] Uniform Resource Identifiers (URI): Generic Syntax, Internet RFC 2396
<<http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2396.txt>>
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4. Acknowledgements

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5. Revision History

- 12 November 1999 - Last Call Working Draft - Public Release
 - For Agent Type list of terms; Corporate/Conference/Instrument have been renamed to Organization/Event/Object
 - For Agent Name; LNF encoding added
 - For Agent Role; Getty ATT thesaurus vocabulary added
 - Added Agent Identifier qualifier as counter-proposal for Agent Link
 - 22 November 1999 - Last Call Working Draft - Internal Release (WG)
 - Agent Jurisdiction qualifier has been removed (did not pass vote)
 - Agent Date Range qualifier has been removed (did not pass vote)
 - Agent Link qualifier has been removed (did not pass vote) but replaced with Agent Identifier qualifier
 - Expanded Introduction section
 - Added Qualifier Type to each table
 - 06 December 1999 - Last Call Working Draft - Internal Release (WG and Usage Committee)
 - Made clear the relationship of the value qualifiers (encoding and vocabulaires) with each Value Component
 - Changed LNF to FNF
 - 08 December 1999 - Last Call Working Draft - Internal Release (WG)
 - Role qualifier now official
 - Minor updates, more examples added
 - 09 December 1999 - Last Call Working Draft - Internal Release (WG)
 - 10 December 1999 - Final Working Draft
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