

Common Content Tagging Initiative

# Introduction

Many states are in the process of creating or identifying instructional resources, professional development resources, and assessment items for instructional improvement. As this data is collected, it is necessary to include metadata about the resource to make it searchable by the IIS systems.

The Learning Registry Metadata Initiative (LRMI) has developed a common metadata framework for describing or “tagging” learning resources. The Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) version 3.0 includes data models for resources for learning processes. States are also strongly interested in sharing of resources and would like to have a minimum set of “common” tags that all states can agree on in order to make this process easier. Beyond the metadata tags, states are looking to also agree on a set of common “values” for each meta-tag as well as definitions for those values. While LRMI does not specify specific values for many of the meta-tags, those working on CEDS updates are seeking guidance from states for the upcoming CEDS 4.0 standards.

Using a consolidated document of the LRMI, CEDS, and various state tagging schemas, several states, through work supported by the Race to the Top Reform Support Network, have come to consensus on:

1. A common set of meta-tags
2. The values to be used within those tags
3. The definitions to be used by the states for the above tags and values

States that have contributed to the common tag set include:

* Arizona
* Colorado
* Delaware
* Georgia
* Illinois
* Massachusetts
* New Jersey
* New York
* North Carolina
* Ohio
* Rhode Island

Representatives from several organizations and/or initiatives have joined in the content tag discussions including but not limited to: Common Education Data Standards, Learning Resource Metadata Initiative, Creative Commons, Formative Assessment for Students and Teachers, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education, inBloom, and WGBH/PBS Learning Media.

As of April, 2013, the common set of meta-tags is comprised of:

1. Title
2. Description
3. Subject
4. Educational Alignment
5. Alignment Type
6. Resource URL
7. Usage Rights URL
8. Publisher/Provider
9. End User
10. Learning Resource Type
11. Educational Use
12. Digital Media Type
13. Item Type (for assessment items

The common set of met-tags, the values to be used for each tag, and the definitions have been consolidated into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. The additional optional tags are also included in this spreadsheet with an in-depth discussion on the values for these tags planned for a future meeting.

# Vetting

The states participating in this common metadata initiative are also looking to identify the process and/or rubrics that are being used by each state to tag and vet the content prior to entry into each state’s learning object repository. Common understanding of the vetting processes promotes a degree of “trust” among the states to share and collaborate on content. The current list of vetting processes for each state is also available as an appendix to this document.

# Moving Forward

There is agreement among the state participants who have jointly developed the content tagging schema development to use it within their instructional improvement systems. To strengthen this collaboration, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed to provide a documented commitment by each state. The IIS Network is requesting that the MOU be signed by the state chief, CIO, or similar high level official of each SEA within the network.

Participating states are working to expand the collaboration to additional states, learning organizations or initiatives.

Appendices:

* Content Tagging Initiative MS PowerPoint
* Common Tags-values definitions MS Excel spreadsheet
* List of vetting models being used by each state
* Common Content Tagging Initiative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)