

OpenDocument Format Metadata Requirements

Introduction:

The following requirements cases were developed by the OpenDocument Format Metadata SC, each traceable to a use cases in the Use Cases documents.

Bibliographies and Citations

OpenDocument requirements

Bibliographic metadata should have the following characteristics:

Round-Tripping

The bibliographic source metadata must travel with the document to assure the functionality can be retained across users and applications.

Read/Write With Standard XML Tools

Given that source records are likely to be created by third-party applications, the format should be clear and easy to read and write with standard XML tools¹

Independent Processing

The bibliographic metadata should be easy to process independently of the document content file.

Rich Description

Bibliographic metadata is often complicated, particularly when one gets into fields in the humanities and law. The model must therefore account for the relational character of this metadata, such that documents and their component parts², authors, publishers, and so

1 Bibliographic management is increasingly web-based, a trend that will only accelerate in the future.

2 Bibliographic metadata is fundamentally relational, and often deals with resources that are

forth can be treated as full—potentially linked—resources, with their own set of properties. Also, resource descriptions must be typed (book, article, legal case, etc.) in a standardized—but-extensible way because formatting is often dependent on it (a chapter is formatted differently than an article). In addition, legacy formats such as RIS and BibTeX require typing for robust conversion.

Consistent Identification

An identifier in the document citation field needs to associate the field with a bibliographic source. Such an identifier should also allow integration with online resources, and therefore should use URIs.³

Standardized

There must be a core default vocabulary so that interoperability is assured.

Extensible

Beyond the core vocabulary, the metadata representation must be richly extensible, such that it can evolve to meet changing community needs, and different potential database applications can transport their own specific extension data, independent of approval by the ODF TC.

Reuse Standards

Where possible and consistent with the above goals, the metadata support should reuse or adapt existing metadata standards and vocabularies.

published or issued as parts of other content. For example, chapters are published in edited books, archival documents are contained in collections, articles in journals, and so forth.

³ This may be a controversial requirement, but without it, interoperability problems even within the realm of bibliographic data and citations will likely be heightened. For discussion of the use of URIs for identification in this use case, see <http://bibliographic.openoffice.org/servlets/ReadMsg?list=dev&msgNo=1692>. More broadly, the lack of a common identifier syntax would make interoperability across different metadata types within OpenDocument difficult. It might be valuable, for example, to link a bibliographic author to a description that represents the author of the document per se. But to do that requires some common means of identification.

Application requirements

1. optional namespaced content must be preserved
2. formatted citation field content must be displayed⁴

Dependencies

The already approved citation field scheduled for ODF 1.2 might be slightly changed to fit better with this more general approach. This has no effect on backward compatibility, of course.

Summary

The following list summarizes the set of metadata requirements necessary to achieve all of the uses cases in the Use Cases document.

⁴ More advanced support would include editing the citation field. Processing of formatted citation fields and bibliographies and editing of source data would be a perfect third-party opportunity that would show the benefits of ODF, though some or all of this could also be handled directly by ODF editors.