



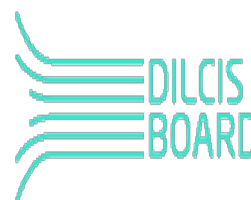
# Guideline for information packages

## Guideline for E-ARK Information Packages and Content Information Type Specifications



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# 1 Preface

## 1.1 Aim of the specification

This document is one of several related specifications which aim to provide a common set of usage descriptions of international standards for packaging digital information for archiving purposes. These specifications are based on common, international standards for transmitting, describing and preserving digital data. They also utilise the Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS), which has Information Packages as its foundation. Familiarity with the core functional entities of OAIS is a prerequisite for understanding the specifications.

The specifications are designed to help data creators, software developers, and digital archives to tackle the challenge of short-, medium- and long-term data management and reuse in a sustainable, authentic, cost-efficient, manageable and interoperable way. A visualisation of the current specification network can be seen here:

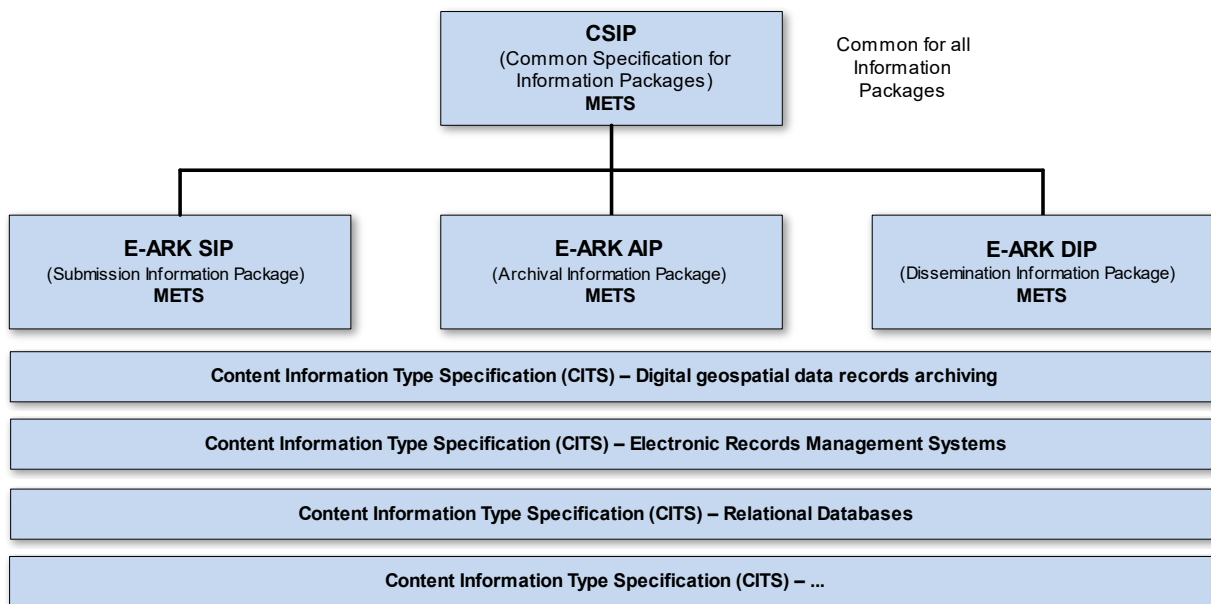


Figure I: Diagram showing E-ARK specification dependency hierarchy. Note that the image only shows a selection of the published CITS and isn't an exhaustive list.

Specification	Aim and Goals
<b>Common Specification for Information Packages</b>	<p>This document introduces the concept of a Common Specification for Information Packages (CSIP). Its three main purposes are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a common understanding of the requirements, which need to be met in order to achieve interoperability of Information Packages.</li> <li>• Establish a common base for the development of more specific Information Package definitions and tools within the digital preservation community.</li> </ul>

Specification	Aim and Goals
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose the details of an XML-based implementation of the requirements using, to the largest possible extent, standards which are widely used in international digital preservation.</li> </ul> <p>Ultimately, the goal of the Common Specification is to reach a level of interoperability between all Information Packages so that tools implementing the Common Specification can be adopted by institutions without the need for further modifications or adaptations.</p>
<b>E-ARK SIP</b>	<p>The main aims of this specification are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define a general structure for a Submission Information Package format suitable for a wide variety of archival scenarios, e.g. document and image collections, databases or geographical data.</li> <li>Enhance interoperability between Producers and Archives.</li> <li>Recommend best practices regarding metadata, content and structure of Submission Information Packages.</li> </ul>
<b>E-ARK AIP</b>	<p>The main aims of this specification are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define a generic structure of the AIP format suitable for a wide variety of data types, such as document and image collections, archival records, databases or geographical data.</li> <li>Recommend a set of metadata related to the structural and the preservation aspects of the AIP as implemented by the eArchiving Reference Implementation (eArkweb).</li> <li>Ensure the format is suitable to store large quantities of data.</li> </ul>
<b>E-ARK DIP</b>	<p>The main aims of this specification are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define a generic structure of the DIP format suitable for a wide variety of archival records, such as document and image collections, databases or geographical data.</li> <li>Recommend a set of metadata related to the structural and access aspects of the DIP.</li> </ul>
<b>Content Information Type Specifications</b>	<p>The main aim and goal of a Content Information Type Specification is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define, in technical terms, how data and metadata must be formatted and placed within a CSIP Information Package in order to achieve interoperability in exchanging specific Content Information.</li> </ul> <p>The number of possible Content Information Type Specifications is unlimited. For a list of existing Content Information Type Specifications see the DILCIS Board webpage (DILCIS Board, <a href="http://dilcis.eu/">http://dilcis.eu/</a>).</p>

## 1.2 Organisational support

This specification is maintained by the Digital Information LifeCycle Interoperability Standards Board (DILCIS Board, <http://dilcis.eu/>). The role of the DILCIS Board is to enhance and maintain the draft specifications developed in the European Archival Records and Knowledge Preservation Project (E-ARK project, <http://eark-project.com/>), which concluded in January 2017. The Board consists of eight members, but no restriction is placed on the number of participants taking part in the work. All Board documents and specifications are stored in GitHub (<https://github.com/DILCISBoard/>), while published versions are made available on

the Board webpage. The DILCIS Board have been responsible for providing the core specifications to the Connecting Europe Facility eArchiving Building Block <https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/eArchiving/>.

### **1.3 Authors & Revision History**

A full list of contributors to this specification, as well as the revision history, can be found in the Postface material.

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## 1 Context

### 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to further explain and describe the Common Specification for Information Packages (CSIP) and the extending specifications for Submission Information Packages (E-ARK SIP), Archival Information Packages (E-ARK AIP) and Dissemination Information Packages (E-ARK DIP), the E-ARK Common Specification for Archival Information (CS Archival Information) and the E-ARK Common Specification for Preservation Metadata (CS Preservation Metadata). The common specifications for archival information and preservation metadata are also covered to make the guideline cover all parts of an information package.

The goal is to make the specifications as easy as possible to use, with explanations and deeper descriptions being in the guideline.

This guideline is an evolving document, and more concepts and standards will be explained and added following the users' needs for the different specifications covered in this guideline. There will also be accompanying guidelines that will describe the specific content information type specifications available.

The guideline is not a thoroughly explaining tutorial in the different standards; instead, there will be links given where more information can be found. This means that it is essential to understand digital preservation to benefit from this guideline fully. Implementation of the specifications is a joint undertaking involving software developers and providers making the changes, archivists and records managers requiring the implementation and supporting mapping between systems and specifications. This means that different roles with different knowledge and expertise will be doing this in a joint effort.

A starting point for learning about digital preservation is the resources made available by the Digital Preservation Coalition, <https://www.dpconline.org/> and by the Open Preservation Foundation, <https://openpreservation.org/>.

This guideline will not provide guidance on the cost of implementing the different specifications or systems needed to undertake digital preservation. The cost depends on various factors such as current environment, staffing, available systems and more and all cost related to implementation is therefore impossible to calculate even approximately.

## 1.2 Scope

This guideline will provide further information and insights to the information packages which is not covered in the four specifications with explanations for archival information and preservation metadata.

## 1.3 The future

Currently, this document is being published as a read-only document in the PDF file format. An investigation will be made into how the guidelines can be published and made available to make it possible for users of the specifications to contribute to the content as wanted during the review of this document.

## 2 The document setup

This guideline is using textual parts to describe the content and concepts for the different specifications.

### 2.1 Explanation of the preface

The preface describes on a general level the different packages and the different content information types available to be used in information transfer, whether it be between systems or to an archive. At the same time, the preface is the standard introduction to all the specifications and text maintained by the DILCIS Board. Thus it is repeated in all the specification documents that are published.

## 3 The Digital Information LifeCycle Interoperability Standards Board (DILCIS Board)

The Digital Information LifeCycle Interoperability Standards Board (DILCIS Board) <https://dilcis.eu/> is an international group of experts committed to maintain and sustain a set of interoperability specifications that allow for the transfer, long-term preservation, and reuse of digital information regardless of the origin or type of the information.

More specifically, the DILCIS Board maintains specifications initially developed within the E-ARK Project (02.2014 – 01.2017), and which are now the core of the eArchiving Building Block.

## 4 The CEF Building Blocks

The eArchiving Building Block was created as a CEF Building Block (<https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/CEF+Digital+Home>). The

Building Blocks aim to offer basic capabilities that could be used in any European project to facilitate the delivery of digital public services across borders. The foundation for the Building Blocks is interoperability agreements between European Union member states. They aim to ensure interoperability between IT systems so that citizens, businesses and administrations can benefit from seamless digital public services wherever they may be in Europe.

To do so, the European Commission provides a Core Service Platform for each Building Block, which consists of three layers:

- At the core of each Building Block, a layer of technical specifications and standards that have to be complied with;
- To facilitate the implementation of the technical specifications and standards, a layer of sample software that complies with them and is meant for reuse (for certain Building Blocks only);
- To facilitate the adoption of the technical specifications and standards, a layer of services (e.g. conformance testing, help desks, onboarding services, etc.) is meant for use (which varies depending on the Building Block).

The Building Blocks can be combined and used in projects in any domain or sector at the European, national or local level.

#### 4.1 The eArchiving Building Block

The aim of eArchiving (<https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/eArchiving>) is to provide the core specifications, software, training and knowledge to help data creators, software developers, and digital archives tackle the challenge of short, medium and long-term data management and reuse in a sustainable, authentic, cost-efficient, manageable and interoperable way.

## 5 Standard/Standards used

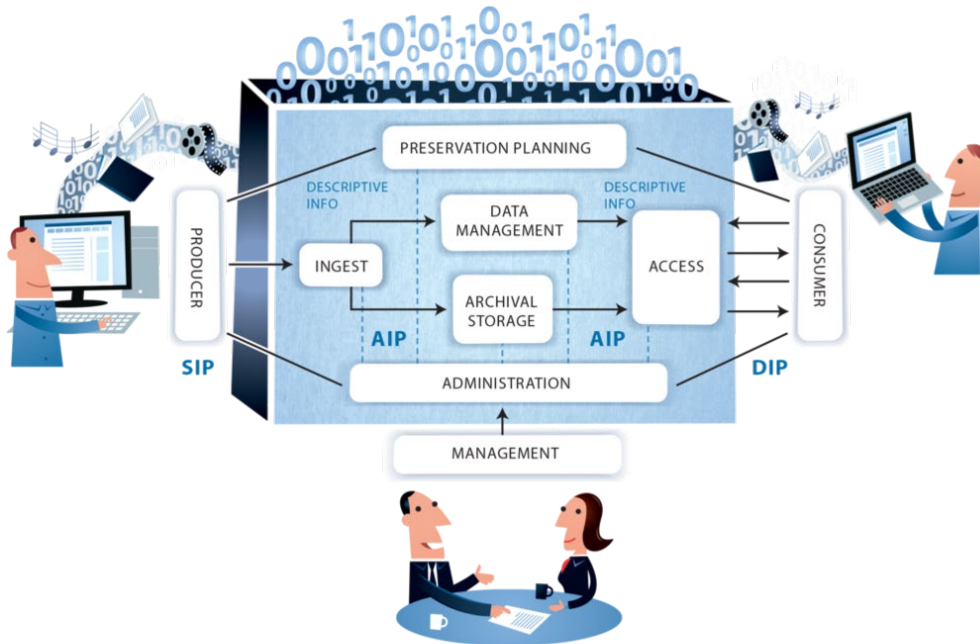
The specifications for the information packages are built upon several standards, which all are described in this section.

### 5.1 Open Archival Information Systems Reference Model (OAIS)

The basis for describing an electronic archive is the Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS). A reference model was created by the Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS), and in 2012 it became an ISO standard. The reference model document is available as recommendation CCSDS 650.0-B-2 of the Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems found <https://public.ccsds.org/pubs/650x0m2.pdf> and this text is identical to ISO 14721:2012 found here <https://www.iso.org/standard/57284.html> for purchase. The model is described with the following illustration found in Figure 1.

It was developed to facilitate a broad, discipline-independent consensus on the requirements for an archive or repository to provide long-term preservation of digital

information. It was also intended to support the development of additional digital preservation standards.



Digitalbevaring.dk

Figure 1: OAIS reference model drawn by digitalbevaring.dk

The reference model describes an OAIS where the archive consists of an organisation of people and systems that has accepted the responsibility to preserve information and make it available to a Designated Community. The standard defines a set of duties that an OAIS archive must fulfil, and this allows an OAIS archive to be distinguished from other uses of the term archive.

A simple explanation might be:

A person we call this person the donator has created some MS Word documents; these are being donated to an archive. When the donor gives the Word documents to the archive, that is the ingest or hand over to the archives. The archives take care of the Word documents and put them into a preservation system to ensure they will be usable in a hundred years. Ten years after the donation, a researcher comes to look at the Word documents. The Archive then creates a dissemination containing the Word documents in a readable format for the researcher to use.

The same explanation can be extended to an agency delivering records to the national archives or a sub-company providing records to the company head department.

### 5.1.1 OAIS terms

The OAIS reference model defines several terms, and some of them will be explained in the following subsections. We start with the terms found in the OAIS Reference Model and the definition given there, and after that, explain them in our specifications. In the specification, Figure 2 is used for illustrating the OAIS Reference Model.

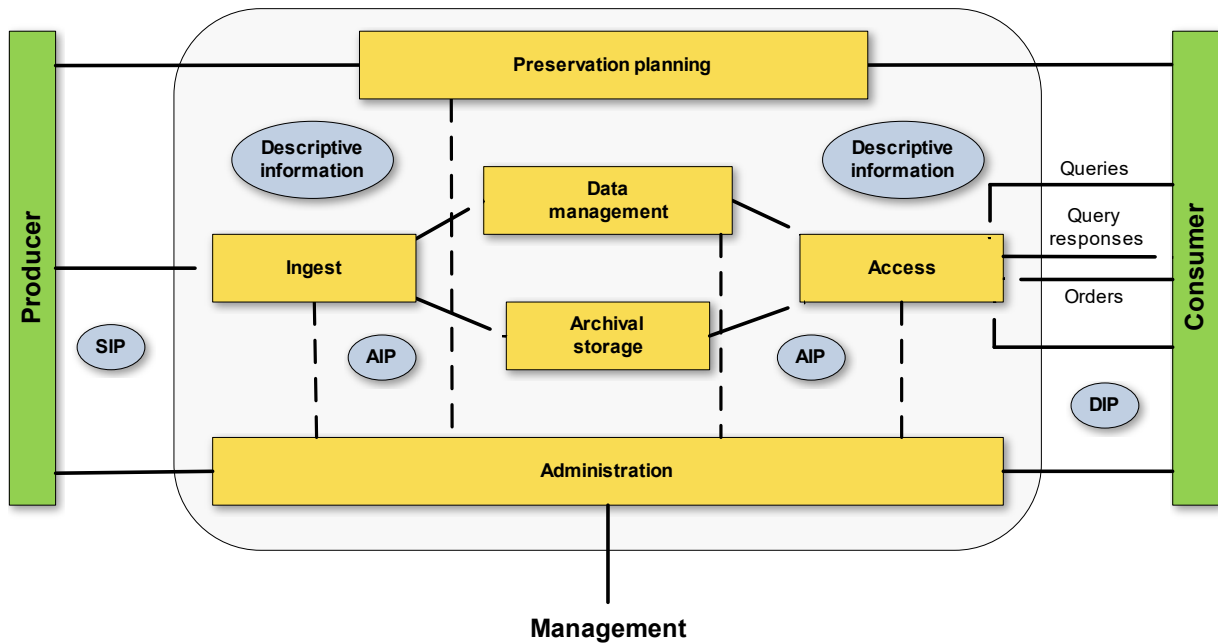


Figure 2: OAIS reference model as drawn in the specifications

#### 5.1.1.1 Information Package

##### Definition from OAIS:

A logical container composed of optional Content Information and optional associated Preservation Description Information. This Information Package is associated with Packaging Information used to delimit and identify the Content Information and Package Description information used to facilitate searches for the Content Information.

#### 5.1.1.2 Submission Information Package (SIP)

##### Definition from OAIS:

An Information Package delivered by the Producer to the OAIS for use in the construction or update of one or more AIPs and/or the associated Descriptive Information.

#### 5.1.1.3 Archival Information Collection (AIC)

##### Definition from OAIS:

An Archival Information Package whose Content Information is an aggregation of other Archival Information Packages.

#### 5.1.1.4 Archival Information Package (AIP)

##### Definition from OAIS:

An Information Package, consisting of the Content Information and the associated Preservation Description Information (PDI), which is preserved within an OAIS.

#### 5.1.1.5 Archival Information Unit (AIU)

##### Definition from OAIS:

An Archival Information Package where the Archive chooses not to break down the Content Information into other Archival Information Packages. An AIU can consist of multiple digital objects (e.g., multiple files).

#### **5.1.1.6 Content Data Object**

##### **Definition from OAIS:**

The Data Object that together with associated Representation Information, comprises the Content Information.

#### **5.1.1.7 Content Information**

##### **Definition from OAIS:**

A set of information that is the original target of preservation or includes part or all of that information. It is an Information Object composed of its Content Data Object and its Representation Information.

#### **5.1.1.8 Data Object**

##### **Definition from OAIS:**

Either a Physical Object or a Digital Object.

#### **5.1.1.9 Dissemination Information Package (DIP)**

##### **Definition from OAIS:**

An Information Package, derived from one or more AIPs, and sent by Archives to the Consumer in response to a request to the OAIS

#### **5.1.1.10 Information Object**

##### **Definition from OAIS:**

A Data Object together with its Representation Information.

#### **5.1.1.11 Submission Agreement**

##### **Definition from OAIS:**

The agreement reached between an OAIS and the Producer that specifies a data model and any other arrangements needed for the Data Submission Session. This data model identifies format/contents and the logical constructs used by the Producer and how they are represented on each media delivery or in a telecommunication session.

#### **5.1.1.12 Representation Information**

##### **Definition from OAIS:**

The information that maps a Data Object into more meaningful concepts. An example of Representation Information for a bit sequence is a FITS file, might consist of the FITS standard, which defines the format, plus a dictionary that defines the meaning in the file of keywords that are not part of the standard. Another example is JPEG software which is used to render a JPEG file; rendering the JPEG file as bits is not very meaningful to humans but the software, which embodies an understanding of the JPEG standard, maps the bits into pixels which can then be rendered as an image for human viewing.

### **5.1.2 How the terms are used in the specifications**

Within the specifications, we are using several terms, especially those relating to the packages defined in the OAIS. We do not put another meaning to them; they are used as they are defined, but in some cases, there are extra information needed to understand the use of the terms in the specifications.

#### **5.1.2.1 Common Specification for Information Packages (CSIP)**

Within the work with the information packages, the decision was made to move all common requirements to one specification. The decision is based upon instead of repeating requirements needed in all the different specifications or trying to incorporate different

needs into one specification splitting it up to make the specifications easier to use and implement. It is possible to extend the specifications with their requirements valid only in the OAIS implementation hosted by the user.

#### **5.1.2.2 SIP specification**

This is the specification for the SIP in the OAIS. The SIP specification extends CSIP with the metadata needed in the transfer moment incorporation of all the required information. The SIP is the package existing in the ingest moment. Another term used is pre-ingest, and that is the package before it becomes a SIP. In the pre-ingest step, all the different information will be placed in the package, and transformations needed of the information to become the digital object are performed.

#### **5.1.2.3 AIP specification**

The AIP being stored in a system is as long as the system never changes, just storage and maintenance of the data with the creation of new representations and updated metadata. An AIP-to-AIP transfer from an originating system to the new system is more complex. When moving an AIP to new storage, looking at the OAIS reference model, what you create is a DIP that will be a SIP being ingested into the new system. This is not always feasible; instead, the AIP specification focuses on the AIP and the added metadata in the preservation system like PREMIS metadata added and the need to transfer both the data and the metadata being stored in the system to a new system.

#### **5.1.2.4 DIP specification**

The DIP specification extends CSIP with the information needed for the consumer of the information stored in the OAIS. When a request for information to be disseminated is made, one part is the information; the other part is to provide the information to make the information possible to view. Thus, the DIP specification focuses on giving the information about the software that can be used to view the information to be disseminated.

#### **5.1.2.5 Submission agreement**

All transfers need to follow a submission agreement to ensure there are established specific details about how these interactions should take place (e.g. the type of information expected to be exchanged, the metadata the Producer is expected to deliver, the logistics of the actual transfer, statements regarding access restrictions on the submitted material, etc.). There are already submission agreements in place in many of the organisations taking part in digital transfers. Thus, we do not define a format for the agreement; instead, in the SIP specification, a suggestion and recommendation of what needs to be present is given in appendix A. A suggestion of required information is also present in the Specification for the E-ARK Content Information Type Specification for Relational Databases using SIARD (CITS SIARD).

There is currently no metadata format defined for the submission agreements.

#### **5.1.2.6 Representations and representation**

In the specifications, we have chosen to use the term “Representations” to describe a collection of “Representation” in a package. The “Representation” is in the specifications an equivalent to the term “Content Information” in OAIS and “Representations” in PREMIS.

#### **5.1.2.7 Representation information**

In the specifications, we have chosen to use the term “Documentation” for information needed to understand the digital objects. The term includes the definition of representation



information from OAIS and other kinds of documentation required. Examples of other types of documentation that can be needed are manuals for the system from where the information becoming the digital object has been exported. The manuals can provide understanding for the digital object by showing how parts of it were used when it was in use in an organisation.

## 5.2 Extensible Markup Language (XML)

[Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XML>,  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XML\\_Schema\\_\(W3C\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XML_Schema_(W3C)) ]

Currently, the format for transferring and storing metadata used in the specifications is based on XML. There will be other formats used in the future, and the specifications will be adapted in revisions to use new formats like RDF and JSON or others that will be the preferred formats. (These are only current known available formats if you want to learn more about them, there are several resources available online.)

Extensible Markup Language (XML) is a simple, flexible text format derived from SGML (ISO 8879). The specification is maintained by the W3 organisation, which is responsible for the different XML languages and other formats in the same family. The specification itself is found at <https://www.w3.org/XML/Core/> .

### 5.2.1 Learning XML

There are many different options for learning XML. A starting point is:  
<https://www.w3schools.com/xml/default.asp>

### 5.2.2 XML schema

For creating the rules of availability and what the XML document can contain in the form of elements and attributes, XML schemas are created. These XML schemas are the rule book for creating a specific type of XML document describing a particular kind of information. The specification for XML-schema is maintained by W3C and found at <https://www.w3.org/XML/Schema> .

For the specifications, the XML schemas are created and maintained by the groups responsible for the standard, which means we do not usually create new XML schemas.

There are many different options for learning XML schema. A starting point is:  
[https://www.w3schools.com/xml/schema\\_intro.asp](https://www.w3schools.com/xml/schema_intro.asp)

## 5.3 Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS)

For describing the different packages, the specifications utilise the de-facto standard METS. The standard consists of a primer describing all elements and attributes and one XML schema making it possible to create XML documents following METS. The standard can be found here <http://www.loc.gov/standards/mets/mets-home.html> .

For each use case of METS, the request from the standard is to create a METS profile to describe the use of METS. Therefore, the specifications are described with the help of three METS profiles, one each for the CSIP, SIP and DIP.

In METS, it is possible to reference metadata and digital objects or include them in the document. The specification strongly advises always to reference both metadata and



digital objects. This is because the metadata and digital objects need to be placed in the folder structure and thus can be understood without the METS document.

### 5.3.1 Overview of METS

[Source: <http://www.loc.gov/standards/mets/METSOverview.v2.html> ]

The METS document gathers all the information needed to understand the digital objects and which digital objects are being transferred. The METS document consists of seven major sections described here:

1. **METS Header** – The METS Header contains metadata describing the METS document itself, including such information as creator, editor, etc.
2. **Descriptive Metadata** – The descriptive metadata section may point to descriptive metadata external to the METS document (e.g., a MARC record in an OPAC or an EAD finding aid maintained on a WWW server), or contain internally embedded descriptive metadata, or both. Multiple instances of both external and internal descriptive metadata may be included in the descriptive metadata section.
3. **Administrative Metadata** – The administrative metadata section provides information regarding how the files were created and stored, intellectual property rights, metadata regarding the source object from which the digital library object derives, and information regarding the provenance of the files comprising the digital library object (i.e., master/derivative file relationships, and migration/transformation information). As with descriptive metadata, administrative metadata may be either external to the METS document or encoded internally.
4. **File Section** – The file section lists all files containing content that comprise the electronic versions of the digital object. <file> elements may be grouped within <fileGrp> elements, to provide for subdividing the files by object version.
5. **Structural Map** – The structural map is the heart of a METS document. It outlines a hierarchical structure for the digital object and links the elements of that structure to content files and metadata that pertain to each element.
6. **Structural Links** – The Structural Links section of METS allows METS creators to record the existence of hyperlinks between nodes in the hierarchy outlined in the Structural Map. This is of particular value in using METS to archive Websites.
7. **Behavior** – A behaviour section can be used to associate executable behaviours with content in the METS object. Each behaviour within a behaviour section has an interface definition element representing an abstract definition of the set of behaviours represented by a particular behaviour section. Each behaviour also has a mechanism element that identifies a module of executable code that implements and runs the behaviours defined abstractly by the interface definition. (The name is in American-English.)

The following sections describe the parts used in the specifications in more detail.

#### 5.3.1.1 METS Header

The METS Header element creates minimal descriptive metadata about the METS object within the METS document. This metadata includes the date of creation for the METS document, the date of its last modification, and a status for the METS document. It is also

possible to record names and information regarding one or more agents who have played some role concerning the METS document, specify their role, and add a small note regarding their activity.

### 5.3.1.2 *Descriptive Metadata*

The descriptive metadata section of a METS document consists of one or more <dmdSec> (Descriptive Metadata Section) elements. For example, it is possible to reference the finding aid for a particular digital library object. It is possible to provide the type of descriptive metadata in the attribute named MDTYPE. These types have been tested and deemed valid standards to use together with METS MARC, MODS, EAD, VRA (VRA Core), DC (Dublin Core), NISOIMG (NISO Technical Metadata for Digital Still Images), LC-AV (Library of Congress Audiovisual Metadata), TEIHDR (TEI Header), DDI (Data Documentation Initiative), FGDC (Federal Geographic Data Committee Metadata Standard [FGDC-STD-001-1998] ). It is also possible to use other descriptive metadata.

Note that all <dmdSec> elements must possess an ID attribute. This attribute provides a unique, internal name for each <dmdSec> element used in the structural map to link a particular division of the document hierarchy to a particular <dmdSec> element. This allows specific sections of descriptive metadata to be linked to specific parts of the digital object.

### 5.3.1.3 *Administrative Metadata*

The administrative metadata section of a METS document consists of one or more <amdSec> (Administrative Metadata Section) elements. For example, it is possible to express all the administrative metadata pertaining to the files comprising a digital library object, as well as that pertaining to the original source material used to create the object. The <amdSec> element, in turn, contains four main forms of administrative metadata provided for in a METS document:

1. Technical Metadata <techMD> (information regarding files' creation, format, and use characteristics),
2. Intellectual Property Rights Metadata <rightsMD>, (copyright and license information),
3. Source Metadata <sourceMD>, (descriptive and administrative metadata regarding the analogue source from which a digital library object derives), and
4. Digital Provenance Metadata <digiprovMD>, (information regarding source/destination relationships between files, including master/derivative relationships between files and information regarding migrations/transformations employed on files between original digitisation of an artefact and its current incarnation as a digital library object).

Note that <amdSec>, <techMD>, <rightsMD>, <sourceMD> and <digiprovMD> must carry an ID attribute so that other elements within the METS document (such as divisions within the structural map or <file> elements) may be linked to the <amdSec> subelements which describe them.

#### 5.3.1.4 File Section

The file section (<fileSec>) contains one or more <fileGrp> elements used to group together related files. A <fileGrp> lists all of the files which comprise a single electronic version of the digital library object. For example, there might be separate <fileGrp> elements for the thumbnails, the master archival images, the pdf versions, and the TEI encoded text versions, etc.

The <file> element describes the digital objects with, for example, a checksum, the mime type, and the name of the file. There is also needed to note that all the <file> elements have a unique ID attribute. This attribute provides a unique, internal name for this file which can be referenced by other portions of the document.

#### 5.3.1.5 Structural Map

The structural map section of a METS document defines a hierarchical structure that can be presented to users of the digital library object to allow them to navigate through it. The <structMap> element encodes this hierarchy as a nested series of <div> elements. Each <div> carries attribute information specifying what kind of division it is, and may contain multiple METS pointer (<mptr>) and file pointer (<fptr>) elements to identify content corresponding with that <div>. METS pointers specify separate METS documents as containing the relevant file information for the <div> containing them. This can be useful when encoding large collections of material (e.g., an entire journal run) to keep the size of each METS file in the set relatively small. File pointers specify files (or in some cases either groups of files or specific locations within a file) within the current METS document's <fileSec> section that corresponds to the portion in the hierarchy represented by the current <div>.

#### 5.3.1.6 Possibility of own extensions in METS

In METS, it is possible to add the use of own attributes defined in an own XML schema in several places. This is a function to make it possible to add information that is not hosted in METS but is needed in the local implementation and use of METS.

The extension with own attributes is possible in the following METS elements: mets, metsHdr, note in agent, dmdSec, amdSec, techMD, rightsMD, sourceMD, digiprovMD, fileSec, fileGrp, file, structMap, fptr, structLink and behaviorSec

#### 5.3.1.7 Code example from the METS Primer

A full example of a METS document is the following one describing three images which in their turn are described with a MODS document. Two of the images are used as service copies, and one is the saved master image. The full document is available here, <http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/ihas/loc.afc.afc9999005.1153/mets.xml>

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?><mets:mets
xmlns:mets="http://www.loc.gov/METS/"
xmlns:lc="http://www.loc.gov/mets/profiles"
xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink"
xmlns:rights="http://www.loc.gov/rights/"
xmlns:mods="http://www.loc.gov/mods/v3"
```

```

xmlns:bib="http://www.loc.gov/mets/profiles/modsBibCard"
OBJID="loc.afc.afc9999005.1153" PROFILE="lc:modsBibCard">
<mets:metsHdr LASTMODDATE="2016-08-09T12:12:51.320141-04:00"/>
<mets:dmdSec ID="dmd1">
<mets:mdWrap MDTYPE="MODS">
<mets:xmlData>
<mods:mods ID="mods1" version="3.4">
.....
</mods:mods>
</mets:xmlData>
</mets:mdWrap>
</mets:dmdSec>
<mets:fileSec>
<mets:fileGrp USE="MASTER">
<mets:file MIMETYPE="image/tiff" GROUPID="G1" ID="f0178m">
<mets:FLocat LOCTYPE="URL"
xlink:href="http://lcweb4.loc.gov/natlib/ahas/warehouse/afc9999005/AFS_300_A-734_B/0178.tif"/>
</mets:file>
</mets:fileGrp>
<mets:fileGrp USE="SERVICE">
<mets:file MIMETYPE="image/jpeg" GROUPID="G1" ID="f0178s">
<mets:FLocat LOCTYPE="URL"
xlink:href="http://lcweb4.loc.gov/natlib/ahas/service/afc9999005/AFS_300_A-734_B/0178v.jpg"/>
</mets:file>
<mets:file MIMETYPE="image/tiff" GROUPID="G1" ID="f0178z">
<mets:FLocat LOCTYPE="URL"
xlink:href="/media/loc.afc.afc9999005.1153/0178.tif"/>
</mets:file>
</mets:fileGrp>
</mets:fileSec>
<mets:structMap>
<mets:div DMDID="dmd1" TYPE="bib:modsBibCard">
<mets:div TYPE="bib:card">
<mets:div TYPE="lc:image">
<mets:fptr FILEID="f0178m"/>
<mets:fptr FILEID="f0178s"/>
<mets:fptr FILEID="f0178z"/>
</mets:div>
</mets:div>
</mets:div>
</mets:structMap>
</mets:mets>

```

### 5.3.1.8 Implementing the METS profiles and the IP:s

In most cases the IP specifications is not implemented in each and every system to be able to create an SIP package but it can be made instead they are part of a tool that creates packages after an export of digital objects have been made in the originating system. The tool needs to be able to sort the files into its placement according to the IP as well as creating needed checksums and information. It is also possible to create a package by hand, but it's not recommended.

## 5.4 Schematron

Schematron <http://schematron.com/> is an ISO standard describing a rule-based validation language for making assertions about the presence or absence of patterns in XML trees. It is a structural schema language expressed in XML using a small number of elements and XPath.

Schematron can express constraints in ways that other XML schema languages like XML Schema and DTD cannot. For example, it can require that the content of an element be controlled by one of its siblings. Or it can request or require that the root element, regardless of what element that is, must have specific attributes. Schematron can also specify required relationships between multiple XML files.

Constraints and content rules may be associated with “plain-English” validation error messages, allowing translation of numeric Schematron error codes into meaningful user error messages.

The current ISO recommendation is Information technology, Document Schema Definition Languages (DSDL), Part 3: Rule-based validation, Schematron (ISO/IEC 19757-3:2016).

A useful introduction to Schematron has been created by Mulberry Tech, and it is available online, <https://www.mulberrytech.com/papers/schematron-Philly.pdf>.

## 5.5 PREservation Metadata Implementation Strategies (PREMIS)

[Source: <http://www.loc.gov/standards/premis/> ]

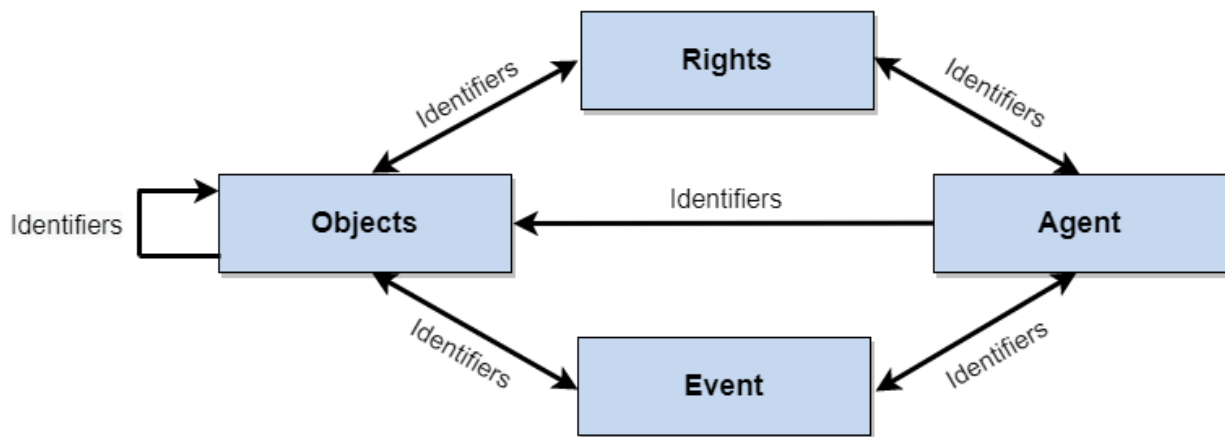
PREMIS (Preservation Metadata: Implementation Strategies) and its PREMIS Data Dictionary <http://www.loc.gov/standards/premis/> is a comprehensive, practical resource for implementing preservation metadata in digital preservation systems. The Data Dictionary defines preservation metadata that:

- Supports the viability, renderability, understandability, authenticity and identity of digital objects in a preservation context;
- Represents the information most preservation repositories need to know to preserve digital materials over the long term;
- Emphasises “implementable metadata”: rigorously defined, supported by guidelines for creation, management, and use, and oriented toward automated workflows; and,
- Embodies technical neutrality: no assumptions are made about preservation technologies, strategies, metadata storage and management, etc.

The current version of the PREMIS data dictionary is version 3 found at <http://www.loc.gov/standards/premis/v3/index.html> .

### 5.5.1 PREMIS data model

The PREMIS Data Dictionary defines semantic units. Each semantic unit defined in the Data Dictionary is mapped to an entity that is organised within a simple data model. A semantic unit can, therefore, be understood as a property of an entity. The model defines four entities important regarding digital preservation activities: Objects, Events, Agents and Rights. Figure 3 provides a graphical illustration of the PREMIS Data Model.



**Figure 3: PREMIS data model (with permission from the PREMIS Editorial Committee)**

In Figure 4, entities are represented by boxes and relationships between entities are represented by arrows. When arrows are bi-directional, then each entity type contains a semantic unit allowing it to link to the other. So, for example, the Rights entity includes a semantic unit recording information about the relationship with an Agent, and the Agent entity includes a semantic unit recording information about associated Rights.

The entities in the PREMIS data model are defined as follows:

- **Object (or Digital Object):** A discrete unit of information subject to digital preservation. Version 3 introduces the notion that this can be an environment used as part of the preservation process.
- **Environment:** Technology (software or hardware) supporting a Digital Object in some way (e.g. rendering or execution). Environments can be described as Intellectual Entities and captured and preserved in the preservation repository as Representations, Files and/or Bitstreams.
- **Event:** An action that involves or affects at least one Object or Agent associated with or known by the preservation repository.
- **Agent:** A person, organisation, or software program/system associated with Events in the life of an Object or with Rights attached to an Object. It can also be related to an environment Object that acts as an Agent.
- **Rights Statement:** Assertion of one or more Rights or permissions pertaining to an Intellectual Object and/or Agent.

It is recommended that users study the data dictionary and participate in the events led by the PREMIS Editorial Committee to thoroughly understand PREMIS. More information can be found on the PREMIS website, <https://www.loc.gov/standards/premis/>.

Observe that PREMIS is not to be used as a descriptive standard replacing, for example, descriptions of archival creators; PREMIS is describing the agents involved in the preservation.

### 5.5.2 Learning PREMIS

The standard describes all its elements in the Data Dictionary available online at <http://www.loc.gov/standards/premis/v3/index.html>.

The key concepts and an introduction in different translations are available on the webpage, <https://www.loc.gov/standards/premis/bibliography.html> where the document “Understanding PREMIS: an overview of the PREMIS Data Dictionary for Preservation Metadata”.

### 5.5.3 PREMIS fundamentals

It is important to remember that PREMIS is implementation-independent, but the XML schema has been chosen as the implementation form in our specifications. Thus, it is possible to implement these structures in, for example, a database and export it as the XML document when a transfer of the information with its preservation metadata is performed.

### 5.5.4 Types of objects

PREMIS defines four different kinds of Objects and requires implementers to make a distinction between them. These are Bitstreams, Files, Representations, and Intellectual Entities. In the specifications, we use all the objects besides Bitstreams. The PREMIS definition of these objects aids with the understanding of the specifications.

#### 5.5.4.1 Bitstreams

Bitstream Objects are subsets of files. A Bitstream Object is defined as data (bits) within a file that a) have common properties for preservation purposes and b) cannot stand alone without adding a file header or other structure. So, for example, if you had a file in AVI (audio-video interleaved) format, you might want to distinguish the audio bitstream from the video bitstream and describe them as separate Bitstream Objects.

#### 5.5.4.2 Files

A File Object is just what it sounds like, a computer file, like a PDF or JPEG.

#### 5.5.4.3 Representations

A Representation Object is the set of all File Objects needed to render an Intellectual Entity. For example, say you want to preserve a Web page, perhaps your institution’s home page as of some date. The chances are good that the home page you see in your browser is actually composed of many different files – one or more HTML files, a handful of GIF or JPEG images, maybe a little audio or Flash animation. It probably also uses a stylesheet to create the display you see. It takes all of these files together for a browser to render the home page for viewing, so if a repository wants to preserve a renderable home page, it has to know about all these files and how to put them together. The Representation Object allows the repository not only to identify the set of related files but also to describe characteristics of the totality (e.g. the Web page as a whole) that may be different from any of its parts.

#### 5.5.4.4 Intellectual Entity

An Intellectual Entity Object is defined as a set of content that is considered a single intellectual unit for purposes of management and description: for example, a particular book, map, photograph, or database. PREMIS does not generally define descriptive metadata pertaining to Intellectual Entities because there are plenty of descriptive metadata standards to choose from. From version 3, an Intellectual Entity can be described with descriptive



metadata outside of PREMIS or with preservation metadata as an Object within PREMIS. PREMIS says that an Object in a preservation system should be associated with the conceptual Intellectual Entity it represents by including an identifier of the Intellectual Entity in the metadata for the Object. So, for example, if we were preserving a copy of Buddhism: The Ebook: an Online Introduction, we might use the ISBN as the link to the Intellectual Entity description in the PREMIS description of the ebook.

#### 5.5.5 Using PREMIS with METS

When using PREMIS and METS together, it is strongly advised and encouraged to use the published guidelines developed in cooperation by the PREMIS Editorial Committee and the METS Board <http://www.loc.gov/standards/premis/guidelines2017-premismets.pdf> which outlines the decisions needed to use the two standards together and have been followed in the creation of the specifications

#### 5.5.6 Vocabularies in PREMIS

The standard recommends the use of vocabularies in several semantic units. The vocabularies have been developed by the PREMIS Editorial Committee and the PREMIS users and are published by the Library of Congress. All relevant vocabularies are presented in the PREMIS Data Dictionary together with the semantic unit it is used in. All the available vocabularies can be found at this web resource: <http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/preservation.html> and the [specification is following these](#).

#### 5.5.7 A note on identifiers

In PREMIS, each of the entities (objects, events, agents, rights) are identified by a generic set of identifier containers. These containers follow an identical syntax and structure consisting of an [entity]Identifier container holding two semantic units:

- [entity]IdentifierType
- [entity]IdentifierValue

The PREMIS data dictionary recognises that the use of identifier types is an implementation-specific issue and does not recommend or require vocabularies for identifier types. The Library of Congress has a Standard Identifiers Scheme (<http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/identifiers.html>). Its use is recommended in this specification instead of implementation-specific vocabularies.

#### 5.5.8 PREMIS in the IP:s

There is a CS available for preservation metadata based upon PREMIS. There is one thing to be noted, and that is that the CS for preservation metadata in no way describe a full preservation planning or archival plan for all possible software's and repositories it is a starting point but in the repository implementing the specification if it is not decided by the software used a need to do a preservation planning plan and go through PREMIS and set up for example which events and the granularity of events occurring in the archive that is stored are needed. The CS for Preservation is to be used as the transfer format for preservation metadata, which means the PREMIS implementation in the system can be as a database table or likewise, and the XML-schema is used in the transfer of the preservation metadata.



## 5.6 Description standards

When a transfer is made to the archives, it is important to connect the digital objects found in the information package with its descriptive information. The descriptive information can take many forms and have different flavours depending on if it is an archive, library or a museum needing the descriptive information. In many cases, they can use the same standards for descriptive information, and in others, there are different standards used. This section will, in its first version, focus on the descriptive standards used within the archives. The specifications themselves are not in any way restricted to be used only in an archival setting; instead, they are aimed at all different settings, which means that a library or museum can use its descriptive standards in the same way that the archival standards are used.

### 5.6.1 Implementing description standards

The standards described below are used in the creation of the archival information systems, and in most cases, one of the possible export formats is in the form of an XML document following one of the archival XML-based formats described. The implementation will be needed to be done if the system does not have an export possibility and will consist of creating the mapping between the system and the selected format and then populate an XML document. There might also be occasions where it is needed to transform from the exported XML format to the required XML format where a mapping between the two formats is needed to be developed.

The specification for descriptions does not supply you with mapping or transformations to achieve your required output; the goal of the specification is to give you the options in formats to use.

### 5.6.2 Encoded Archival Description (EAD)

EAD is the Archival Description; it can also be called the Finding Aid.

This document describes the scope, structure, and other specific information about the archival material itself. The document follows a structure developed by the International Council on Archives (ICA) called the General International Standard Archival Description (ISAD-G) (<https://www.ica.org/en/isadg-general-international-standard-archival-description-second-edition>). ISAD-G does not provide a transfer format but uses the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) (<http://www.loc.gov/ead/index.html>) maintained by the Technical Subcommittee on Encoded Archival Standards (<https://www2.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section7/groups/Standards/TS-EAS>).

### 5.6.3 Encoded Archival Creators- Corporate Bodies, Persons and Families (EAC-CPF)

EAC-CPF is describing the Archival Creator.

This document provides information about the individual or organisation that created the records. The document follows a structure developed by the International Council on Archives (ICA) called the International Standard Archival Authority Record for Corporate Bodies, Persons and Families (ISAAR(CPF)) (<https://www.ica.org/en/isaar-cpf-international-standard-archival-authority-record-corporate-bodies-persons-and-families-2nd>). ISAAR(CPF) does not provide a transfer format, but uses the Encoded Archival Context for Corporate Bodies, Persons and Families (EAC-CPF) <https://eac.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/> maintained by the

Technical Subcommittee on Encoded Archival Standards  
(<https://www2.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section7/groups/Standards/TS-EAS>).

#### 5.6.4 Encoded Archival Guide (EAG)

EAG is the description of the Archival Institution itself.

This document provides information about the entity that maintains the archival holdings. The document follows a structure developed by the International Council on Archives (ICA) called the International Standard for Describing Institutions with Archival Holdings (ISDIAH) (<https://www.ica.org/en/isdiah-international-standard-describing-institutions-archival-holdings>). ISDIAH does not provide a transfer format but uses the Encoded Archival Guide (EAG) (<http://www.archivesportaleurope.net/eag>) maintained by the Archives Portal Europe Foundation (<http://www.archivesportaleuropefoundation.eu/index.php>).

#### 5.6.5 Records in Context (RiC)

A content model together with an ontology binding together the description with the creators and their function is Records in Contexts.

The International Council of Archives (ICA) Expert Group on Archival Description (EGAD) (<https://www.ica.org/en/about-egad>) has created a conceptual model for archival description called Records in Context (RiC) <https://www.ica.org/ica-network/expert-groups/egad/records-in-contexts-ric/>.

RiC addresses the activity of describing records in four complementary parts:

1. Records in Contexts-Foundations of Archival Description (RiC-FAD). RiC-FAD is a brief description of the foundational principles and purposes of archival description
2. Records in Contexts-Conceptual Model (RiC-CM). RiC-CM is a high-level conceptual model that focuses on intellectually identifying and describing records, the people that created and use(d) them, and the activities pursued by the people that the records both facilitate and document
3. Records in Contexts-Ontology (RiC-O). RiC-O is a specific implementation of RiC-CM formally expressed in the World Wide Web Consortium standard Web Ontology Language (OWL). RiC-O provides the archival community with the ability to make archival description available using the techniques of Linked Open Data (LOD) employing a conceptual vocabulary and structure that is specific to archival description. As a specific implementation, it conforms to the high-level RiC-CM, though includes the greater detail required for implementation as an ontology
4. Records in Contexts-Application Guidelines (RiC-AG). RiC-AG, when completed, will provide practitioners and software developers with concrete guidance and examples to assist them in implementing RiC-CM and RiC-O in records and archival management systems

Version 1.0 of the first three parts was released in late 2023. Work on the fourth part began in early 2024.

It is possible to include documents following RiC in an information package.

## 6 Glossary

A glossary with terms used within the context of these specifications and guidelines are found at <http://evoc.dlmforum.eu/E-ARK/group/5568370c3448e76821b3942f/list>

## 7 Metadata and their description in the specifications

In this section, the explanation of the different tables and key terminology in the tables found in the specifications are given.

### 7.1 Explanation of tables and values used in the specification

In the specifications, there are several different tables and values used, which are described in the following sections.

### 7.2 Specification tables

The specifications tables describe the different requirements needed to be full filled to be following the specification. Table 1 is the table where the requirements are described; the different parts of each requirement is described in Table 2.

**Table 1: Requirement tables headings**

ID	Name, Location and Description	Card & Level
[ID]	[Name of element] [XPath to element] [Description of the element]	[Cardinality 1..1 and so on] [Level: MUST, SHOULD, MAY]

**Table 2: Explanation of the parts of the requirement table**

Term	Explanation
[ID]	Identification number of the requirement. The numbering is unique and built upon the acronym for specification and a running number. There are no renumbering occurring which means if a requirement gets outdated, the number is obsolete and not used.
[Name of element]	Name of the element in human-readable form.
[XPath to element]	The XPath describing the location of the element in the XML document.
[Description of the element]	A longer description of the purpose of the elements and links to extending information as well as other information pertaining to the element and described in another place. For example, values of value lists.
[Cardinality]	The possible occurrence of the element. See explanation in Table 3 in section "7.3 Cardinality values".
[Level]	The level of requirement of the element. See explanation in Table 4 in section "7.4 Level of requirement values".

### 7.3 Cardinality values

The cardinality gives the number of possible occurrences of an element.

Table 3: Cardinality

Cardinality	In human reading	DTD	XML-schema
[0..1]	Zero or once	?	minOccurs=0 maxOccurs=1
[0..n]	Zero or one or more times	*	minOccurs=0 maxOccurs=n minOccurs=0 maxOccurs=unbounded
[1..1]	Once	-	minOccurs=1 maxOccurs=1
[1..n]	One or more times	+	minOccurs=1 maxOccurs=unbounded minOccurs=1 maxOccurs=n

### 7.4 Level of requirement values

The level gives the requirement of an element following RFC 2119 <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>.

Table 4: Level of requirement

Term	Explanation
<b>MUST</b>	This means that the definition is an absolute requirement.
<b>SHOULD</b>	This means that in particular circumstances, valid reasons may exist to ignore the requirement, but the full implications must be understood and carefully weighed before choosing a different course.
<b>MUST NOT</b>	This phrase means that the prohibition described in the requirement is an absolute prohibition of the use of the element.
<b>SHOULD NOT</b>	This phrase means that in particular circumstances, violating the prohibition described in the requirement is acceptable or even useful, but the full implications should be understood and the case carefully weighed before doing so. The requirement text should clarify such circumstances.
<b>MAY</b>	This means that an item is not prohibited but fully optional.

## 7.5 Identifiers in the IP specifications

The recommendation in the specifications is to use globally unique identifiers. With that written, showing examples where UUID's are used make the text hard to read, so from a user perspective, the IDs in the used examples have been shortened.

## 8 In-depth information regarding different concepts and terms

[Explain more concepts or other text needed for making understanding the specification and its use easy]

### 8.1 CS and CITS

The specifications have been split into two types; Common Specifications (CS) dealing with the information package itself and Content Information Type Specifications (CITS) dealing with the content being placed in the package.

A CS describes the package itself and the common ground for what is to be called an information package. This means that the Common Specification for Information Packages (CSIP) gathers all principles and requirements that are common to an information package in the OAIS Reference Model. In its turn, it is extended by the E-ARK SIP, E-ARK AIP and E-ARK DIP with the requirements that are specialised and needed in the transfer, archival storage, and dissemination of an information package.

The content that is going to be placed in an information package following CSIP and E-ARK SIP/E-ARK AIP/E-ARK DIP is described in its own specification for the information type it is classified to be. This comes from the fact that all information is not possible to describe in one unified way. The content itself faces requirements needed to be fulfilled following the content information type itself and different regulations that are imposed on the content.

These two types of specifications are always used in cooperation, following Figure 4 below. The CITS is placed in a package following CSIP and E-ARK SIP/E-ARK AIP/E-ARK DIP.

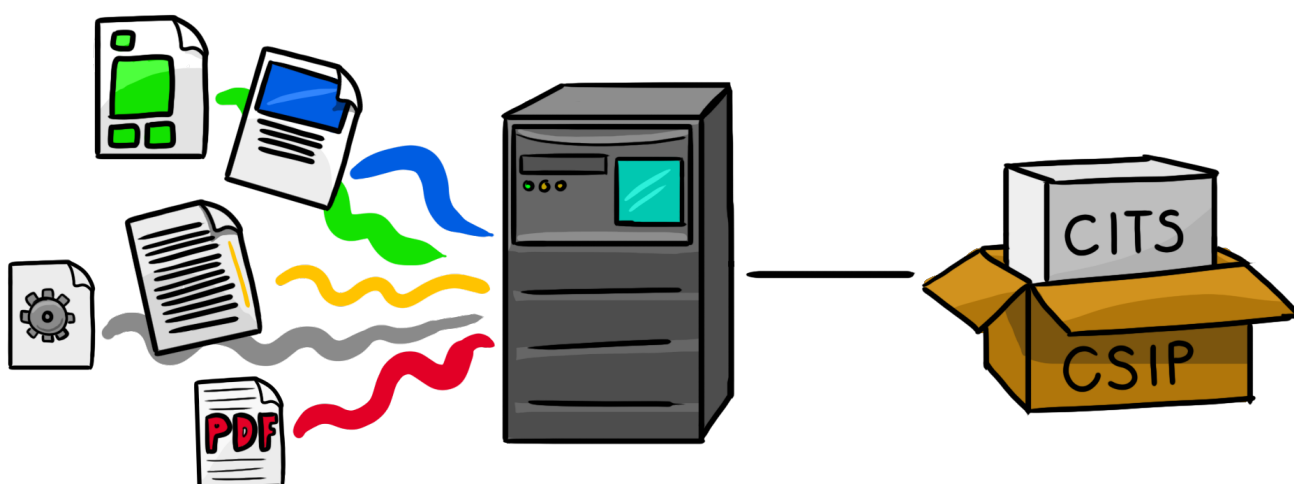


Figure 4: "Setup" of a package (with permission from Kommunalförbundet Sydarkivera)

## 8.2 Explanation of redundancy and incompatible requirements

In the CSIP, there might be requirements having the same XPath but different cardinality and level. The goal for each requirement is that each requirement only contains one rule and not multiple rules. This means that there might be more than one requirement pertaining to one XPath, thus making it look like there are incompatible requirements. This means that there are going to be more than one requirement on occasions where you see the same XPath but different cardinality and level. The rule when reading and understanding the specifications is that if the first requirement with the XPath is fulfilled, the next one with the same XPath needs to follow also the requirement. Let's look closer at some examples:

### 8.2.1 Example 1 CSIP88 and CSIP90

#### Metadata division

`mets/structMap[@LABEL='CSIP']/div/div[@LABEL='Metadata']`

- CSIP88** The metadata referenced in the administrative and/or descriptive metadata section is described in the structural map with one sub division. **1..1 MUST**
- When the transfer consists of only administrative and/or descriptive metadata, this is the only sub division that occurs.

#### Metadata division label

`mets/structMap[@LABEL='CSIP']/div/div[@LABEL='Metadata']`

- CSIP90** The metadata division `<div>` element's `@LABEL` attribute value must be "Metadata". **1..1 MUST**
- See also: [File group names](#)

**Explanation:** CSIP88 tells us that there needs to be a division in the structural map for metadata; this requirement only pertains to the obligation of having the division for metadata. CSIP90 tells us that the mandatory division needs to have the value "Metadata" following the vocabulary named "File group names" in the attribute named LABEL.

### 8.2.2 Example 2 CSIP93 and CSIP95

#### Documentation division

`mets/structMap[@LABEL='CSIP']/div/div[@LABEL='Documentation']`

- CSIP93** The documentation referenced in the file section file groups is described in the structural map with one sub division. **0..1 SHOULD**

#### Documentation division label

`mets/structMap[@LABEL='CSIP']/div/div[@LABEL='Documentation']`

- CSIP95** The documentation division `<div>` element in the package uses the value "Documentation" from the vocabulary as the value for the `@LABEL` attribute. **1..1 MUST**
- See also: [File group names](#)

**Explanation:** CSIP93 tells us that there might be a division in the structural map for documentation; this requirement is only pertaining to the occurrence of having the division for documentation. CSIP95 tells us that if we have a division for documentation, there needs to be a division having the value "Documentation" following the vocabulary named "File group names" in the attribute named LABEL.

### 8.2.3 Example 3 CSIP97 and CSIP99

#### CSIP97 Schema division

`mets/structMap[@LABEL='CSIP']/div/div[@LABEL='Schemas']`

**0..1 SHOULD**

The schemas referenced in the file section file groups are described in the structural map within a single sub-division.

#### Schema division label

`mets/structMap[@LABEL='CSIP']/div/div[@LABEL='Schemas']`

- CSIP99** The schema division `<div>` element's `@LABEL` attribute has the value “Schemas” from the vocabulary. **1..1 MUST**
- See also:** [File group names](#)

**Explanation:** CSIP97 tells us that there might be a division in the structural map for schemas; this requirement is only pertaining to the occurrence of having the division for schemas. CSIP99 tells us that if we have a division for schemas, there needs to be a division having the value “Schemas” following the vocabulary named “File group names” in the attribute named LABEL.

### 8.2.4 Example 4 CSIP101 and CSIP103

#### Content division

`mets/structMap[@LABEL='CSIP']/div/div[@LABEL='Representations']`

- CSIP101** When no representations are present, the content referenced in the file section file group with `@USE` attribute value “Representations” is described in the structural map as a single sub division. **0..1 SHOULD**

#### Content division label

`mets/structMap[@LABEL='CSIP']/div/div[@LABEL='Representations']`

- CSIP103** The package's content division `<div>` element must have the `@LABEL` attribute value “Representations”, taken from the vocabulary. **1..1 MUST**
- See also:** [File group names](#)

**Explanation:** CSIP101 tells us that there might be a division in the structural map for content; this requirement is only pertaining to the occurrence of having the division for content. CSIP103 tells us that if we have a division for content, there needs to be a division having the value “Representations” following the vocabulary named “File group names” in the attribute named LABEL.

## 8.3 Explanation of principles in CSIP

The principles have been created for setting a common ground for transferring information/data/digital objects to an archive, no matter the type of archive. The principles thus work for private archives, regional archives, national archives and all the archives that can be imagined which receives digital objects to preserve for the future.

### 8.3.1 Explanation of Principle 1.1

*It **MUST** be possible to include any data or metadata in an Information Package regardless of its type or format.*

The principle is created and set as the most critical principle that needs to be full filled. If an information package limits what you can put inside, it is not a common information package that can be used by all possible users and is not having a practical interoperability spanning all sectors and tools, which is included in the wording common. Data is to be understood as the information transferred and metadata as the supporting information needed to understand the data.



### 8.3.2 Explanation of Principle 1.2

*The Information Package **MUST NOT** restrict the means, methods or tools for exchanging it.*

The principle describes the need for common information packages to be exchanged between users, repositories, researchers and so on in all possible ways. It needs to be possible to exchange the package with the help of a USB stick as well as through the eDelivery services provided by the eDelivery Building Block.

### 8.3.3 Explanation of Principle 1.3

*The package format **MUST NOT** define the scope of data and metadata which constitutes an Information Package.*

The principle describes that the information package scope needs to be decided upon. It is possible to see an export of all the content in an ERMS or a single file as an information package. In the explanation given in the principle, the word “intellectual” is introduced, this follows PREMIS and the Intellectual Entity where the intellectual entity can be the real-life entity, for example, a physical (paper) printed book which in its turn has been digitised and then packed in an information package and sent to the archives. Then the printed book is seen as the intellectual entity for the digitised book being stored in an information package.

### 8.3.4 Explanation of Principle 1.4

*The Information Package **SHOULD** be scalable.*

The principle describes the need for being able to divide the information package into manageable chunks since size does matter. A thorough description is currently 2021 under development.

### 8.3.5 Explanation of Principle 1.5

*The Information Package **MUST** be machine-readable*

The principle describes the fact that it's the machines that are supposed to be able to handle the information package even if using standards with expressions in formats readable by the human eye is used. The repository tools need to be able to handle the information package and not needing human aid.

### 8.3.6 Explanation of Principle 1.6

*The Information Package **SHOULD** be human-readable*

The principle states the fact that even if the information package is supposed to be for the machines, it is needed for it to be readable and understandable by a human by using simple text editors and file viewers in case the dedicated tools does not work.

### 8.3.7 Explanation of Principle 1.7

*The Information Package **MUST NOT** prescribe the use of a specific preservation method*

The principle declares that the preservation planning and preservation methods used in the repository is decided upon by the repository. For example, it is the repository that needs to create the preservation planning and decide upon how migration is handled and recorded, which events occurring to the digital objects in the repository is recorded and how rights regarding the digital objects are stored and expressed. A lot of other things is part of the preservation in the repository, and only a few are mentioned here.

### 8.3.8 Explanation of Principle 2.1

*The Information Package OAIS type (SIP, AIP or DIP) **MUST** be clearly indicated.*

The principle explains the need of knowing where in the archiving lifecycle described in the OAIS Reference Model the information package currently is. This is needed since what happens to the information package is depending on where it is. The SIP is incoming and is thus going under actions being performed before it becomes an AIP like validation of correctness and virus check so it can be put into the repository.

### 8.3.9 Explanation of Principle 2.2

*Any Information Package **MUST** clearly identify the Content Information Type(s) of its data and metadata.*

The principle is describing the need for knowing the type of information that is placed in the information package. This is needed since there will be different actions performed depending on the content, and it can be automatised when the content is following a pre-set of rules from a CITS. For example, images will be handled differently than a database. It is the same time also needed to know if no specifications have been used for the content when it was placed in the information package.

### 8.3.10 Explanation of Principle 2.3

*Any Information Package **MUST** have an identifier that is unique and persistent within the repository.*

The principle enforces the need of being to be able to identify an information package in the repository with a unique repository identifier. The usual way of knowing the information packages found in the repository is to have the identifier listed in an inventory like an archival description, and thus it can be found. This identifier is for the package as an information package and does not look at the digital objects within the information package.

### 8.3.11 Explanation of Principle 2.4

*Any Information Package **SHOULD** have an identifier that is globally unique and persistent.*

The principle is to be seen in coherence with principle 2.3 and is a reminder of the usefulness of the identifiers to besides being unique in the repository, also being unique and persistent in the wider context to facilitate cross-institutional information exchange and reuse scenarios of whole information packages. At the same time, the principle in no way enforces the method for identification or type of identifications used.

### 8.3.12 Explanation of Principle 2.5

*All components of an Information Package **MUST** have an identifier that is unique and persistent within the repository.*

The principle explains the need for all the components, and with components, it means all the digital objects found in the package, in short, all files, no matter what type of file it needs to have an identifier, so it is possible to link them to each other as needed. This is a principle only concerning each information package, and it can easily be transferred to a repository unique identifier with the addition of the package identification to the component identification.

### 8.3.13 Explanation of Principle 3.1

*The Information Package **MUST** ensure that data and metadata are logically separated from one another.*

The principle is describing the importance of easily being able to see which of the digital objects (components) is describing metadata concerning the data objects in the information package. This differentiation is important since, in, for example, format migration events, the data is the digital objects needing the migration, not the metadata which is saved in formats usually not needing migration like XML. The logical separation is achieved using a manifest that describes all the digital objects in the information package. Currently, the used standard for the manifest is METS.

Observe that some formats used for the content information type specifications in themselves contain metadata. This is not supposed to be moved out of the format and placed separately; instead, see the metadata in this requirement to be the overall needed metadata for understanding the package.

### 8.3.14 Explanation of Principle 3.2

*The Information Package **SHOULD** ensure that data and metadata are physically separated from one another.*

The principle makes principle 3.1 easier to achieve through not having the manifest but also using a folder structure giving the separation of data and metadata.

### 8.3.15 Explanation of Principle 3.3

*The structure of the Information Package **SHOULD** allow for the separation of different types of metadata*

The principle takes principles 3.1 and 3.2 to the next level, where the different kinds of metadata are divided and separated into at least two main categories of metadata for the information package, descriptive and preservation metadata. The separation should be in both the logical description and the physical structure of the information package. Where the descriptive metadata is, for example, a description of the creator of the data in the form of an EAC-CPF document and preservation metadata is a PREMIS document.

### 8.3.16 Explanation of Principle 3.4

*The structure of the Information Package **MUST** allow for the creation of data and metadata in multiple representations.*

The principle outlines the constantly evolving digital preservation need of being able to migrate and create new data and metadata throughout the digital object's lifecycle the creation of a new representation of the digital objects. This means that the possibility to fully understand the lifecycle and events of the digital object occurring in the lifecycle and preservation is easily achieved.

### 8.3.17 Explanation of Principle 3.5

*The structure of the Information Package **MUST** explicitly define the possibilities for adding additional components into the Information Package.*

The principle ensures the possibility of adding what is needed into the information package to get an information package fulfilling all the needs of different kinds of users. This is especially important when it comes to regulations in different countries, to different sectors since all have a different kind of needs that needs to be fulfilled in the creation of an information package. For example, a transfer of an information package to a national archive which can be seen as the last transfer for the information might demand the XML schemas used for creating the metadata structures to be added to ensure the possibility of understanding and validating the data in the preservation environment.

### 8.3.18 Explanation of Principle 3.6

*The Information Package **SHOULD** follow a common conceptual structure regardless of its technical implementation.*

The principle is the combination of principles 3.1–3.5 and explains the need for being consistent in the implementation to ensure the possibility of a collaborative way of creating tools that work in all settings. Currently, the CSIP is implementing the principles with the use of a folder structure that can have folders added by the user and a manifest describing the package in a readable form using METS.

### 8.3.19 Explanation of Principle 4.1

*Metadata in the Information Package **MUST** conform to a standard.*

The principle enforces the use of metadata standards for describing the metadata in the package. Using a standard makes it easy to understand and share the information surrounding digital objects. In addition, using a standard ensures it is widespread and used by others and that the standard is having all elements and attributes needed for the type of data it is describing.

### 8.3.20 Explanation of Principle 4.2

*Metadata in the Information Package **MUST** allow for unambiguous use.*

The principle is enforcing the need of writing profiles for the different metadata standards used, so it is possible to make sure it is not open and needing interpretations to understand the data.

### 8.3.21 Explanation of Principle 4.3

*The Information Package **MUST NOT** restrict the addition of supplementary metadata.*

The principle suggests the use of other metadata, which aids with discovery in the form of descriptive metadata and technical and structural metadata for the content itself.

## 8.4 Folder structure requirements

To improve the understanding of the information package in case the manifest gets lost, a folder structure is suggested and enforced in the validation. The folders structure is described with this set of requirements.

### 8.4.1 Explanation of CSIPSTR1

*Any Information Package MUST be included within a single physical root folder (known as the “Information Package root folder”). For packages presented in an archive format, see CSIPSTR3; the archive MUST unpack to a single root folder.*

The requirement describes that there should always be a top folder in which all content is placed so when unpacking the information package, all digital objects in the package ends up in one root folder.

### 8.4.2 Explanation of CSIPSTR2

*The Information Package root folder SHOULD be named with the ID or name of the Information Package, that is, the value of the package METS.xml’s root <mets> element’s @OBJID attribute.*

The requirement suggests that the root folder is named the same thing as the identification of the package found in the METS document in the attribute OBJID.

### 8.4.3 Explanation of CSIPSTR3

*The Information Package root folder MAY be compressed (for example, by using TAR or ZIP). Which specific compression format to use needs to be stated in the Submission Agreement.*

The requirement suggests that the information package is packed as one file using, for example, packing into TAR- or ZIP-format. Which package format to use needs to be agreed upon in the submission agreement.

### 8.4.4 Explanation of CSIPSTR4

*The Information Package root folder MUST include a file named METS.xml. This file MUST contain metadata that identifies the package, provides a high-level package description, and describes its structure, including pointers to constituent representations.*

The requirement requires that there needs to be a manifest in the form of a METS document. This document needs to be named METS.xml. It is important to notice that due to computer operating systems, the files METS.xml, Mets.xml, mets.xml and more options can be seen as different files and mean that when unpacking, there will be just one saved; thus, it is important to make sure the file is named METS.xml.

### 8.4.5 Explanation of CSIPSTR5

*The Information Package root folder SHOULD include a folder named metadata, which SHOULD include metadata relevant to the whole package.*

The requirement suggests the use of a folder named metadata on the top level for metadata documents pertaining to the whole package. Examples of metadata at this level is a full archival description over the whole package, a PREMIS document concerning all the different digital objects found in the data folder. There might be metadata stored in the different representations, and therefore there is also possible to have the metadata folder in a representation.

#### **8.4.6 Explanation of CSIPSTR6**

*If preservation metadata are available, they SHOULD be included in sub-folder preservation.*

The requirement recommends that the metadata folder is having a subfolder named preservation for storing the preservation metadata, most likely in the format PREMIS.

#### **8.4.7 Explanation of CSIPSTR7**

*If descriptive metadata are available, they SHOULD be included in sub-folder descriptive.*

The requirement recommends that the metadata folder is having a subfolder named descriptive for storing the descriptive metadata, which can be in several formats like EAD3, EAC-CPF, RiC-O, MARC and more.

#### **8.4.8 Explanation of CSIPSTR8**

*If any other metadata are available, they MAY be included in separate sub-folders, for example, an additional folder named other.*

The requirement recommends that other metadata is stored in a sub folder named other. This is for metadata which can't be sorted as being either preservation or descriptive metadata.

#### **8.4.9 Explanation of CSIPSTR9**

*The Information Package folder SHOULD include a folder named representations.*

The requirement recommends the sub folder named representations for placing the different representations into its own subfolders

#### **8.4.10 Explanation of CSIPSTR10**

*The representations folder SHOULD include a sub-folder for each individual representation (i.e. the "representation folder"). Each representation folder should have a string name that is unique within the package scope. For example, the name of the representation and/or its creation date might be good candidates as a representation sub-folder name.*

The requirement suggests that the representation folder contains subfolders for the different representations of the information package.

#### **8.4.11 Explanation of CSIPSTR11**

*The representation folder SHOULD include a sub-folder named data which MAY include all data constituting the representation.*

The requirement suggests that all data being the digital objects and not metadata transferred in the information package is placed in the representation sub folder named data.

#### **8.4.12 Explanation of CSIPSTR12**

*The representation folder SHOULD include a metadata file named METS.xml, which includes information about the identity and structure of the representation and its components. The recommended best practice is to always have a METS.xml in the representation folder.*

The requirement is describing that each representation can be described with a METS document which means the METS document in the top folder pertains to the whole information package and that each representation can be described by its own METS document. This means that the top METS document

points to the lower METS documents and do not describe the digital objects in the representations more than the METS.xml document. More description of representations in other sections.

#### **8.4.13 Explanation of CSIPSTR13**

*The representation folder SHOULD include a sub-folder named metadata which MAY include all metadata about the specific representation.*

The requirement is describing the possibility to add a metadata folder in the different representations, which then is the folder to store the metadata that pertains to the digital objects being found in the representation.

#### **8.4.14 Explanation of CSIPSTR14**

*The Information Package MAY be extended with additional sub-folders.*

The requirement describes the possibility to be able in the representation to add all needed subfolders.

#### **8.4.15 Explanation of CSIPSTR15**

*We recommend including all XML schema documents for any structured metadata within a package. These schema documents SHOULD be placed in a sub-folder called schemas within the Information Package root folder and/or the representation folder.*

The requirement is stressing the need that to make the information package long term sustainable, all structured metadata should have its schemas in the package in a folder named schemas. The schema folder can be found in the root folder of the package, and there have all used schemas. It is also possible to have the schema folder in the representation. During the preservation planning, it is also needed to figure out the extent to which schemas for structured information to have in the package or available in the preservation system. Even the structured information standard XML itself has an XML.XSD document with its rules. The XML.XSD is maintained by the W3C and is found here, <https://www.w3.org/2001/03/xml.xsd>

#### **8.4.16 Explanation of CSIPSTR16**

*We recommend including any supplementary documentation for the package or a specific representation within the package. Supplementary documentation SHOULD be placed in a sub-folder called documentation within the Information Package root folder and/or the representation folder. Examples of documentation include representation information and manuals for the system the data objects were exported from.*

The requirement is closely connected to the submission agreement and what information the receiver is stating is needed to understand the digital objects when they have been transferred. The supplementary documentation includes, for example, manuals, screenshots of the system in use and other documentation informing about the use of the digital objects being part of the transfer.

### **8.5 Explanation of the concept of representations**

In the specifications, the decision has been made to use the term representations and representation as described in section “5.1.2.6 Representations and representation” to describe the data being transferred. Following the description of representations defined in PREMIS as seen in section “5.5.4.3 Representations”.

It is possible to create a simple example with the case of a representations folder containing two representations:

The first representation in the information package can be exactly what has been transferred from the sender and comprise of a .doc and a .xsl.

The second representation is the .doc and .xls transformed to the .pdf versions of the files.

In some of the CITS, there will be descriptions made of different representations needed.

### 8.5.1 Explanation of levels of packages and nesting of representations, METS root and METS representation

Looking at the conceptual structure from CSIP in Figure 5 below that have been defined in the specifications, you can see that there is a hierarchy of representations, making them nested.

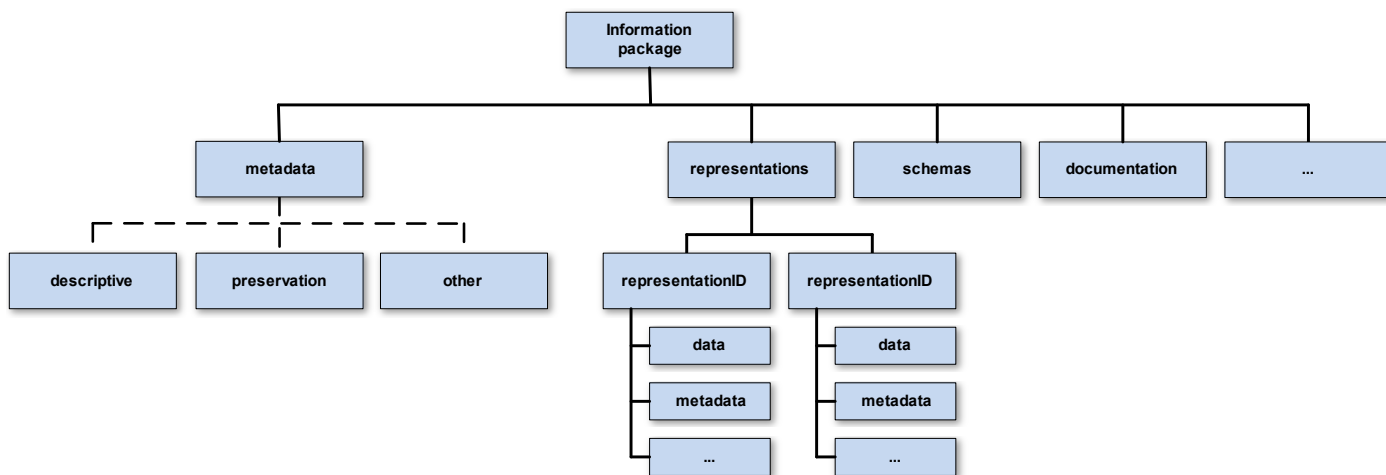


Figure 5: Conceptual structure of the Common Specification

The same concept is found in the translation of the conceptual model to the folder structure also described in CSIP. You can in Figure 6 below see that the top level of the hierarchy or the root of the package has a METS.xml document as well as the representation having its own METS.xml



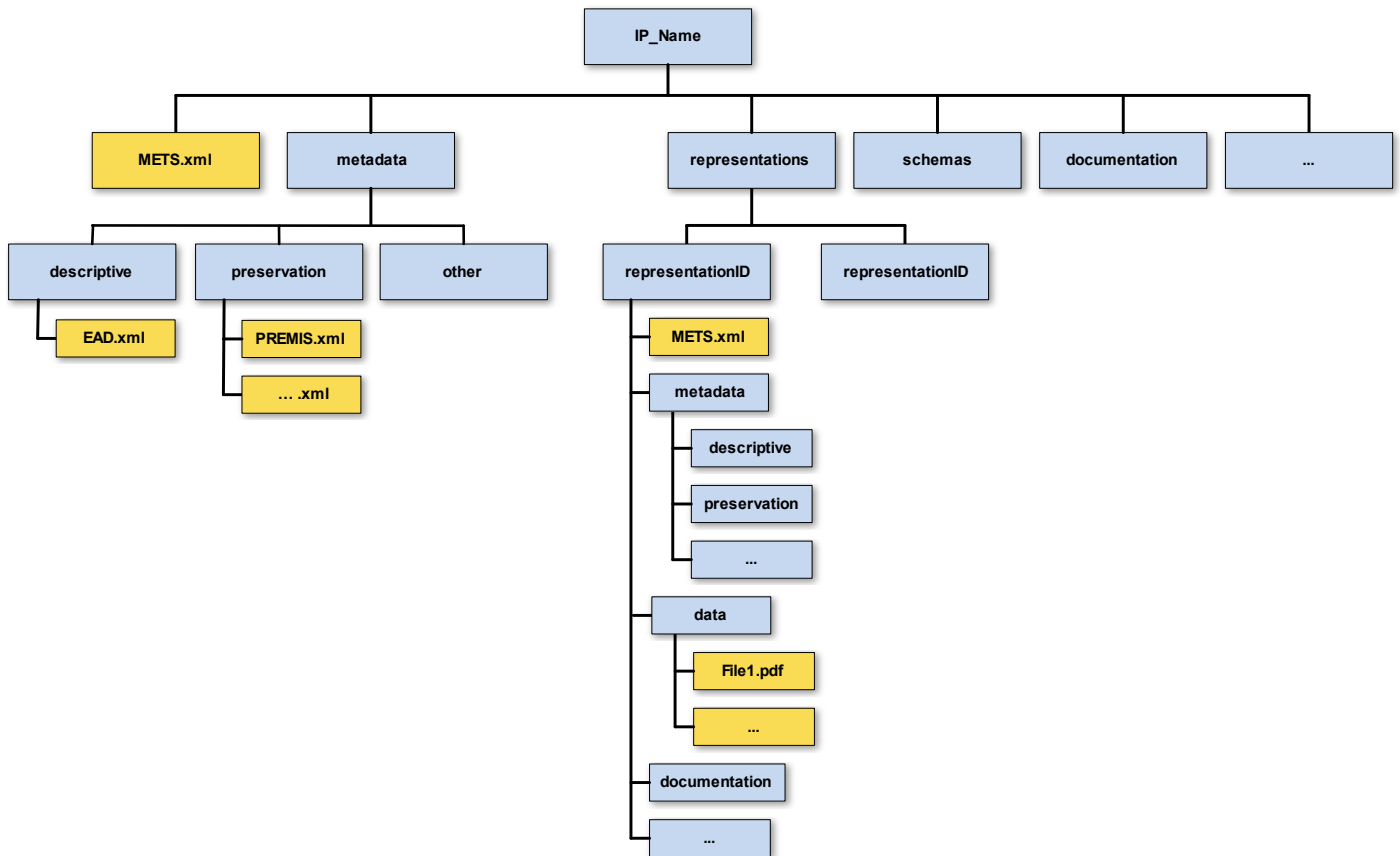


Figure 6: CSIP Information Package folder structure

Looking further into these METS documents, the top one describes all things common for all the root levels and all the representations, and in its turn, it points to the representation METS. This is to make it possible to see from the root which representations can be found in the information package.

The principle is that when you have multiple nested METS documents that each document is responsible for the content and metadata below it in the package hierarchy. For example, if you have a representation METS document, the parent (the root METS) should only point to that and not to any of the content and metadata in the representation; that is the responsibility of the representation METS file.

An example of how the information in the different METS documents differentiates is the requirements found in the section describing the element METS header.

- In the METS root document, the requirements describe the information for the METS root document itself.
- In the METS representation document, the requirements describe the information for the METS representation document itself.

## 8.6 Signatures

This section will explain the concept of digital signatures in an archival setting compared to the use of signatures to ensure the archival storage in a future version of the guideline.

## 8.7 Vocabularies

Several different vocabularies are used throughout the specifications to give a fixed set of values for describing metadata and information regarding what is being described. Some vocabularies are created by the standards and hosted in value lists in the XML schemas or are possible to reference as linked data vocabularies. The different specifications define other vocabularies to give a conformant use of attributes and/or elements. All vocabularies created for the specifications are published next to the specification and is fully available and free for others to use. The vocabularies have descriptions of the different terms, so they are easy to understand.

## 8.8 Referencing

When referencing a file in an information package, the referencing should always be done relative to the package itself so that the content of a representation not being viewed in the context of its root package will still be able to show the content files.

## 9 Validation

Validating a package can be done in numerous ways and cover different aspects of validation. The XML document itself needs to be well-formed and validated to follow the XML schema it follows. All the content can also be validated, but this requires the creation of the validation locally if the validation is supposed to cover information entered in the elements and not present in the XML schemas available value lists or Schematron rules. There will also, in many cases, be national regulations giving guidance and demands on values that need to be found in certain elements in certain information types, and these need to be implemented in the national context.

The easiest way to check that an XML document is well-formed and valid is to open it in an XML editor of choice.

For the CSIP, a validation tool has been created that allows you to upload your package and validate it towards all the requirements. The code is available here, <https://github.com/E-ARK-Software/py-rest-ip-validator> and a webpage using the validation tool will be published at <https://dilcis.eu/>.

## 10 Own adoptions of the specifications

### 10.1 Adapting CSIP/SIP/AIP/DIP specifications

It is possible to do adaptations to extend the different package specifications with an extra extending METS profile. The extending profiles are adding requirements or changing their cardinality (the correct way is to: change optional to mandatory and specify the number of occurrences being greater than the one present in the specifications). It is not allowed to remove requirements since this will make the implementation invalid. The best way of seeing how this is done is to examine the METS Profile for CSIP to understand the requirements present and, after that, the METS Profile for SIP or DIP. Further examples to look at are the CITS SIARD and CITS eHealth1, where both have extensions to the SIP profiles describing the added requirements needed.

### 10.2 Adapting any CITS specifications

It is possible to do adaptations that extend the different content information type specifications by adding requirements or changing their cardinality (the correct way is to: change optional to mandatory and specify

the number of occurrences). For some of the CITS, several decisions need to be made, and all these decisions need to be documented so the use of the CITS can be understood in its context. There are in May 2024 one known example of local adoptions of the CITS Specifications by the Swedish National Archives who have used CITS ERMS as their mean of transferring records management information, <https://riksarkivet.se/fgs-nyheter#eng> .

### 10.3 Adapting PREMIS

Using the PREMIS specification and adding own requirements is possible. It is more important to look into the use of PREMIS and create a preservation plan for your repository and make sure PREMIS is used in the system you are buying or developing, and this might put more demands on the PREMIS use in the local system than what we have prescribed.

## 11 Example following CSIP

This section will reference XML documents built upon the METS Profile for CSIP and SIP/DIP in future versions of this guideline.

## 12 Postface

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### **Statement of originality:**

This deliverable contains original unpublished work except where clearly indicated otherwise. Acknowledgement of previously published material and of the work of others has been made through appropriate citation, quotation or both.