ISO 19115 Topic Categories from ISO/DIS 19115

Preparing for the international metadata standard:
Theme Keywords and the ISO Topic Categories
The International Organization for Standards (ISO) metadata standard (ISO 19115) provides a set of Core metadata elements that must occur in every national profile/implementation. Most of these elements either map to existing CSDGM metadata elements or represent properties of the data that can be determined and populated using a data integrated metadata tool. *Topic Category* is the only mandatory element of the ISO core metadata set that requires new information that cannot be directly captured from the data. The following 19 subject headings represent the domain for the *Topic Category* element.

If your metadata creation software provides a pick list of Topic Category related terms
simply select the pick list terms that apply and the software will insert the related Topic Category Name and/or Code. If creating data using the **Geodata.gov** metadata publisher, you will be asked to select a *Primary Theme*. The *Primary Theme* options are based upon the *ISO Topic Categories* below but the names have been altered to provide greater context, e.g., Geodata.gov Primary Theme 'Cultural, Society, and Demographic' will be captured in the Theme_Keyword metadata element as ISO Topic Category Name 'Society'.

If your metadata creation software does not provide a list of subject headings based upon the ISO 19115 Topic Category, include the *Topic Category Names* (as presented below) as *Theme_Keywords* and cite your related *Theme_Keyword_Thesaurus* as: 'ISO 19115 Topic Category'. The FGDC intends to develop CSDGM to ISO translation software that will insert the *Topic Category Code* when the *Topic Category Name* is found, however, those wishing to include the *Topic Category Code* as a *Theme_Keyword* can do so using the same *Theme_Keyword_Thesaurus:* 'ISO 19115 Topic Category'.

Include **all** pertinent Topic Category Names, e.g.,:
      business districts = *boundaries* and *economy*
    toxic release inventory = *environment* and *health*
    soil fertility = *geoscientificInformation* and *farming*

ISO Topic Category Name, ISO Topic Category Code

farming, 001
    rearing of animals and/or cultivation of plants
    e.g., agriculture, crops, livestock
biota, 002
    flora and/or fauna in natural environments
    e.g., flora and fauna, ecology, wetlands, habitat
boundaries, 003
    legal land descriptions
    e.g., political and administrative boundaries
climatologyMeteorologyAtmosphere, 004
    processes and phenomena of the atmosphere
    e.g., processes and phenomena of the atmosphere
economy, 005
    economic activities, conditions, and employment
    e.g., business and economics
elevation, 006
    height above or below the earth's surface

e.g., altitude, bathymetry, dem's, slope, derived products

environment, 007

environmental resources, protection, and conservation

e.g., natural resources, pollution, impact assessment, monitoring, land analysis

geoscientificInformation, 008

information pertaining to the earth sciences

e.g., geology, minerals, earthquakes, landslides, volcanoes, soils, gravity, permafrost, hydrogeology, erosion

health, 009

health, health services, human ecology, and safety

e.g., disease, illness, factors affecting health, hygiene, substance abuse

imageryBaseMapsEarthCover, 010

base maps

e.g., land cover, topographic maps, imagery, annotations

intelligenceMilitary, 011

military bases, structures, activities

e.g., military bases, structures, activities

inlandWaters, 012

inland water features, drainage systems and characteristics

e.g., rivers, glaciers, lakes, water use plans, dams, currents, floods, water quality, hydrographic charts

location, 013

positional information and services

e.g., addresses, geodetic networks, control points, postal zones, place names

oceans, 014

features and characteristics of salt water bodies

e.g., tides, tidal waves, coastal information, reefs

planningCadastre, 015

information used for appropriate actions for future use of the land

e.g., land use maps, zoning maps, cadastral surveys, land ownership

society, 016

characteristics of society and culture

e.g., anthropology, archaeology, religion, demographics, crime and justice

structure, 017

man-made construction

e.g., architecture, buildings, museums, churches, factories, housing, monuments, shops, towers

transportation, 018

means and aids for conveying persons and/or goods

e.g., roads, airports, airstrips, shipping routes, tunnels, nautical charts, vehicle and vessel locations, aeronautical charts, railways, trails

utilitiesCommunication, 019

energy, water and waste systems, and communications infrastructure

e.g., hydroelectricity, geothermal, solar, and nuclear sources of energy, water purification and distribution, sewage collection and disposal, electrical and gas distribution, data communication, telecommunication, radio, communication networks