

Technical Documentation

A Framework for Production of Useful Guidance Material

In Four Parts



Interested in giving back to OSGeo through docs?

1 post by 1 author



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Aust/NZ QGIS users,

In case you haven't heard, our OSGeo Foundation has been selected to participate in the Google Season of Docs, and we plan to focus on QGIS and GeoNetwork. Interestingly, many of us who have volunteered to be involved are based in our Oceania region, which I'm pretty chuffed about.

If you've ever toyed with the idea of giving back to Open Source, and in particular to do it through docs, then now is your time to shine (and be mentored in the process). We are particularly interested to attract some "expert newbies" - people who:

- * Know or want to know about OSGeo tech (such as QGIS or GeoNetwork)
- * Can advise on where the hard parts are on getting started with the software or updating docs
- * Are prepared to put in a couple of hours a week for a month or more (timeframes totally up to you)

Are you interested?

- * More about the idea (in general) here: <http://cameronshorter.blogspot.com/2019/02/inspiring-techies-to-become-great.html>
- * Nitty-gritty about getting started: https://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Season_of_Docs_Ideas_2019#Leveraging_Google.E2.80.99s_Season-of-Docs
- * Feel free to email me with questions
- * Read below for some more discussion points ...

Warm regards, Cameron

TheGoodDocs

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Season Of Docs 2019



Welcome to OSGeo's Season of Docs [2019](#) page

- OSGeo's Season of Docs [Ideas page](#).
- [Get involved](#).
- Google's [Season of Docs](#) [site](#).
- OSGeo's [Application](#) 2019, as a mentoring organization.
- OSGeo's [Lessons Learned](#).

You can subscribe to the OSGeo Season of Docs Mailing List here:

<https://lists.osgeo.org/mailman/listinfo/seasonofdocs>

Category: [Season of Docs](#)



The Open Source Geospatial Foundation

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Fostering open source collaboration with technical writers.

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- [Timeline](#)
- [Results](#)
- [Rules](#)

Welcome to Season of Docs

Let's bring open source and technical writer communities together, to the benefit of both. Together we raise awareness of open source, of docs, and of technical writing.

[Get started](#)



SEEKING SOLUTIONS
TUTORIALS
LEARNING-ORIENTED
PROBLEM-ORIENTED
UNDERSTANDING-ORIENTED
INFORMATION-ORIENTED
REFERENCE

TUTORIALS

LEARNING-ORIENTED

— Most useful when we're studying —

UNDERSTANDING-ORIENTED

EXPLANATION

— Practical steps —

HOW-TO GUIDES

PROBLEM-ORIENTED

— Most useful when we're working —

INFORMATION-ORIENTED

REFERENCE

— Theoretical knowledge —

One size does not fit all

- There isn't one thing called documentation – there are four
- Four different documents of the four different types are needed
- Refrain from combining the types in one document as much as possible
- Reference the other documents types as needed
- NB – Project Docs not included
 - Managed separately

TUTORIALS

lessons that take the reader by the hand through a series of steps to complete a project

WHAT MATTERS

- ▶ learning by doing
- ▶ getting started
- ▶ inspiring confidence
- ▶ repeatability
- ▶ immediate sense of achievement
- ▶ concreteness, not abstraction
- ▶ minimum necessary explanation
- ▶ no distractions



HOW-TO GUIDES

guides that take the reader through the steps required to solve a common problem

WHAT MATTERS

- ▶ a series of steps
- ▶ a focus on the goal
- ▶ addressing a specific question
- ▶ no unnecessary explanation
- ▶ a little flexibility
- ▶ practical usability
- ▶ good naming

Crab with wakame salad and wasabi mayonnaise

Try this simple to prepare salad of white crabmeat served with cucumber, seaweed and spicy mayonnaise.

Preparation time
less than 30 mins



By **Rick Stein**
From **Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge**

Cooking time
less than 10 mins

Serves
Serves 4

Ingredients

40g/1½oz dried wakame **seaweed**

½ **cucumber**, peeled

225g/8oz fresh white **crabmeat**

1 tbsp **bonito** flakes

For the wakame dressing

½ tsp dashi granules

40ml/1½fl oz warm water

8ml rice wine vinegar

REFERENCE

technical descriptions of the machinery and its operation

WHAT MATTERS

- ▶ structure
- ▶ consistency
- ▶ description
- ▶ accuracy

Ginger

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For other uses, see [Ginger \(disambiguation\)](#).

Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) is a flowering plant whose **rhizome**, **ginger root** or simply **ginger**, is widely used as a **spice** or a **folk medicine**.^[2]

It is a **herbaceous perennial** which grows annual stems about a meter tall bearing narrow green leaves and yellow flowers. Ginger is in the family **Zingiberaceae**, to which also belong turmeric (*Curcuma longa*), cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum*), and galangal. Ginger originated in the **tropical rainforest** in Southern Asia. Although ginger no longer grows wild, it is thought to have originated on the **Indian subcontinent** because the ginger plants grown in India show the largest amount of genetic variation. Ginger was exported to **Europe** via India in the first century AD as a result of the lucrative **spice trade** and was used extensively by the **Romans**.

The distantly related **dicots** in the genus *Asarum* are commonly called *wild ginger* because of their similar taste.

Etymology

The origin of "ginger" is from the mid-14th century, from **Old English** *gingifer*, from Medieval Latin *gingiber*, from Latin *zingiberi*, from Greek *zingiberis*, from **Prakrit** (Middle Indic) *singabera*, from **Sanskrit** *srngaveram*, from *srngam* "horn" + *vera-* "body", from the shape of its root. But this may be Sanskrit **folk etymology**, and the word may be from an ancient Dravidian name that also produced the Tamil and Malayalam name for the spice, *inchi-ver*, from *inchi* "root." cf. gin (*v.*). The word probably was readopted in Middle English from Old French *gingibre* (modern French *gingembre*).^{[3][4]}

Horticulture

Ginger produces **clusters** of white and pink **flower buds** that bloom into yellow flowers. Because of its aesthetic appeal and the adaptation of the plant to warm climates, it is often used as **landscaping** around **subtropical** homes. It is a **perennial reed-like** plant with annual leafy stems, about a meter (3 to 4 feet) tall.



1896 color plate from Köhler's Medicinal Plants

Scientific classification

- Kingdom: **Plantae**
- Clade: **Angiosperms**
- Clade: **Monocots**
- Clade: **Commelinids**
- Order: **Zingiberales**
- Family: **Zingiberaceae**
- Genus: ***Zingiber***
- Species: ***Z. officinale***

Binomial name

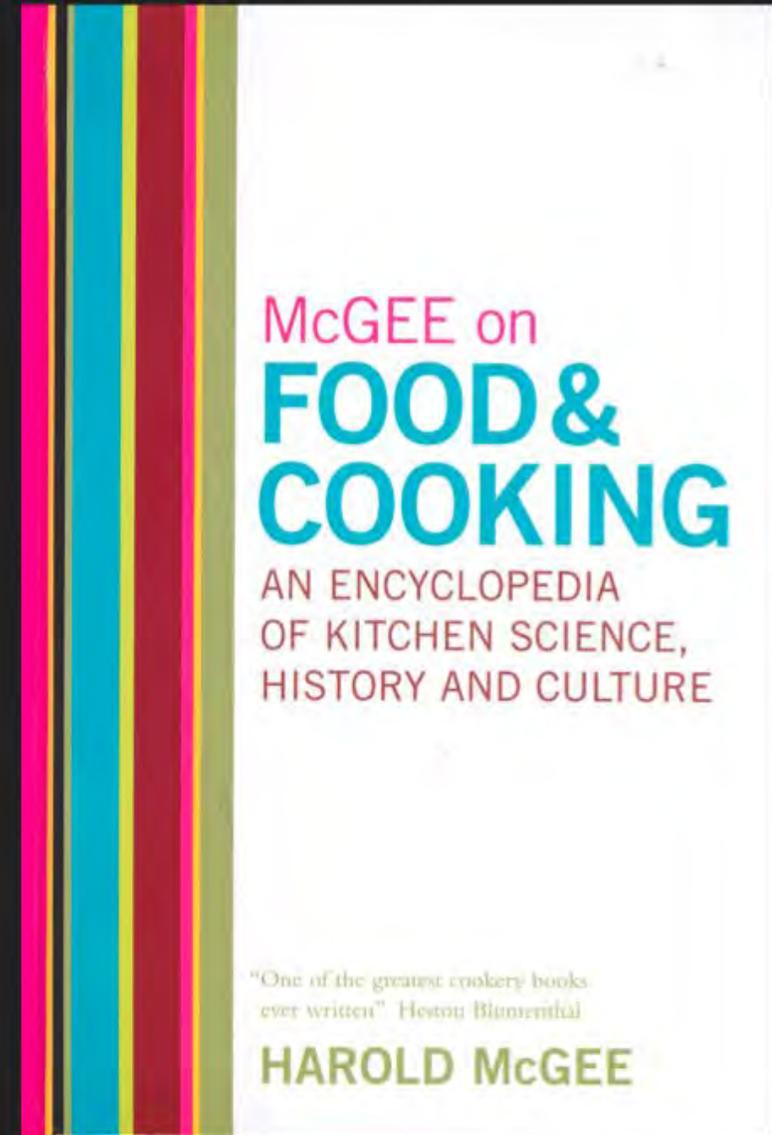
Zingiber officinale
Boscoe 1807^[1]

EXPLANATION

discussions that clarify and illuminate a particular topic

WHAT MATTERS

- ▶ giving context
- ▶ explaining why
- ▶ multiple examples, alternative approaches
- ▶ making connections
- ▶ no instruction or technical description



TUTORIALS

LEARNING-ORIENTED

— Most useful when we're studying —

UNDERSTANDING-ORIENTED

EXPLANATION

— Practical steps —

HOW-TO GUIDES

PROBLEM-ORIENTED

— Most useful when we're working —

INFORMATION-ORIENTED

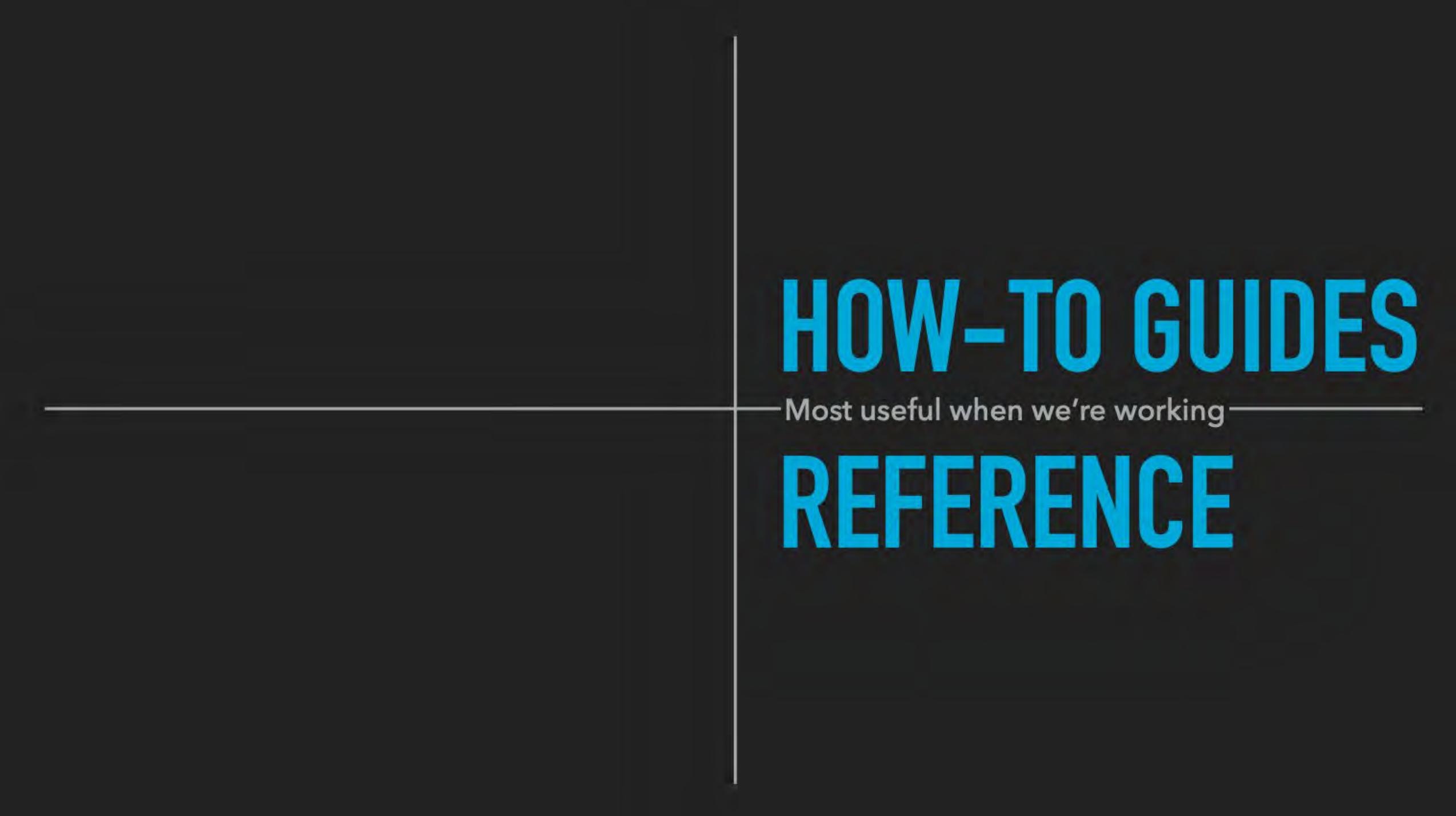
REFERENCE

— Theoretical knowledge —

TUTORIALS

Practical steps

HOW-TO GUIDES



HOW-TO GUIDES

Most useful when we're working

REFERENCE

EXPLANATION

Theoretical knowledge—

REFERENCE

TUTORIALS

— Most useful when we're studying —

EXPLANATION

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REFERENCE

— Theoretical knowledge —



Overview

django CMS is a modern web publishing platform built with [Django](#), the web application framework “for perfectionists with deadlines”.

django CMS offers out-of-the-box support for the common features you’d expect from a CMS, but can also be easily customised and extended by developers to create a site that is tailored to their precise needs.

[Tutorials - start here](#)

For the new django CMS developer, from installation to creating your own addon applications.

[How-to guides](#)

Practical step-by-step guides for the more experienced developer, covering several important topics.

[Key topics](#)

Explanation and analysis of some key concepts in django CMS.

[Reference](#)

Technical reference material, for classes, methods, APIs, commands.

What Type of Document is This?

TUTORIALS
EXPLANATION

HOW-TO GUIDES
REFERENCE

ISO19115-1 Metadata Good Practice Guide

ICSM
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
SURVEYING & MAPPING

Guidance

- [Introduction](#)
- [Table of Contents](#)
- [Pattern Guide](#)
- [Template](#)

Sections

- [Metadata Info](#)
- [Data Identification](#)
- [Resource Citation](#)
- [Keywords](#)
- [Maintenance](#)
- [Resource Extent](#)
- [Resource Constraints](#)
- [Resource Lineage](#)
- [Spatial Reference System](#)
- [Distribution Info](#)

Keywords ★★★★★

Keywords are the important ideas and topics that summarise and define what your resource is about. In most search engines, these are indexed and typically normalised to resemble the base word in order to capture variations. Keywords are useful in discovering and organising resources.

- **Path** - *MD_Metadata.identificationInfo>MD_DataIdentification.descriptiveKeywords*
- **Governance** - *Common ICSM, Agency, Domain*
- **Primary use** - *Discovery, Data management*
- **Audience** -
 - machine resource - ★★★★★
 - general - ★★★★★
 - data manager - ★★★★★
 - specialist - ★★★★★
- **Metadata type** - *descriptive*
- **ICSM Level of Agreement** - ★★

Definition -

Words or phrases describing the resource to be indexed and searched.

ISO Obligation

- There can be zero or many [0..*] descriptive keywords for the cited resource in the *MD_DataIdentification* package of class *MD_Keywords* in a metadata record.

ISO 19115-1:2014 Amd2:2019 - All rights reserved

ISO/TC 211 N ~~xxxx~~

Date: 2019-12-08

ISO 19115-1:2014 Amd2:2019

ISO/TC 211

Secretariat: SIS

**Geographic information — Metadata — Part 1: Fundamentals
AMENDMENT 2**

*Information géographique — Métadonnées — Partie 1: Principes de base
AMENDMENT 2*

Tagging with keywords - Tutorial

Goal -

Every metadata record should contain at least one, but preferably multiple keywords. This tutorial illustrates how to effectively attach keywords to a metadata record for a resource.

Overview of keywords -

Keywords capture the important ideas and topics that summarise and define what your resource is about. Keywords are most effective when sourced from common vocabulary services that manage and define the meaning of these words for a community.

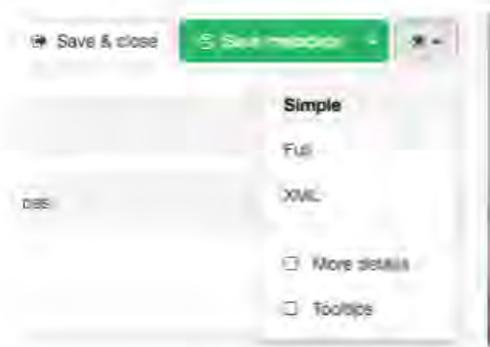
Why use keywords?

In most search engines, keywords are indexed and typically normalised to resemble the base word in order to capture variations. Keywords are useful in discovering, organising and otherwise managing catalogued resources.

Before you begin -

This tutorial assumes that one has completed the previous steps of either starting a new metadata record or editing an existing metadata record that documents our selected resource.

You should be in Edit mode. Insure the Edit View is set to simple



Steps

Step 1:

Find the entry for "Keyword".

TUTORIALS HOW-TO GUIDES
EXPLANATION REFERENCE

- **How-to Article Template**
- **"Overview" section**
- Summarise what the reader will get from reading the how-to article.
- *Tip:* It is recommended to write this section at the very end, once you have had a chance to document the steps to complete a task.
- **"Before you Start" section**
- Describe what the audience needs to know, or needs to have, before attempting the how-to. By stating the requirements up-front, you prepare the audience with correct and required information for completing the task with your how-to.
- *Tip:* If a section describes multiple points, list them using a bulleted list (if the order is not important), or numbered list (if the order of these requirements is important).
- **"Steps to complete the task" section**
- When explaining steps in a procedure, we encourage inserting a screenshot for each part of the process to help users understand the context.
- To improve documentation usability and reading flow, it is recommended to insert images to the left or right of the text (instead of above or below) when using images in your steps.
- If your procedural steps do not require screenshots, use a numbered list.
- **Conclusion/Summary section**

		Path	Priority (1 = Low, 2 = Medium, 3 = High)	Current Content Type	Ideal Content Type	SO - Rewriting status	Content ?	Todo - existing in doc	Up to date?	Suggestions
46	Digital Object Identifier (DOI)	https://geonetwork-opensource.org/manuals/trunk/en/user-guide/associating-resources/doi.html		Reference	Tutorial					
47	Classify information	https://geonetwork-opensource.org/manuals/trunk/en/user-guide/tag-information/index.html								
48	Tagging with categories	https://geonetwork-opensource.org/manuals/trunk/en/user-guide/tag-information/tagging-with-categories.html		Reference	How-To Guide	Ready for Review				
49	Tagging with keywords	https://geonetwork-opensource.org/manuals/trunk/en/user-guide/tag-information/tagging-with-keywords.html		Reference	How-To Guide		Empty			We have content on how to select keywords from thesauri, add uncontrolled keywords, and keywords from a thesaurus that is not within GeoNetwork (adding a thesaurusName element from a directory)
50	Publishing	https://geonetwork-opensource.org/manuals/trunk/en/user-guide/publishing/index.html					index only			
51	Managing privileges	https://geonetwork-opensource.org/manuals/trunk/en/user-guide/publishing/managing-privileges.html		Tutorial	Explanation	Ready for Review				
52	Restricting information to metadata sections	https://geonetwork-opensource.org/manuals/trunk/en/user-guide/publishing/restricting-information-to-metadata-sections.html					Empty			
53	Transferring privileges	https://geonetwork-opensource.org/manuals/trunk/en/user-guide/publishing/transferring-privileges.html		How-To Guide	How-To Guide	Ready for Review				
54	Analyzing data	https://geonetwork-opensource.org/manuals/trunk/en/user-guide/analyzing/index.html		Reference			index only			

MDWG Best Practice – What's Missing

Metadata for Dummies

Tutorials

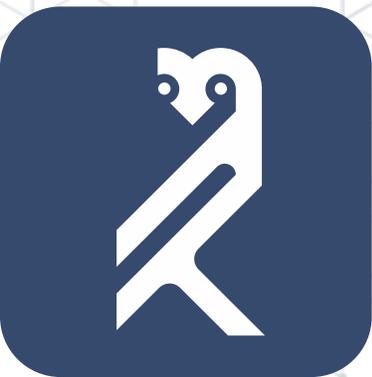
How to guide / Cookbook

Non element guidance

- Workflow
- Templates – Creation and management
- Governance and publishing process
- Managing vocabularies
- Harvesting

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