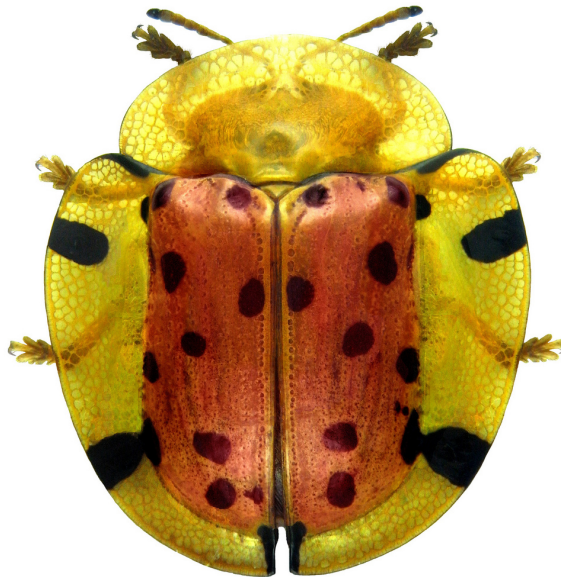


GBIF Metadata Profile: Reference Guide

Version 1.0



April 2011

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1.0	Full editorial check	1 Mar 2011	KB, BKO

Disclaimer:

As the release of this document, KNB has updated their EML to 2.1.1, but here we still refer to 2.1.0 specification since it's the latest version online. Regarding instructional text in this document, "container, element, term and field" are used interchangeably, as they are all commonly used in the same way in biodiversity informatics community. Users may consider them all as "field," which means the relevant cell to put your data. We look forward to users' feedbacks on how are these wordings understood, so we can better update this document.

Identifier

GBIF Metadata Profile Schema Description <http://rs.gbif.org/schema/eml-gbif-profile/>

EML 2.1.0 Specification <http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/index.html>

Natural Collections Descriptions (NCD) v0.9 2008

http://wiki.tdwg.org/twiki/bin/viewfile/NCD/WebHome?rev=1;filename=NCD-v090_TDWG.doc

About GBIF

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) was established as a global mega-science initiative to address one of the great challenges of the 21st century - harnessing knowledge of the Earth's biological diversity. GBIF envisions 'a world in which biodiversity information is freely and universally available for science, society, and a sustainable future'. GBIF's mission is to be the foremost global resource for biodiversity information, and engender smart solutions for environmental and human well-being¹. To achieve this mission, GBIF encourages a wide variety of data publishers across the globe to discover and publish data through its network.

¹ GBIF (2011). GBIF Strategic Plan 2012-16: Seizing the future. Copenhagen: Global Biodiversity Information Facility. 7pp. ISBN: 87-92020-18-6. Accessible at http://links.gbif.org/sp2012_2016.pdf

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Introduction

Metadata, literally “data about data” are an essential component of a data management system, describing such aspects as the “who, what, where, when and how” pertaining to a resource. In the GBIF context, resources are datasets, loosely defined as collections of related data, the granularity of which is determined by the data custodian. Metadata can occur in several levels of completeness. In general, metadata should allow a prospective end user of data to:

1. identify/discover its existence,
2. learn how to access or acquire the data,
3. understand its fitness-for-use, and
4. learn how to transfer (obtain a copy of) the data.

The GBIF Metadata Profile (GMP) was developed in order to standardise how resources get described at the dataset level in the GBIF [Data Portal](#)². This profile can be transformed to other common metadata formats such as the ISO 19139 metadata profile³.

In the GMP there is a minimum set of mandatory elements required for identification, but it is recommended that as many elements be used as possible to ensure the metadata are as descriptive and complete as possible.

There are various ways that you can write a metadata document conforming to the GMP, such as using the GBIF Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT) metadata editor, the GBIF Darwin Core Spreadsheet template metadata form, or simply taking a [sample metadata document](#) and replacing fields of relevance with your own data. For a thorough set of instructions on ways to author metadata conforming to the GMP, you can refer to the [GBIF Metadata Profile - How-To Guide](#).⁴

Once the metadata document has been written, it can be validated against the [GBIF metadata profile schema](#)⁵.

² The GBIF Data Portal - <http://data.gbif.org>

³ ISO 19139 profile - <http://marinemetadata.org/references/iso19139>

⁴ http://links.gbif.org/gbif_metadata_profile_how-to_en_v1

⁵ GBIF Metadata Profile XSD - <http://rs.gbif.org/schema/eml-gbif-profile/1.0/eml-gbif-profile.xsd>

Metadata Elements

The GBIF Metadata Profile is primarily based on the Ecological Metadata Language (EML)⁶. The GBIF profile utilises a subset of EML and extends it to include additional requirements that are not accommodated in the EML specification. The following tables provide short descriptions of the profile elements, and where relevant, links to more complete EML descriptions. The elements are categorised as follows:

- Dataset (Resource)
- Project
- People and Organisations
- Keyword Set (General Keywords)
- Coverage
 - Taxonomic Coverage
 - Geographic Coverage
 - Temporal Coverage
- Methods
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Additional Metadata + NCD (Natural Collections Descriptions Data) Related

⁶ Ecological Metadata Language – <http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/>

Dataset (Resource)

The dataset field has elements relating to a single dataset (resource).

Term	Definition
alternateIdentifier	It is a Universally Unique Identifier (UUID) for the EML document and not for the dataset. This term is optional. A list of different identifiers can be supplied. E.g., 619a4b95-1a82-4006-be6a-7dbe3c9b33c5 http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-resource.html#alternateIdentifier
title	A description of the resource that is being documented that is long enough to differentiate it from other similar resources. Multiple titles may be provided, particularly when trying to express the title in more than one language (use the "xml:lang" attribute to indicate the language if not English/en). E.g., Vernal pool amphibian density data, Isla Vista, 1990-1996. http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-resource.html#title
creator	The resource creator is the person or organization responsible for creating the resource itself. See section "People and Organisations" for more details http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-resource.html#creator
metadataProvider	The metadataProvider is the person or organization responsible for providing documentation for the resource. See section "People and Organisations" for more details http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-resource.html#metadataProvider
associatedParty	An associatedParty is another person or organisation that is associated with the resource. These parties might play various roles in the creation or maintenance of the resource, and these roles should be indicated in the "role" element. See section "People and Organisations" for more details http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-resource.html#associatedParty
contact	The contact field contains contact information for this dataset. This is the person or institution to contact with questions about the use, interpretation of a data set. See section "People and Organisations" for more details http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-dataset.html#contact

pubDate	<p>The date that the resource was published. The format should be represented as: CCYY, which represents a 4 digit year, or as CCYY-MM-DD, which denotes the full year, month, and day. Note that month and day are optional components. Formats must conform to ISO 8601.</p> <p>E.g. 2010-09-20</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-resource.html#pubDate</p>
language	<p>The language in which the resource (not the metadata document) is written. This can be a well-known language name, or one of the ISO language codes to be more precise.</p> <p>GBIF recommendation is to use the ISO language code (http://vocabularies.gbif.org/vocabularies/lang)</p> <p>E.g., English</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-resource.html#language</p>
additionalInfo	<p>Information regarding omissions, instructions or other annotations that resource managers may wish to include with a dataset. Basically, any information that is not characterized by the other resource metadata fields.</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-resource.html#additionalInfo</p>
url	<p>The URL of the resource that is available online.</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-physical.html#url</p>
abstract	<p>A brief overview of the resource that is being documented.</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-resource.html#abstract</p>

Project

The project field contains information on the project in which this dataset was collected. It includes information such as project personnel, funding, study area, project design and related projects.

Term	Definition
title	A descriptive title for the research project. E.g., Species diversity in Tennessee riparian habitats http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-project.html#title
personnel	The personnel field is used to document people involved in a research project by providing contact information and their role in the project. See section “People and Organisations” for more details. http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-project.html#personnel
funding	The funding field is used to provide information about funding sources for the project such as: grant and contract numbers; names and addresses of funding sources. http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-project.html#funding
studyAreaDescription	The studyAreaDescription field documents the physical area associated with the research project. It can include descriptions of the geographic, temporal, and taxonomic coverage of the research location and descriptions of domains (themes) of interest such as climate, geology, soils or disturbances. http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-project.html#studyAreaDescription
designDescription	The field designDescription contains general textual descriptions of research design. It can include detailed accounts of goals, motivations, theory, hypotheses, strategy, statistical design, and actual work. Literature citations may also be used to describe the research design. http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-project.html#designDescription

People and Organisations

There are several fields that could represent either a person or an organisation. Below is a list of the various fields used to describe a person or organisation.

Term	Definition
givenName	<p>Subfield of individualName field.</p> <p>The given name field can be used for the first name of the individual associated with the resource, or for any other names that are not intended to be alphabetized (as appropriate).</p> <p>E.g., Jonny</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-party.html#givenName</p>
surName	<p>Subfield of individualName field.</p> <p>The surname field is used for the last name of the individual associated with the resource. This is typically the family name of an individual, for example, the name by which s/he is referred to in citations.</p> <p>E.g., Carson</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-party.html#surName</p>
organizationName	<p>The full name of the organization that is associated with the resource. This field is intended to describe which institution or overall organization is associated with the resource being described.</p> <p>E.g., National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-party.html#organizationName</p>
positionName	<p>This field is intended to be used instead of a particular person or full organization name. If the associated person that holds the role changes frequently, then Position Name would be used for consistency. Note that this field, used in conjunction with 'organizationName' and 'individualName' make up a single logical originator. Because of this, an originator with only the individualName of 'Joe Smith' is NOT the same as an originator with the name of 'Joe Smith' and the organizationName of 'NSF'. Also, the positionName should not be used in conjunction with individualName unless only that individual at that position would be considered an originator for the data package. If a positionName is used in conjunction with an organizationName, then that implies that any person who currently occupies said positionName at organizationName is the originator of the data package.</p> <p>E.g., HAST herbarium data manager</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.0.1/eml-party.html#positionName</p>
role	<p>Use this field to describe the role the party played with respect to the resource.</p> <p>E.g. technician, reviewer, principal investigator, etc.</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-project.html#role</p>

phone	<p>The phone field describes information about the responsible party's telephone, be it a voice phone, fax.</p> <p>E.g. +4530102040</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-party.html#phone</p>
electronicMailAddress	<p>The electronic mail address is the email address for the party. It is intended to be an Internet SMTP email address, which should consist of a username followed by the @ symbol, followed by the email server domain name address.</p> <p>E.g. jcuadra@gbif.org</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-party.html#electronicMailAddress</p>
deliveryPoint	<p>Subfield of the address field that describes the physical or electronic address of the responsible party for a resource.</p> <p>The delivery point field is used for the physical address for postal communication.</p> <p>E.g., GBIF Secretariat, Universitetsparken 15</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-party.html#deliveryPoint</p>
postalCode	<p>Subfield of the address field that describes the physical or electronic address of the responsible party for a resource.</p> <p>The postal code is equivalent to a U.S. zip code, or the number used for routing to an international address.</p> <p>E.g., 52000</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-party.html#postalCode</p>
city	<p>Subfield of the address field that describes the physical or electronic address of the responsible party for a resource.</p> <p>The city field is used for the city name of the contact associated with a particular resource.</p> <p>E.g. San Diego</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-party.html#city</p>
administrativeArea	<p>Subfield of the address field that describes the physical or electronic address of the responsible party for a resource.</p> <p>The administrative area field is the equivalent of a 'state' in the U.S., or Province in Canada. This field is intended to accommodate the many types of international administrative areas.</p> <p>E.g. Colorado</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-party.html#administrativeArea</p>

country	<p>Subfield of the address field that describes the physical or electronic address of the responsible party for a resource.</p> <p>The country field is used for the name of the contact's country. The country name is most often derived from the ISO 3166 country code list.</p> <p>E.g., Japan</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-party.html#country</p>
onlineUrl	<p>A link to associated online information, usually a web site. When the party represents an organization, this is the URL to a website or other online information about the organization. If the party is an individual, it might be their personal web site or other related online information about the party.</p> <p>E.g., http://www.yourdomain.edu/~doe</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-party.html#onlineUrl</p>

KeywordSet (General Keywords)

The keywordSet field is a wrapper for the keyword and keywordThesaurus elements, both of which are required together.

Term	Definition
keyword	A keyword or key phrase that concisely describes the resource or is related to the resource. Each keyword field should contain one and only one keyword (i.e., keywords should not be separated by commas or other delimiters). E.g., biodiversity http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-resource.html#keyword
keywordThesaurus	The name of the official keyword thesaurus from which keyword was derived. If an official thesaurus name does not exist, please keep a placeholder value such as “N/A” instead of removing this element as it is required together with the keyword element to constitute a keywordSet. E.g., IRIS keyword thesaurus http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-resource.html#keywordThesaurus

Coverage

Describes the extent of the coverage of the resource in terms of its spatial extent, temporal extent, and taxonomic extent.

Taxonomic Coverage

A container for taxonomic information about a resource. It includes a list of species names (or higher level ranks) from one or more classification systems. Please note the taxonomic classifications should not be nested, just listed one after the other.

Term	Definition
generalTaxonomicCoverage	<p>Taxonomic Coverage is a container for taxonomic information about a resource. It includes a list of species names (or higher level ranks) from one or more classification systems. A description of the range of taxa addressed in the data set or collection. Use a simple comma separated list of taxa.</p> <p>E.g., "All vascular plants were identified to family or species, mosses and lichens were identified as moss or lichen."</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-coverage.html#generalTaxonomicCoverage</p>
taxonomicClassification	<p>Information about the range of taxa addressed in the dataset or collection</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-coverage.html#taxonomicClassification</p>
taxonRankName	<p>The name of the taxonomic rank for which the Taxon rank value is provided.</p> <p>E.g., phylum, class, genus, species</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-coverage.html#taxonRankName</p>
taxonRankValue	<p>The name representing the taxonomic rank of the taxon being described</p> <p>E.g. Acer would be an example of a genus rank value, and rubrum would be an example of a species rank value, together indicating the common name of red maple. It is recommended to start with Kingdom and include ranks down to the most detailed level possible.</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-coverage.html#taxonRankValue</p>
commonName	<p>Applicable common names; these common names may be general descriptions of a group of organisms if appropriate.</p> <p>E.g., invertebrates, waterfowl</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-coverage.html#commonName</p>

Geographic Coverage

A container for spatial information about a resource; allows a bounding box for the overall coverage (in lat long), and also allows description of arbitrary polygons with exclusions.

Term	Definition
geographicDescription	<p>A short text description of a dataset's geographic areal domain. A text description is especially important to provide a geographic setting when the extent of the dataset cannot be well described by the "boundingCoordinates".</p> <p>E.g., "Manistee River watershed", "extent of 7 1/2 minute quads containing any property belonging to Yellowstone National Park"</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-coverage.html#geographicDescription</p>
westBoundingCoordinate	<p>Subfield of boundingCoordinates field covering the W margin of a bounding box.</p> <p>The longitude in decimal degrees of the western-most point of the bounding box that is being described.</p> <p>E.g., -18.25, +25, 45.24755</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-coverage.html#westBoundingCoordinate</p>
eastBoundingCoordinate	<p>Subfield of boundingCoordinates field covering the E margin of a bounding box.</p> <p>The longitude in decimal degrees of the eastern-most point of the bounding box that is being described.</p> <p>E.g., -18.25, +25, 45.24755</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-coverage.html#eastBoundingCoordinate</p>
northBoundingCoordinate	<p>Subfield of boundingCoordinates field covering the N margin of a bounding box.</p> <p>The longitude in decimal degrees of the northern-most point of the bounding box that is being described.</p> <p>E.g., -18.25, +25, 65.24755</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-coverage.html#northBoundingCoordinate</p>
southBoundingCoordinate	<p>Subfield of boundingCoordinates field covering the S margin of a bounding box.</p> <p>The longitude in decimal degrees of the southern-most point of the bounding box that is being described.</p> <p>E.g., -118.25, +25, 84.24755</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-coverage.html#southBoundingCoordinate</p>

Temporal Coverage

This container allows coverage to be a single point in time, multiple points in time, or a range of dates.

Term	Definition
beginDate	<p>Subfield of rangeOfDates field: It may be used multiple times with a endDate field to document multiple date ranges.</p> <p>A single time stamp signifying the beginning of some time period.</p> <p>The calendar date field is used to express a date, giving the year, month, and day. The format should be one that complies with the International Standards Organization's standard 8601. The recommended format for EML is YYYY-MM-DD, where Y is the four digit year, M is the two digit month code (01 - 12, where January = 01), and D is the two digit day of the month (01 - 31). This field can also be used to enter just the year portion of a date.</p> <p>E.g. 2010-09-20</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-coverage.html#beginDate</p>
endDate	<p>Subfield of rangeOfDates field: It may be used multiple times with a beginDate field to document multiple date ranges.</p> <p>A single time stamp signifying the end of some time period.</p> <p>The calendar date field is used to express a date, giving the year, month, and day. The format should be one that complies with the International Standards Organization's standard 8601. The recommended format for EML is YYYY-MM-DD, where Y is the four digit year, M is the two digit month code (01 - 12, where January = 01), and D is the two digit day of the month (01 - 31). This field can also be used to enter just the year portion of a date.</p> <p>E.g. 2010-09-20</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-coverage.html#endDate</p>
singleDate Time	<p>The SingleDateTime field is intended to describe a single date and time for an event.</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-coverage.html#singleDateTime</p>

Methods

This field documents scientific methods used in the collection of the resource. It includes information on items such as tools, instrument calibration and software.

Term	Definition
methodStep	<p>The methodStep field allows for repeated sets of elements that document a series of procedures followed to produce a data object. These include text descriptions of the procedures, relevant literature, software, instrumentation, source data and any quality control measures taken.</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-methods.html#methodStep</p>
qualityControl	<p>The qualityControl field provides a location for the description of actions taken to either control or assess the quality of data resulting from the associated method step.</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-methods.html#qualityControl</p>
sampling	Description of sampling procedures including the geographic, temporal and taxonomic coverage of the study.
studyExtent	<p>Subfield of the sampling field.</p> <p>The coverage field allows for a textual description of the specific sampling area, the sampling frequency (temporal boundaries, frequency of occurrence), and groups of living organisms sampled (taxonomic coverage). The field studyExtent represents both a specific sampling area and the sampling frequency (temporal boundaries, frequency of occurrence). The geographic studyExtent is usually a surrogate (representative area of) for the larger area documented in the "studyAreaDescription".</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-methods.html#studyExtent</p>
samplingDescription	<p>Subfield of the sampling field.</p> <p>The samplingDescription field allows for a text-based/human readable description of the sampling procedures used in the research project. The content of this element would be similar to a description of sampling procedures found in the methods section of a journal article.</p> <p>http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-methods.html#samplingDescription</p>

Intellectual Property Rights

Contain a rights management statement for the resource, or a reference to a service providing such information.

Term	Definition
purpose	A description of the purpose of this dataset. http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-dataset.html#purpose
intellectualRights	A rights management statement for the resource, or reference a service providing such information. Rights information encompasses Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Copyright, and various Property Rights. In the case of a data set, rights might include requirements for use, requirements for attribution, or other requirements the owner would like to impose. E.g., Copyright 2001 Regents of the University of California Santa Barbara. Free for use by all individuals provided that the owners are acknowledged in any use or publication. http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-resource.html#intellectualRights

Additional Metadata + NCD (Natural Collections Description Data)⁷ Related

The additionalMetadata field is a container for any other relevant metadata that pertains to the resource being described. This field allows EML to be extensible in that any XML-based metadata can be included in this element. The elements provided here in the GMP include those required for conformance with ISO 19139 and a subset of NCD (Natural Collections Descriptions) elements.

Term	Definition
dateStamp	The dateTime the metadata document was created or modified. E.g., 2002-10-23T18:13:51.235+01:00
metadataLanguage	The language in which the metadata document (as opposed to the resource being described by the metadata) is written. Composed of an ISO639-2/T three-letter language code and an ISO3166-1 three-letter country code. E.g., en_UK
hierarchyLevel	Dataset level to which the metadata applies; default value is "dataset" ⁸ E.g., dataset
citation	The citation for the work itself. An example follows in the subsequent section. http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml.html#citation
bibliography	A list of citations (see below) that form a bibliography on literature related / used in the dataset
physical	A container element for all of the elements that let you describe the internal/external characteristics and distribution of a data object (e.g., dataObject, dataFormat, distribution). Can repeat. http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/#N100C9
resourceLogoUrl	URL of the logo associated with a resource. E.g., http://www.gbif.org/logo.jpg http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/software/eml/eml-2.1.0/eml-party.html#onlineUrl
parentCollectionIdentifier	Subfield of collection field. Is an optional field. Identifier for the parent collection for this sub-collection. Enables a hierarchy of collections and sub collections to be built. http://rs.tdwg.org/ontology/voc/Collection#isPartOfCollection

⁷ NCD – <http://www.tdwg.org/activities/ncd/>

⁸ Required for ISO19139; see <http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/projects/incits-l1-standards-projects/NAP-Metadata/napMetadataProfileV101.pdf>

collectionName	<p>Subfield of collection field.</p> <p>Is an optional field.</p> <p>Official name of the Collection in the local language.</p> <p>http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/title</p>
collectionIdentifier	<p>Subfield of collection field.</p> <p>Is an optional field.</p> <p>The URI (LSID or URL) of the collection. In RDF, used as URI of the collection resource.</p> <p>http://rs.tdwg.org/ontology/voc/Collection#collectionId</p>
formationPeriod	<p>Text description of the time period during which the collection was assembled.</p> <p>E.g., "Victorian", or "1922 - 1932", or "c. 1750".</p> <p>http://rs.tdwg.org/ontology/voc/Collection#formationPeriod</p>
livingTimePeriod	<p>Time period during which biological material was alive (for palaeontological collections).</p> <p>http://rs.tdwg.org/ontology/voc/Collection#livingTimePeriodCoverage</p>
specimenPreservationMethod	<p>Picklist keyword indicating the process or technique used to prevent physical deterioration of non-living collections. Expected to contain an instance from the Specimen Preservation Method Type Term vocabulary.</p> <p>E.g., formaldehyde</p> <p>http://rs.tdwg.org/ontology/voc/Collection#specimenPreservationMethod</p>
jgtiCuratorialUnit	<p>A quantitative descriptor (number of specimens, samples or batches). The actual quantification could be covered by 1) an exact number of "JGI-units" in the collection plus a measure of uncertainty (+/- x); 2) a range of numbers (x to x), with the lower value representing an exact number, when the higher value is omitted. The discussion concluded that the quantification should encompass all specimens, not only those that have not yet been digitised. This is to avoid having to update the numbers too often. The number of non-public data (not digitised or not accessible) can be calculated from the GBIF numbers as opposed to the JGTI-data.</p>