Data element

Definition

Data element is a characteristic of an entity type.

Synonyms

- Attribute
- Field
- Column
- Property

Notes

Another definition is: A data element (DE) is a unit of data that is considered in context to be indivisible (ISO 11179:2015). However, this may also indicate a data item.

A data element is specified by its name, definition, classification and format.

Relations

Data element	is parent of	critical data element
Data element	is parent of	primary key
Data element	is parent of	foreign key
Data element	consists of	data items
Data element	is specified by	data element specification

Examples

Examples of data elements are:

- Employee name
- Employee date of birth
- Employee function name

Reference

DAMA NL (2020). Data concepts for Data Quality Dimensions (DSC). Research paper. https://www.dama-nl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/DCS-Data-Concept-System-DDQ-Research-Paper-version-1.2-d.d.-3-Sept-2020.pdf

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