Defining metadata

Definition

Definining metadata are metadata that enables interpretation of the meaning of data to provide information.

Purpose

The purpose of defining metadata is to enable consistent interpretation of data and thereby provide information. Which comes first, the data or the metadata? In principle, the defining metadata is created in the data design phase as specification of the implementation and is maintained as reference source for users of the data.

Life cycle

Phase	Activity
Plan	• Compose defining metadata • Establish defining metadata
Do	• Use defining metadata
Check	• Evaluate defining metadata
Act	• Revise defining metadata

Characteristics

Characteristic	Requirement
Accuracy of defining metadata	Defining metadata should be accurate enough.
Completeness of defining metadata	Defining metadata should be complete.
Unambiguity of defining metadata	Defining metadata must not be open to misinterpretation
Clarity of defining metadata	Defining metadata should be legible and understandable

Relation

Definining metadata is subtype of metadata.

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