The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) was named after its inaugural meeting in 1995 in Dublin, Ohio. The organization maintains the DCMI Metadata Element Set, one of the most straightforward and widely adopted metadata schemas. Initially intended for web resources, Dublin Core (DC) has proven its versatility in describing various physical and digital objects, including datasets.

The DC Metadata Element Set consists of 15 core properties:

- **Title**: The resource name
- **Creator**: An entity* primarily responsible for the resource
- **Description**: Representation or account of the resource content
- **Contributor**: An entity* responsible for making the resource available
- **Publisher**: An entity* responsible for the resource
- **Source**: Whole or part reference to a derived source
- **Format**: Physical medium, file format and dimensions of the resource
- **Language**: Language of the resource
- **Rights**: Rights held in and over the resource (e.g. Copyright, Creative Commons)
- **Identifier**: An unique string/code that identifies the resource (e.g., DOI, PURL, ARK)
- **Relation**: A reference to another related resource
- **Coverage**: Scope of the content (e.g., spatial location, period)
- **Date**: Date of publication
- **Subject**: Keyword(s) representing the content
- **Type**: Nature or genre of the resource
- **Disciplinary agnostic**
- **Semantically interoperable**
- **Highly adaptable (elements are optional and repeatable, and properties can be represented in any order)**
- **You can extend or refine the resource description using qualifiers**

Many disciplinary standards, including EML and DDI (covered in early DLS issues), use Dublin Core’s elements.

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