

**PRISM:**  
**Publishing Requirements for Industry Standard Metadata**

PRISM Specification: Modular: Version 1.2

**The PRISM Controlled Vocabulary Namespace**

2005 02 26

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## 1 Status

### 1.1 Document Status

The status of this document is:

✓	Draft
✓	Released for Public Comment
✓	Released

### 1.2 Document Location

The location of this document is:

[http://www.prismstandard.org/specifications/1.2/modularized/PRISM\\_controlled\\_vocabulary\\_namespace\\_12.pdf](http://www.prismstandard.org/specifications/1.2/modularized/PRISM_controlled_vocabulary_namespace_12.pdf)

### 1.3 Version History

<b><i>Version Number</i></b>	<b><i>Release Date</i></b>	<b><i>Editor</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
1.2	1/26/05	McConnell	Converted from unmodularized PRISM spec v 1.2



## 2 PRISM Documentation Structure

As of this release, PRISM is described in a set of formal, modularized documents that, taken together, represent “the PRISM Specification.” Together these documents comprise the PRISM Documentation Package.

The initial release of the modularized PRISM Documentation Package, is the equivalent of the single document PRISM 1.2 Specification that was approved in December 2004. Moving forward, the monolithic PRISM Specification will no longer be maintained. All revisions will be made to individual documents in the PRISM Documentation Package, with each being versioned separately. Over time, new documents may also be added to the documentation set that makes up the PRISM Specification..

### 2.1 Normative and Non-normative Sections

Documents in the PRISM Documentation Package may contain both normative and non-normative material; normative material describes element names, attributes, formats, and the contents of elements that is required in order for content or systems to comply with the PRISM Specification. Non-normative material explains, expands on, or clarifies the normative material, but it does not represent requirements for compliance. Normative material in the PRISM Documentation Package is explicitly identified as such; any material not identified as normative can be assumed to be non-normative.

#### 2.1.1 Requirement Wording Note

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC-2119]. The PRISM Specification also uses the normative term, “STRONGLY ENCOURAGES,” which should be understood as a requirement equivalent to MUST in all but the most extraordinary circumstances.

Capitalization is significant; lower-case uses of the key words are intended to be interpreted in their normal, informal, English language way.

### 2.2 The PRISM Documentation Package

The PRISM Documentation Package consists of:

<b><i>Document</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
<a href="#">PRISM Introduction</a> [PRISMINT]	Overview, background, purpose and scope of PRISM; examples; contains no normative material.
<a href="#">PRISM Compliance</a> [PRISMCOMP]	Describes two profiles of PRISM compliance for content and systems; includes normative material.
<a href="#">The PRISM Namespace</a> [PRISMPRISMNS]	Describes the elements contained in the PRISM namespace; includes normative material.
<a href="#">The PRISM Subset of the Dublin Core Namespace</a> [PRISMDCNS]	Describes the elements from the Dublin Core namespace that are included in PRISM; includes normative material.
<a href="#">The PRISM Rights Language Namespace</a> [PRISMRLNS]	Describes the elements contained in the PRISM Rights Language Namespace; includes normative material.
<a href="#">The PRISM Inline Markup Namespace</a> [PRISMIMNS]	Describes the elements contained in the PRISM Inline Markup Namespace; includes normative material.
<a href="#">The PRISM Controlled Vocabulary Namespace</a> [PRISMCVNS]	Describes the elements contained in the PRISM Controlled Vocabulary Namespace; includes normative material.
<a href="#">The PRISM Aggregator Message Namespace</a> [PRISMAMNS]	Describes the elements contained in the PRISM Aggregator Message Namespace; includes normative material.

Table 1.0: PRISM Documentation Package

### **2.2.1 Additional PRISM Documentation**

The PRISM Aggregator Message (PAM), a DTD-based application of PRISM, adds a small namespace of its own, formally described in [PRISMAMNS]. The structure and use of PAM are described separately in [Guide to the PRISM Aggregator Document Type Definition \(DTD\) V. 1.1. \[PAMGUIDE\]](#)

### **2.2.2 Access to PRISM Documentation**

The PRISM Documentation Package, the PAM Guide (see above), the PAM DTD, and a range of other information concerning PRISM are all publicly and freely available on the PRISM website, [www.prismstandard.org](http://www.prismstandard.org).

## **3 Introduction**

### **3.1 Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of this document is to describe the basic metadata elements that the PRISM Working Group has defined and included in the PRISM Controlled Vocabulary namespace. All of section 4 of this document is normative.

All the element definitions appear in a uniform format. Each element definition begins with two fields – the Name and the Identifier of the element. The Name is a human-readable string that can be translated into different languages. Also, note that PRISM does NOT require that users be presented with the same labels. The Identifier is a protocol element. It is an XML element type and MUST be given as shown, modulo the normal allowance for variations in the namespace prefix used.



## 4 Element Definitions: The PRISM Controlled Vocabulary Namespace

Some of the content models used in this section provide content models that use parameter entity references. Those parameter entities and their meaning are:

<i>Parameter Entity</i>	<i>Definition</i>
%AuthorityReference;	An attribute, "rdf:resource", whose value is a URI referring to a term in a controlled vocabulary.
%content.mix;	Typical mix of elements for representing content, such as #PCDATA, <p>, <bold>, <quote>, etc. The details of the parameter entity will depend on the context in which the PRISM namespace is being used.
%ResourceReference;	An attribute, "rdf:resource", whose value is a URI reference to a resource. The set of AuthorityReferences is a subset of the set of ResourceReferences.
%TimeSpecification;	A string specifying a date and time according to the W3C profile of ISO 8601 (e.g., YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss.ssTZD) Note that this includes time zone data which may be important (see PRISM:publicationDate)[W3C-NOTE-datetime].

Table 2: Entities Used as Abbreviations in Element Definitions

### 4.1 PRISM Controlled Vocabulary Namespace

The PRISM Controlled Vocabulary provides a mechanism for describing and conveying all or a portion of a controlled vocabulary or authority file. This may be used to define entire new taxonomies, or it may be used to optimize the final speed of the system by caching useful information from externally-held vocabularies.

#### 4.1.1 pcv:broaderTerm

Name	Broader Term
Identifier	pcv:broaderTerm
Definition	Links to a broader (more general) taxon in the vocabulary. For example, from a taxon for 'dog' to one for 'mammal'.
Comment	Implementers should note that more than one pcv:broaderTerm link IS ALLOWED. This means that polyhierarchic structures are possible. However, cycles of pcv:broaderTerms are forbidden.
Attributes	rdf:resource
Model	EMPTY
Occurs In	pcv:Descriptor
Example	<pcv:broaderTerm rdf:resource="#mammal" />

#### 4.1.2 pcv:code

Name	Code
Identifier	pcv:code
Definition	Provides a unique machine-readable identifier for the term within the vocabulary.
Comment	This is usually an alphanumeric code, or a purely numeric one. However, markup is still allowed because of BiDi and ruby considerations.
Attributes	None
Model	%content.mix ;
Occurs In	pcv:Descriptor
Example	<pcv:code>3245</pcv:code>

#### 4.1.3 pcv:definition

Name	Definition
Identifier	pcv:definition
Definition	Provides a human-readable definition for the item in the vocabulary.
Comment	Multiple definitions for the same term can be given, but PRISM recommended practice is only to do so when it has different values of the xml:lang attribute. Definitions are a place where embedded markup is very likely - paragraph breaks being especially common. For such embedded markup, recommended practice is to use elements from the XHTML namespace. The rdf:parseType attribute MUST be given the value of 'Literal' when embedded markup is used.
Attributes	xml:lang, rdf:parseType
Model	%content.mix;
Occurs In	pcv:Descriptor
Example	<pre>&lt;pcv:definition rdf:parseType="Literal"&gt;   &lt;em&gt;Mammal&lt;/em&gt; describes the class of animals which:   &lt;ol&gt;     &lt;li&gt;breathe air&lt;/li&gt;     &lt;li&gt;give birth to live young&lt;/li&gt;     &lt;li&gt;have hair&lt;/li&gt;   &lt;/ol&gt; &lt;/pcv:definition&gt;</pre>

#### 4.1.4 pcv:Descriptor

Name	Descriptor
Identifier	pcv:Descriptor
Definition	Represents an entry, formally called a <i>taxon</i> , in a controlled vocabulary. pcv:Descriptor is the container for all the PCV elements used to define or describe such an entry.
Comment	There are two main uses of pcv:Descriptor, corresponding to the two different attributes. When the rdf:ID attribute is used, the pcv:Descriptor is providing the <i>definition</i> of the taxon. The URI reference used in the rdf:ID attribute should be used by any other elements wishing to refer to the taxon. When the rdf:about attribute is used, pcv:Descriptor is a <i>description</i> of a taxon that is <i>defined</i> elsewhere. That external definition does NOT have to be made using the PCV elements.
Attributes	rdf:ID or rdf:about
Model	ANY – but elements from the PCV namespace MUST be handled.
Occurs In	
Example	<pcv:Descriptor rdf:ID="mammal">

**Note:** PRISM element types are specified in camel case. The exception is that when elements denote Classes in the sense of the RDF Schema [W3C-RDFS], they must begin with an uppercase letter. The only PRISM element to do so is pcv:Descriptor,

#### 4.1.5 pcv:label

Name	Label
Identifier	pcv:label
Definition	Provides a human-readable label for the term in the vocabulary.
Comment	Multiple labels can be provided, but typically this will be done when they bear different xml:lang attributes. Most vocabularies will have only one 'preferred' term for a concept. For example, "Mad Cow Disease" is more properly referred to as "Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy". The <pcv:label> element SHALL be used for any preferred labels for a concept, whether there are multiple terms in a single language or not. For all alternate labels, use the <pcv:synonym> element.
Attributes	None
Model	%content.mix;
Occurs In	
Example	<pcv:label>Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy </pcv:label>

#### 4.1.6 pcv:narrowerTerm

Name	Narrower Term
Identifier	pcv:narrowerTerm
Definition	Links to a narrower (more specific) concept in the vocabulary. For example, from 'dog' to 'Dalmatian'.
Comment	Multiple pcv:narrowerTerm links are allowed. pcv:narrowerTerm and pcv:broaderTerm are the inverse of each other. Cycles of pcv:narrowerTerms are forbidden.
Attributes	rdf:resource
Model	EMPTY
Occurs In	pcv:Descriptor
Example	<pcv:narrowerTerm rdf:resource="#Dalmatian"/>

#### 4.1.7 **pcv:relatedTerm**

Name	Related Term
Identifier	pcv:relatedTerm
Definition	Links to a 'related term' in the vocabulary, where the nature of the relation is not specified.
Comment	Where possible, PRISM recommends this element not be used. Elements that specify the relation more precisely are preferred. However, the difficulty in precisely identifying the exact nature of the relationship between obviously related words, such as farm and farmer), are difficult to overestimate. Therefore, pcv:relatedTerm is expected to be used frequently.
Attributes	rdf:resource
Model	EMPTY
Occurs In	pcv:Descriptor
Example	<code>&lt;pcv:relatedTerm rdf:resource="http://example.com/cats.html"/&gt;</code>

#### 4.1.8 **pcv:synonym**

Name	Synonym
Identifier	pcv:synonym
Definition	Alternate labels (synonyms) for the same vocabulary term. While semantically equivalent, the synonyms are not the preferred terms for the concept. See pcv:label for more on preferred vs. alternate terms. The synonyms are used to increase the likelihood of matching to the proper controlled vocabulary term.
Comment	
Attributes	None
Model	%content.mix;
Occurs In	
Example	<code>&lt;pcv:synonym&gt;Mad Cow Disease&lt;/pcv:synonym&gt;</code> <code>&lt;pcv:synonym&gt;BSE&lt;/pcv:synonym&gt;</code>

#### 4.1.9 **pcv:vocabulary**

Name	Vocabulary
Identifier	pcv:vocabulary
Definition	Provides a human-readable string identifying the vocabulary from which the term comes.
Comment	The pcv:vocabulary element is not expected to be used when <i>defining</i> the taxons in a vocabulary. It is expected to be used when providing small, in-line, <i>descriptions</i> of those taxons so that a reader may be able to track down a complete copy if they do not already own one.
Attributes	None
Model	%content.mix;
Occurs In	
Example	<code>&lt;pcv:vocabulary&gt;NAICS - North American Industrial Classification System, Canadian Edition, 1997&lt;/pcv:vocabulary&gt;</code>

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