The Reference model provides a framework for the 191** Family of Standards. The model is presented at two levels. Firstly, there is a generic description suitable for an audience that needs to obtain a general understanding of the underlying principles and requirements. Then, there is a more detailed presentation level aimed at information system analysts, program planners and developers who are required to use and implement systems and data conforming to these standards.

The Reference model describes the use of Conceptual Modelling and how it is used in the 191** family of standards to enable conforming application systems to inter-operate and share conforming geographic data. The Domain Reference Model formally defines the domain of geographic information and the 191** family of standards. The Architectural Reference Model describes how the ISO Open Systems Environment (OSE) is used as the generic information system basis for these standards. This family of standards builds upon the OSE model by providing the framework for defining services specific to geographic information. The use of profiles is described to specify specific options within the standards for application domains and how this technique will be used to allow existing functional standards to be redefined as application schemata of this family of standards.

The standard is of particular relevance to the following sectors:

Sector	Of particular interest
Developers of GIS products	Yes
Developers of GIS application systems	
Producers/ suppliers of geographic data	
Users of geographic data and GIS	
Developers of standards	Yes

For further information on this standard and its implementation, please contact ISO/TC 211 secretariat via www.isotc211.org.