



The objective of this International Standard is to provide a clear procedure for the description of digital geographic datasets so that users will be able to determine whether the data in a holding will be of use to them and how to access the data. By establishing a common set of metadata terminology, definitions and extension procedures, this standard will promote the proper use and effective retrieval of geographic data. Supplementary benefits of this standard for metadata are to facilitate the organization and management of geographic data and to provide information about an organization's database to others. This standard for the implementation and documentation of metadata furnishes those unfamiliar with geographic data the appropriate information to characterise their geographic data and it makes possible dataset cataloguing enabling data discovery, retrieval and reuse.

The standard is of particular relevance to the following sectors:

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

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