eCH-0200 – DCAT Application Profile for Data Portals in Switzerland (DCAT-AP CH) V3.0.0

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Summary

The DCAT Application Profile for Data Portals in Switzerland (DCAT-AP CH) is based on Data Catalog Vocabulary (DCAT) which is intended for describing the data recorded in Swiss data portals (e.g. opendata.swiss). Its target group is the operators of data portals in Switzerland (referred to in DCAT terminology as "Data Receivers") and the providers of these data who maintain data catalogs (referred to in DCAT terminology as "Data Senders").

As a rule, data portals do not provide the data themselves, but only metadata on the data within data catalogs. Their purpose is to make locating and reusing of data possible. Therefore, DCAT-AP CH focuses primarily on the description of metadata.

DCAT-AP CH is also intended for ensuring compatibility with the Application Profile for Data Portals in Europe (DCAT-AP). Since this ceased to be the case with Version 1 and 2, the present Version 3 has been defined within the framework of the eCH Open Government Data working group. This ensures the highest possible compatibility with DCAT-AP (current version 3.0.0).

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Note

This document uses a gender-neutral formulation when referring to persons. This is based on the guidelines (German) of the Federal Chancellery. Depending on the situation, paired forms (citizens), gender-abstract forms (insured person), gender-neutral forms (insured person) or paraphrases without personal reference are used. The generic masculine (citizen) is not permitted. Full forms are used in continuous texts, i.e. in texts consisting of formulated sentences. Short forms can be used in abbreviated text passages, namely in tables. The short form is used with a slash but without an ellipsis (referent). Gender asterisks and similar spellings are not used.

1 Abstract

This section is non-normative.

The DCAT Application Profile for Data Portals in Switzerland (DCAT-AP CH) serves as an application profile of the Data Catalog Vocabulary [VOCAB-DCAT] and is utilized to detail the datasets, data services and dataset series featured in Swiss data portals, such as the open data portal opendata.swiss and the interoperability platform i14y.ch. It primarily addresses the operators of these data portals (termed 'data receivers' in DCAT language) and the data providers who curate the data catalogs (known as 'data senders' in DCAT language).

As a rule, data portals do not provide the data itself, but only metadata about the data. This is intended to facilitate the discovery and reuse of the data. DCAT-AP CH therefore focuses primarily on the description of metadata.

DCAT-AP CH aims to maintain compatibility with the Application Profile for Data Portals in Europe [DCAT-AP]. However, due to the ongoing evolution of the DCAT-AP standard, compatibility with the existing version of DCAT-AP CH is not assured. The current version 3.0.0 of the standard has been developed by the eCH Open Government Data Expert Group[1] for this purpose.

2 Introduction

This section is non-normative.

2.1 Status

Replaced: The document has been replaced by a new current version. It may still be used, however, it is recommended to use the new version.

2.2 Area of application

The DCAT Application Profile for Data Portals in Switzerland (DCAT-AP CH) is an application profile of the DCAT vocabulary and a sub-profile of the European Application Profile DCAT-AP.

- **DCAT (Data Catalog Vocabulary)[2]** is a semantic definition for describing data using an RDF vocabulary. It allows a decentralized approach to data publication by enforcing interoperability using a common language to describe data.
- As DCAT is a generic language, it can be used in different contexts. An application profile specifies its use within a specific domain, context or application, with the aim of facilitating data exchange. In Europe, the DCAT-AP application profile has been defined, and has taken on the role of a de facto standard within Europe. Many European countries defined their own localised application profile based on DCAT-AP, tailored to their specific needs.

[1] eCH Open Government Data Expert Group. https://www.ech.ch/de/der-verein/fachgruppen/open_government_data

[2] DCAT: Data Catalog Vocabulary – Version 3. URL: https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat

- The Swiss community defined DCAT-AP CH to provide guidance to Swiss data publishers on how to specify their data catalogs and to data portal managers on how to process data catalogs in a DCAT-AP CH and DCAT-AP compliant manner, thus ensuring interoperability with DCAT-AP.

It should always be kept in mind that both DCAT-AP CH and DCAT-AP focus primarily on metadata. Metadata is, by definition, secondary information about the data: when and by whom it was published, what the terms of use are, how often it is updated, who to contact about it and where and how it can be accessed.

2.3 Overview of changes compared to version 2.0.0

The main focus of the eCH Expert Group in creating of DCAT-AP CH v3 was to ensure compatibility with DCAT-AP.

An overview of the all changes can be found in Annex D.

- Introduction of the three new classes Resource, Catalog Record and Dataset Series, see 3.2.1 Classes.
- Adding new properties to several classes.
- Definition of usage notes for controlled vocabularies where necessary.
- The property dct:coverage at dcat:Distribution level was considered deprecated.
- Addition of a new and detailed figure for the DCAT-AP CH model, see 3.2.1 Classes.

3 DCAT-AP CH: Building Blocks

3.1 DCAT as a universal vocabulary

The application profile specified in this document is based on the Data Catalog Vocabulary (DCAT) specifications developed under the responsibility of the Government Linked Data Working Group at the W3C[3]. DCAT is an RDF[4] vocabulary designed to facilitate interoperability between data catalogs published on the Web. Additional classes and properties from other well-known vocabularies are re-used where appropriate.

[3] W3C. Government Linked Data (GLD) Working Group. http://www.w3.org/2011/gld/wiki/Main_Page [archived]

[4] W3C. Resource Description Framework (RDF). http://www.w3.org/RDF/

The DCAT vocabulary consists of **classes** and **properties**.

- **Classes are *things on the internet***: Not all of them have URIs, but it is recommended to provide a URI for them. They are complex things like a person, an organization, a dataset, a website or a downloadable data file.
- **Classes have properties**: The properties are the attributes describing these things. Some properties are common to more than one class, for example a title is a common attribute. Other properties are very specialised, such as a file format, which only makes sense for a data file.
- **Properties can be simple or complex**: Some properties are classes. For example, an organization might have a website. Or a dataset may have a data publisher. In general, a class can be recognized by its spelling: A property name starts with a lowercase letter, such as dcat:dataset, while a class starts with an uppercase letter, such as dcat:Dataset.

Classes and properties are used to provide metadata in a structured way.

3.2 The core structure of DCAT-AP CH v3 replicates the core structure of DCAT-AP

Being a subprofile of DCAT-AP, DCAT-AP CH replicates its core structure and concepts.

3.2.1 Classes

The Swiss Application Profile (DCAT-AP CH) as well as the European Application Profile (DCAT-AP) are structured around the following 7 main classes:

Class name	Usage note for the Application Profile	URI	Reference
Catalog	A Catalog or repository that hosts the Datasets or Data Services being described.	dcat:Catalog	https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat/#Class:Catalog
Cataloged Resource	Resource published or curated by a single agent.	dcat:Resource	https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat/#Class:Resource
Catalog Record	A description of a Cataloged Resource's entry in the Catalog.	dcat:CatalogRecord	https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat/#Class:Catalog_Record
Dataset	A conceptual entity that represents the information published.	dcat:Dataset	https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat/#Class:Dataset
Distribution	A physical embodiment of the Dataset in a particular format.	dcat:Distribution	https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat/#Class:Distribution
Data Service	A collection of operations that provides access to one or more datasets or data processing functions.	dcat:DataService	https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat/#Class:Data_Service
Dataset Series	A collection of datasets that are published separately but share some characteristics that group them.	dcat:DatasetSeries	https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat/#Class:Dataset_Series

Table 1: Classes

Note that in the previous versions of DCAT-AP and DCAT-AP CH, classes were categorised to be mandatory, recommended and optional, like it's currently the case for properties. This categorisation has been removed in favour of the above overview and guidelines to create a common expectation for DCAT-AP catalogs.

Even if "inheritance" is not generally mentioned in the context of RDF, DCAT-AP CH assumes that every property of a class can also be used sensibly with the sub-class. This "re-usability" of the properties of its super-classes is pointed out separately in the respective class description.

To improve the coherency by the description of shared Dataset, Distribution, Data Services and Dataset Series, DCAT-AP provided guidelines on their usage: https://semiceu.github.io/DCAT-AP/releases/3.0.0/#UsageGuidelines.

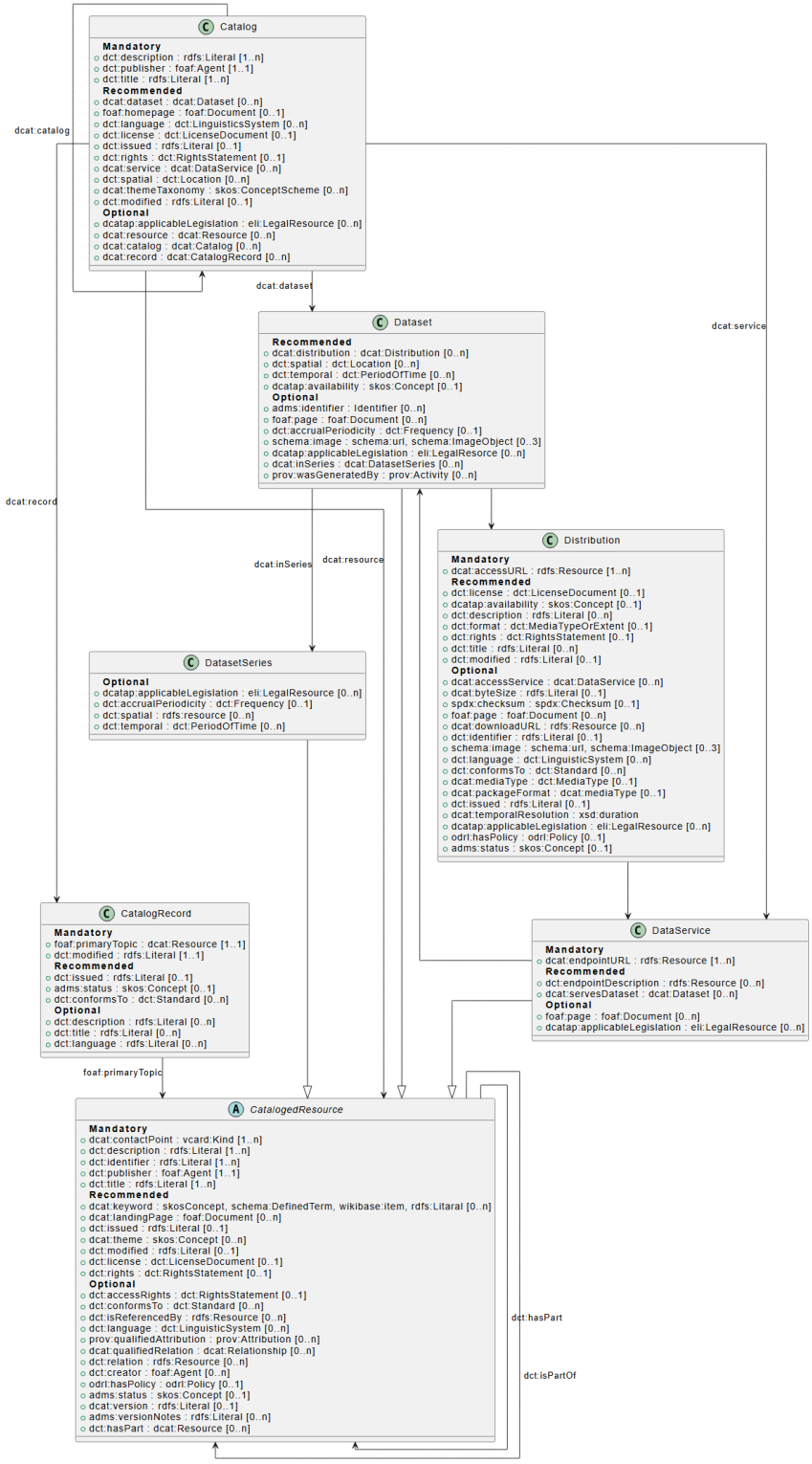

Figure 1: Overview of the DCAT-AP CH model, showing the classes with their properties and the relationship between them

3.3 Requirement levels

DCAT-AP CH defines four requirement levels for data receivers and senders:

- **Mandatory**: a receiver MUST be able to process the information for that property; a sender MUST provide the information for that property.
- **Recommended**: a receiver MUST be able to process the information for that property; a sender SHOULD provide the information for that property if it is available.
- **Optional**: a receiver MUST be able to process the information for that property; a sender MAY provide the information for that property but is not obliged to do so.
- **Deprecated**: a receiver SHOULD be able to process information about instances of that property; a sender SHOULD NOT provide the information about instances of that property.

The meaning of the terms MUST, MUST NOT, SHOULD and MAY in this section and in the following sections are as defined in RFC 2119[5].

In the given context, the term "processing" means that receivers MUST accept incoming data and transparently provide these data to applications and services. It does neither imply nor prescribe what applications and services finally do with the data (parse, convert, store, make searchable, display to users, etc.).

3.4 Controlled vocabularies of DCAT-AP CH v2

The table below lists a number of properties with the controlled vocabularies (CVs) that MUST be used for the properties listed.

Where possible, the same controlled vocabularies have been used as for DCAT-AP[6]. However, not every vocabulary proposed by DCAT-AP is currently used for DCAT-AP CH v3. In some cases, the eCH Expert Group is still evaluating the application of the proposed vocabulary, while in other cases the eCH Expert Group has decided to evaluate the introduction of a new, Swiss-specific vocabulary. In particular, for the property dct:publisher, which refers to an entity (organisation) responsible for making a cataloge, a dataset or a data service available, a CV is still being discussed within the eCH Expert Group Open Government Data – its introduction will be evaluated for the next iterations of this standard eCH-0200.

The evaluation of the Controlled Vocabularies is carried out by a subgroup of the eCH OGD Expert Group. It defines the usage notes for the use of the respective CVs and provides an aid (eCH-0285-Use-of-controlled-vocabularies) with recommendations and best practices for the use of CVs. Further information can be found here: eCH-0285-Use-of-controlled-vocabularies.

[5] IETF. RFC 2119. Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels. http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt

[6] Siehe DCAT-AP v3.0.0, Chapter 10 Controlled Vocabularies. https://semiceu.github.io/DCAT-AP/releases/3.0.0/#controlled-vocs

Property URI	Used for Class	Vocabulary name	Vocabulary URI	Usage note
dcatap:availability	Dataset, Distribution	Planned availability	http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/planned-availability	The list of terms for the availability levels of a dataset distribution in the DCAT-AP specification.
dct:accessRights	Dataset, Data Service	Access Rights Named Authority List	http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/access-right	Use one of the following values (:public, :restricted, :nonpublic).
dct:accrualPeriodicity	Dataset	EU Vocabularies Frequency Named Authority List[7]	http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/frequency	
dct:format	Distribution	EU Vocabularies File Type Named Authority List[8]	http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/file-type	
dct:language	Catalog, Dataset, Catalog Record, Distribution	EU Vocabularies Languages Named Authority List	http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/language	
dct:license	Distribution	Swiss Controlled Vocabulary for Licences and Terms of Use	https://dcat-ap.ch/vocabulary/licenses/20210623.html	Within the federal level only the “Terms of use opendata.swiss” are applicable
dcat:mediaType	Distribution	IANA Media Types[9]	http://www.iana.org/assignments/media-types/media-types.xhtml	

[7] EUROPA. Publications Office of the EU. EU Vocabularies. Controlled Vocabularies. Authority tables. Frequency. https://publications.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/at-dataset/-/resource/dataset/frequency

[8] EUROPA. Publications Office of the EU. EU Vocabularies. Controlled Vocabularies. Authority tables. File type. https://publications.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/at-dataset/-/resource/dataset/file-type

[9] Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA). Media Types http://www.iana.org/assignments/media-types

Property URI	Used for Class	Vocabulary name	Vocabulary URI	Usage note
dct:spatial	Catalogue, Dataset, Dataset Series	LINDAS[10] resources, EU Vocabularies Continents Named Authority List , EU Vocabularies Countries Named Authority List , EU Vocabularies Places Named Authority List , Geonames	https://ld.admin.ch/country/CHE, http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/continent/ , http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/country , http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/place/ ,	• CV to be used for IRI reference: LINDAS resources SHOULD be used. Whenever a particular location is not available as LINDAS resource, then the EU Vocabularies Named Authority Lists MAY be used. • The IRIs for different administrative levels of Swiss spatial locations can be discovered by browsing LINDAS starting at https://ld.admin.ch/country/CHE. By following the links in the section schema:location, the desired level can be discovered. Examples on each administrative level include: • Country – Switzerland: https://ld.admin.ch/country/CHE • Canton – Aargau: https://ld.admin.ch/canton/19 • District – Brig: https://ld.admin.ch/district/2301 • Municipality – Versoix: https://ld.admin.ch/municipality/6644 • For special regions (e.g. market observation regions, forest inventory regions) Swisstopo can be contacted, further information is available at https://geo.ld.admin.ch/.

Property URI	Used for Class	Vocabulary name	Vocabulary URI	Usage note
dcat:theme	Dataset	Dataset Theme Vocabulary	http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/data-theme	The values to be used for this property are the URIs of the concepts in the vocabulary.
dcat:themeTaxonomy	Catalogue	Dataset Theme Vocabulary	http://publications.europa.eu/resource/dataset/data-theme	The value to be used for this property is the URI of the vocabulary itself, i.e. the concept scheme, not the URIs of the concepts in the vocabulary.

Table 2: Controlled Vocabularies

3.5 Multilingualism

Switzerland is a multilingual country. Therefore, supporting multiple languages is particularly important. For this reason, DCAT-AP CH defines guidelines regarding the content and the technical publication of this content in different languages.

In terms of content:

- **Organisations at the federal level MUST provide metadata in at least 2 official languages and MAY provide metadata in English**, for instance German and French (and optionally English).
- **Every other organisation MUST provide this metadata in at least one of the following four languages: English, German, French or Italian**. The specification in other languages is optional.

From a technical perspective multilingualism SHOULD be handled as follows:

- **Multilingual literals**: Properties of Range rdfs:Literal can be provided in multiple languages by adding so called language encoded strings: these add the language as an ISO 639-1 two letter code after the string in the way that is shown in the example below:

[10] Linked Data Resources from Linked Data Services LINDAS: https://lindas.admin.ch/

Example for localising a rdfs:Literal:

```
@prefix dcat: <http://www.w3.org/ns/dcat#> .
@prefix dct: <http://purl.org/dc/terms/> .

<https://swisstopo/opendata/dataset/1234>
    a dcat:Dataset ;
    dct:title "Holztürme im Kanton Zürich"@de,
        "Wooden staircases in canton Zurich"@en.
```

- **Content negotiation**: Properties of Range rdfs:Resource SHOULD be URIs. It is important to use URIs that are language independent. Then the data publisher in the process of dispatching these URIs can use content negotiation.

Example for a rdfs:Resource that is language independent. The host of that landing page can redirect a request coming in for 'https://opendata.swisstopo/1234/about' to a page that matches with the language of the user:

```
@prefix dcat: <http://www.w3.org/ns/dcat#> .
@prefix foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/> .

<https://identifiers.opendata.swisstopo/1234>
    a dcat:Dataset ;
    dcat:landingPage <https://opendata.swisstopo/1234/about> .
```

The table lists multilingual properties of DCAT-AP CH and the translation strategies that apply to them:

Label	RDF property	Range	Multilingual Support
Catalog title	dct:title	rdfs:Literal	Language encoded string
Catalog description	dct:description	rdfs:Literal	Language encoded string
Resource title	dct:title	rdfs:Literal	Language encoded string
Resource description	dct:description	rdfs:Literal	Language encoded string
Resource keyword	dcat:keyword	rdfs:Literal	Language encoded string
Catalog homepage	foaf:homepage	foaf:Document	Content negotiation
Resource landing Page	dcat:landingPage	foaf:Document	Content negotiation
Catalog publisher	dct:publisher	foaf:Agent	Content negotiation for the URI and language encoded string for the name

Label	RDF property	Range	Multilingual Support
Resource publisher	dct:publisher	foaf:Agent	Content negotiation for the URI and language encoded string for the name

Table 3: Multilingual properties of DCAT-AP CH

4 DCAT-AP-CH: Properties per Class

4.1 Notation

- **Property**: denotes the label that the class or property is given in DCAT-AP and/or DCAT-AP CH.
- **URI**: denotes the property URI.
- **Range**: specifies the range of values that is expected for the property.
- **ReqLevel** (Requirement level): denotes whether the class / property is mandatory, recommended or optional.
- **Card** (Cardinality): specifies the minimum number of values that MUST be provided for that property and the maximum number of values that MAY be provided.
- **Usage Note**: specifies custom usage instructions and provides background information.
- **CV** (Controlled Vocabulary): defines which controlled vocabulary SHOULD or MUST be used.

Note: The usage notes in the tables below may include references to other properties. The links will then direct to the relevant HTML page of DCAT-AP CH.

4.2 Class: Catalog

A Catalog or repository that hosts the Datasets or Data Services being described.

DCAT-AP CH allows Catalogs of only Datasets, but also Catalogs of only Data Services, but usually it will be a mixture of both.

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Definition and Usage Note
description	**dct:description**	**rdfs:Literal**	**M**	**1..n**	**Free-text description of the catalog (in the language indicated in the attribute)** • **This property can be repeated for parallel language versions of the description (see Chapter 3.5 on Multilingualism).** •
publisher	**dct:publisher**	**foaf:Agent**	**M**	**1..1**	**Entity responsible for making the catalog available**
title	**dct:title**	**rdfs:Literal as an ISO 639-1 two letter code indicating the language**	**M**	**1..n**	**The title of the catalogue in the indicated language** • **This property can be repeated for parallel language versions of the description (see Chapter 3.5 on Multilingualism).**

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Definition and Usage Note
dataset	dcat:dataset	dcat:Dataset	R	0..n	Dataset that is part of the catalog. • This property links the Catalog with a Dataset that is part of the Catalog. • As empty Catalogs are usually indications of problems, this property SHOULD be combined with the property service to implement an empty Catalog check.
homepage	foaf:homepage	foaf:Document	R	0..1	This property refers to a web page that acts as the main page for the Catalog. • For instance opendata.swiss, would be the homepage of the Swiss Catalog exported to data.europa.eu.
language	dct:language	dct:LinguisticSystem	R	0..n	This property refers to a language used in the textual metadata describing titles, descriptions, etc. of the Datasets in the Catalog. • The properties title and description of Catalogs, Datasets or Distribution can be provided in multiple languages. In that case, it makes sense to also list these languages on the Catalog level. • CV to be used: http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/language
license	dct:license	dct:LicenseDocument	R	0..1	This property refers to the licence under which the Catalog can be used or reused. • CV to used: https://dcat-ap.ch/vocabulary/licenses
release date	dct:issued	rdfs:Literal typed as xsd:date, xsd:dateTime, xsd:gYear or xsd:gYearMonth	R	0..1	This property contains the date of formal issuance (e.g., for publication of the Catalog).
rights	dct:rights	dct:RightsStatement	R	0..1	This property refers to a statement that specifies rights associated with the Catalog.
service	dcat:service	dcat:DataService	R	0..n	This property refers to a site or end-point (Data Service) that is listed in the Catalog. • As empty Catalogs are usually indications of problems, this property SHOULD be combined with the property Dataset to implement an empty Catalog check.

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Definition and Usage Note
spatial/ geo-graphic	dct:spatial	dct:Location	R	0..n	This property refers to a geographical area covered by the Catalog. • This property may be indicated using an IRI reference or may be encoded as an instance of dct:Location. • CV to be used for IRI reference: LINDAS[11] resources SHOULD be used. Whenever a particular location is not available as LINDAS resource, then the EU Vocabularies Named Authority Lists MAY be used: [VOCAB-EU-CONTINENT], [VOCAB-EU-COUNTRY], [VOCAB-EU-PLACE], if the location is not in one of the mentioned EU Vocabularies, then Geonames URIs MAY be used: [GEONAMES]. • LINDAS resources: The IRIs for different administrative levels of Swiss spatial locations can be discovered by browsing LINDAS starting at https://ld.admin.ch/country/CHE. By following the links in the section schema:location, the desired level can be discovered. Examples on each administrative level include: Country – Switzerland: https://ld.admin.ch/country/CHE Canton – Aargau: https://ld.admin.ch/canton/19 District – Brig: https://ld.admin.ch/district/2301 Municipality – Versoix: https://ld.admin.ch/municipality/6644 For special regions (e.g. market observation regions, forest inventory regions) Swisstopo can be contacted, further information is available at https://geo.ld.admin.ch/ • For the encoding as instance of dct:Location see the class Location (DCAT-AP – 7.12 Location).
themes	dcat:themeTaxonomy	skos:ConceptScheme	R	0..n	This property refers to a knowledge organization system used to classify the Catalog's Datasets. • CV to be used: http://publications.europa.eu/resource/dataset/data-theme
update/ modification date	dct:modified	rdfs:Literal typed as xsd:date, xsd:dateTime, xsd:gYear or xsd:gYearMonth	R	0..1	This property contains the most recent date on which the Catalog was modified.

[11] Linked Data Resources from Linked Data Services LINDAS: https://lindas.admin.ch/

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Definition and Usage Note
applicable legislation	dcatap:applicableLegislation	eli:LegalResource	O	0..n	The legislation that mandates the creation or management of the Catalog. • An ELI identifier SHOULD be used. The Fedlex[12] identifier SHOULD be used for the federal level. If there is no ELI or Fedlex identifier, then the dct:relation property MUST be used to indicate the legal basis. • For more information see DCAT-AP Legal Resource.
resource	dcat:resource	dcat:Resource	O	0..n	A resource that is listed in the catalog. • This is the most general predicate for membership of a catalog. Use of a more specific sub-property is recommended when available. • See also sub-properties of dcat:Resource in particular dcat:dataset, dcat:catalog and dcat:service
catalog	dcat:catalog	dcat:Catalog	O	0..n	A catalog that ist listed in the catalog
catalog record	dcat:record	dcat:CatalogRecord	O	0..n	A record describing the registration of a single resource (e.g. a dataset, a data service) that is part of the catalog.

Table 4: Class – Catalog

4.3 Class: Cataloged Resource

Resource published or curated by a single agent.

Usage Note

- The class of all cataloged resources, the super-class of 3.5 Class: Dataset, 3.7 Class: Data Service, 3.2 Class: Catalog and any other member of a dcat:Catalog. This class carries properties common to all cataloged resources, including datasets and data services
- This class Catalogued Resource is an abstract class for DCAT-AP CH. Therefore only subclasses should be used in a data exchange.
- For more information about this class see DCAT 3 – Cataloged Resource and DCAT-AP 3 – Catalogued Resource.

[12] Fedlex Die Publikationsplattform des Bundesrechts https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Definition and Usage Note
contact point	dcat:contactPoint	vcard:Kind	M	1..n	This property contains contact information that can be used for sending comments about the resource. • This property MUST contain an email address that is continuously monitored by the data publisher. • If there are several contributors involved in the publication of the resource, the property can be used multiple times.
description	dct:description	rdfs:Literal	M	1..n	This property contains a free-text account of the resource. • This property can be repeated for parallel language versions of the description (see 2.3 Multilingualism). On the user interface of data portals, the content of the element whose language corresponds to the display language selected by the user is displayed.
Identifier	dct:identifier	rdfs:Literal	M	1..n	This property contains the unique identifier for the resource, e.g. the URI or other unique identifier in the context of the Catalog. • The identifier may be used as part of the URI of the resource.
publisher	dct:publisher	foaf:Agent	M	1..1	This property refers to an entity (organisation) responsible for making the resource available.
title	dct:title	rdfs:Literal as an ISO 639-1 two letter code indicating the language	M	1..n	This property contains a short statement about the content. • Title should be understandable for external data users • Give a self-explanatory title • Title statement should contain 2 to 7 words • Avoid abbreviations, as these are usually only known internally • This property can be repeated for parallel language versions of the title (see 2.3 Multilingualism).

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Definition and Usage Note
keyword/tag	dcat:keyword	skos:Concept, schema:DefinedTerm, wikibase:item, rdfs:Literal	R	0..n	This property contains a keyword or tag describing the resource. • Keywords primarily serve to support search functionality on Data Catalogs. Using more keywords is preferable to using fewer. Keywords should be chosen from the perspective of the searcher. Consider, that keywords which are obvious for you as a publisher might be useful for the search. E.g. add environmental monitoring (http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q1749732) if you as a data publisher are an Environmental Monitoring Agency. • Both controlled vocabularies and literals are allowed, but controlled vocabularies SHOULD be used. Use the following priority cascade for adding Keywords: 1. TERMDAT: Search for a term on termdat.ch. E.g. Grünabfälle, take the entry ID (51810), and build the Concept URI by adding the ID to https://register.ld.admin.ch/termdat/ (e.g. https://register.ld.admin.ch/termdat/51810) 2. GEMET (especially in a geo-related context): Search for a term on http://www.eionet.europa.eu/gemet/. Use the Concept URL, as statet on the bottom of the page of a concept (e.g. http://www.eionet.europa.eu/gemet/concept/428) 3. WIKIDATA: If there are no matching Concepts neither in TERMDAT, nor GEMET, search in Wikidata (top right search). Use the Concept URI (entry in the left side). (e.g. http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q1749732, do not copy the URL https://www.wikidata.org/**wiki**/Q1749732) 4. If you can't find a fitting concept, you can always add your own concept to Wikidata. 5. Finally as a last resort, you can add a Keyword as a Literal. Note: rdfs:Literal might be deprecated in the future.
landing page	dcat:landingPage	foaf:Document	R	0..n	This property refers to a web page that provides access to the resource, its distributions and/or additional information. • It is intended to point to a landing page at the original data provider, not to a page on a site of a third party, such as an aggregator.
release date	dct:issued	rdfs:Literal (typed as xsd:date, xsd:dateTime, xsd:gYear or xsd:gYearMonth)	R	0..1	This property contains the date of formal issuance (e.g., first publication of the resource). • If this date is not known, the date of the first referencing of the data collection in the Catalog can be entered.

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Definition and Usage Note
theme/category	dcat:theme	skos:Concept	R	0..n	This property refers to a knowledge organization system used to classify the catalog's resources. A resource may be associated with multiple themes. • There MUST be at least one entry using the EU Themes Vocabulary to be DCAT-AP conform: [VOCAB-EU-THEME] • It is possible (OPTIONAL) to add additional topics by using other commonly used controlled vocabularies.
update/ modification date	dct:modified	rdfs:Literal (typed as xsd:date, xsd:dateTime, xsd:gYear or xsd:gYearMonth)	R	0..1	This property contains the most recent date on which the resource was changed or modified. • No value may indicate that the resource has never changed after its initial publication, or that the date of the last modification is not known, or that the resource is continuously updated • This property *MUST* only be set if the distributions (the actual data) that the dataset describes have been updated after it has been issued. In this case the property *MUST* contain the date of the last update. That way a person or institution using the data for an analysis or application will know when to update the report or application on their side.
license	dct:license	dct:LicenseDocument	R	0..1	A legal document under which the resource is made available. • Information about licenses and rights *MAY* be provided for the Resource. See also guidance at DCAT- 9 License and rights statements. • See also: Resource rights and Distribution license.
rights	dct:rights	dct:RightsStatement	R	0..1	This property refers to a statement that specifies rights associated with the resource. • In general this property is not needed, as long as you already provide dct:licence, dct:accessRights. • Prioritize using dct:licence, dct:accessRights and for a link to a legal text dcat:applicableLegislation. Use dct:rights only for additional, specific rights information. • When using dct:rights, we advise you to use the Open Data Rights Statement Vocabulary (ODRS). • To refer to a dct:RightStatement it is recommended to use an URI.
access rights	dcat:accessRights	dct:RightsStatement	O	0..1	Information regarding access or restrictions based on privacy, security, or other policies. • Use this property exclusively for statements about access restrictions (e.g., privacy, security, or policy-related restrictions). • The [*VOCAB-EU-ACCESS-RIGHT*] *SHOULD* be used. Adapt categories definitions as needed for specific use cases.

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Definition and Usage Note
conforms to	dct:conformsTo	dct:Standard	O	0..n	This property refers to an implementing rule or other specification. • This property *SHOULD* be used to indicate the model, schema, ontology, view or profile that this representation of a resource conforms to. This is (generally) a complementary concern to the media-type or format.
is reference by	dct:isReferencedBy	rdfs:Resource	O	0..n	This property is about a related resource, such as a publication, that references, cites, or otherwise points to the resource.
language	dct:language	dct:LinguisticSystem	O	0..n	This property refers to a language of the resource. This property can be repeated if there are multiple languages in the resource. • CV to be used: [*VOCAB-EU-LANGUAGE*]
qualified attribution	prov:qualifiedAttribution	prov:Attribution	O	0..n	This property refers to a link to an Agent (Person, Organisation, Institution) having some form of responsibility for the resource • Used to link to an Agent where the nature of the relationship is known but does not match one of the standard [DCTERMS] properties (dcterms:creator , dcterms:publisher). • Use dcat:hadRole on the prov:Attribution to capture the responsibility of the Agent with respect to the Resource. See DCAT 3 – 15.1 Relationships between datasets and agents for usage examples.
qualified relation	dcat:qualifiedRelation	dcat:Relationship	O	0..n	This property provides a link to a description of a relationship with another resource and it's especially meant for relationships between resources. • It replaces the property rdfs:seeAlso of DCAT-AP CH v1. • See here for examples on how to use it: dcat:qualifiedRelation.
related resource	dct:relation	rdfs:Resource	O	0..n	A related resource. • This property refers to a related resource where the relationship cannot be further specified as a dcat:qualifiedRelation. This may be additional material such as an article, example or documentation helpful in the context of the resource. • The element can also be used to link to legal foundations that apply to the publication or usage of the resource.

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Definition and Usage Note
creator	dct:creator	foaf:Agent	O	0..n	An entity responsible for producing the resource (provider of the technical components), organisation or company. • Resources of type foaf:Agent are recommended as values for this property. • If from the public sector, use the same CV as 3.3.4 Property: publisher. • For swiss companies, use the corresponding Zefix entry https://register.ld.admin.ch/zefix/company/122015, you can find the EHRA-ID of organisations on http://zefix.ch. • Fallback: We recommend using the correspondend entry in Wikidata as CV, it is straight forward to add a missing entity to Wikidata.
has policy	odrl:hasPolicy	odrl:Policy	O	0..1	The policy expressing the rights associated with the resource if using the [ODRL] vocabulary. • Information about rights expressed as an ODRL policy [ODRL MODEL] using the ODRL vocabulary [VOCAB ODRL] *MAY* be provided for the distribution. See also guidance at DCAT 3 – 9. License and rights statements . • See also: 3.3.11 Property: license, see 3.3.13 Property: access rights, see 3.3.12 Property: rights
status	adms:status	skos:Concept	O	0..1	The status of the resource in the context of maturity lifecycle. • CV to be used [*VOCAB-EU-STATUS*]. Vocabulary in human-readable form: Status. • See also: Distribution 3.6.3 Property: availability and Dataset 3.5.4 Property: availability. For more information about a resource lifecycle see DCAT 3 – 11.3 Resource life-cycle.
version	dcat:version	rdfs:Literal	O	0..1	The version indicator (name or identifier) of a resource. • DCAT does not prescribe how a version name / identifier should be specified, and refers for guidance to DWBP – Best Practice 7: Provide a version indicator. • See also: 3.3.24 Property: version notes
version notes	adms:versionNotes	rdfs:Literal	O	0..n	A description of the differences between this version and a previous version of the Dataset. • This property can be repeated for parallel language versions of the version notes.
has part	dct:hasPart	dcat:Resource	O	0..n	A related resource that is included either physically or logically in the described resource. • For more information about the relationship between datasets and other resources see DCAT- 13.2 Relationships between datasets and other resources.

Table 5: Class – Cataloged Resource

4.4 Class: Catalog Record

A record in a catalog, describing the registration of a single 3.3 Class: Cataloged Resource

Usage Note

- **If in doubt, do not use this class**
- This class is optional and not all catalogs will use it. It exists for catalogs where a distinction is made between metadata about a dataset or service and metadata about the entry in the catalog about the dataset or service.
- This class allows to state through dct:modified the change of the record entry (e.g. change of publisher, rights etc.). This is in contrast to a change of the dataset itself where the same property dct:modified shall be used on the class Distribution.
- For more information about this class see DCAT 3 – Catalog Record.

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Definition and Usage Note
primary topic	**foaf:primaryTopic**	**dcat:Resource**	**M**	**1..1**	**A link to the Dataset, Data Service, Dataset Series or Catalog described in the record.This property MUST contain an email address that is continuously monitored by the data publisher.** • **A catalog record will refer to one entity in a catalog. This can be either a Dataset, a Data Service, a Dataset Series or a Catalog. To ensure an unambigous reading of the cardinality the range is set to 3.3 Class: Cataloged Resource. However, it is not the intend with this range to require the explicit use of the class Catalog Resource. As abstract class, a subclass should be used.** • **foaf:primaryTopic is functional: each catalog record can have at most one primary topic, i.e., describes one cataloged resource.**
update/ modification date	**dct:modified**	**rdfs:Literal (typed as xsd:date, xsd:dateTime, xsd:gYear or xsd:gYearMonth)**	**M**	**0..1**	**This property contains the most recent date on which the Catalog Record was modified**
release date	dct:issued	rdfs:Literal typed as xsd:date, xsd:dateTime, xsd:gYear or xsd:gYearMonth	R	0..1	This property contains the date of formal issuance (e.g., first publication of the Catalog Record). • If this date is not known, the date of the first referencing of the data collection in the Catalogue can be entered.

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Definition and Usage Note
status	adms:status	skos:Concept	R	0..1	The status of the catalog record in the context of maturity lifecycle. • CV to be used [*VOCAB-EU-STATUS*]. Vocabulary in human-readable form: Status. • See also: Distribution 3.6.3 Property: availability and Dataset 3.5.4 Property: availability. For more information about a resource lifecycle see DCAT 3 – 11.3 Resource life-cycle.
conforms to	dct:conformsTo	dct:Standard	O	0..n	This property refers to an implementing rule or other specification. • This property SHOULD be used to indicate the model, schema, ontology, view or profile that this representation of a Dataset conforms to. This is (generally) a complementary concern to the media-type or format.
description	dct:description	rdfs:Literal	R	0..n	This property contains a free-text account of the Catalog Record. • This property can be repeated for parallel language versions of the description (see Multilingualism).
title	dct:title	rdfs:Literal	R	0..n	This property contains a name given to the Catalog Record. • This property can be repeated for parallel language versions of the title (see Multilingualism).
language	dct:language	dct:LinguisticSystem	O	0..n	This property refers to a language of the Dataset. This property can be repeated if there are multiple languages in the Dataset. • CV to be used: [VOCAB-EU-LANGUAGE]

Table 6: Class – Catalog Record

4.5 Class: Dataset

A Dataset is a collection of data, published or curated by a single source and related by a common idea or concept. In contrast to a Data Service a Dataset is expected to be a collection of data that is available for access or download in one or more formats, as Distributions. Distributions belonging to the same Dataset should not differ in regards to the idea of the data that they represent. They may differ in regards to the physical representation of the data such as format or resolution.

DCAT-AP provides guidelines about the usage of Data services and Distribution in relation to Datasets: [*DCAT-AP-USAGEGUIDE*].

Dataset is a subclass of 3.3 Class: Cataloged Resource. The properties of Dataset are inherited from Cataloged Resource. They are listed under Cataloged Resource.

Only properties specific to the Dataset class are listed below.

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Usage Note
dataset distribution	dcat:distribution	dcat:Distribution	R	0..n	This property links the Dataset to an available Distribution. • In exceptional cases, a Dataset for which no distribution form exists (yet) can be described in the Catalog. In this case, the element dcat:distribution may be omitted.
landing page	dcat:landingPage	foaf:Document	R	0..n	• This property refers to a web page that provides access to the Dataset, its Distributions and/or additional information. • It is intended to point to a landing page at the original data provider, not to a page on a site of a third party, such as an aggregator.

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Usage Note
spatial/ geographical coverage	dct:spatial	dct:Location	R	0..n	This property refers to a geographical area covered by the Catalog. • This property may be indicated using an IRI reference or may be encoded as an instance of dct:Location. • CV to be used for IRI reference: LINDAS[13] resources SHOULD be used. Whenever a particular location is not available as LINDAS resource, then the EU Vocabularies Named Authority Lists MAY be used: [VOCAB-EU-CONTINENT], [VOCAB-EU-COUNTRY], [VOCAB-EU-PLACE], if the location is not in one of the mentioned EU Vocabularies, then Geonames URIs MAY be used: [GEONAMES]. • LINDAS resources: The IRIs for different administrative levels of Swiss spatial locations can be discovered by browsing LINDAS starting at https://ld.admin.ch/country/CHE. By following the links in the section schema:location, the desired level can be discovered. Examples on each administrative level include: Country – Switzerland: https://ld.admin.ch/country/CHE Canton – Aargau: https://ld.admin.ch/canton/19 District – Brig: https://ld.admin.ch/district/2301 Municipality – Versoix: https://ld.admin.ch/municipality/6644 For special regions (e.g. market observation regions, forest inventory regions) Swisstopo can be contacted, further information is available at https://geo.ld.admin.ch/ • For the encoding as instance of dct:Location see the class Location (DCAT-AP – 7.12 Location).
temporal coverage	dct:temporal	dct:PeriodOfTime	R	0..n	A temporal period that the Dataset covers. • For temporal references this property *MUST* be used in order to conform to DCAT-AP.
availability	dcatap:availability	skos:Concept	R	0..1	This property indicates how long it is planned to keep the Dataset available. • CV to be used [*VOCAB-EU-AVAILABLITY*]. Vocabulary in human-readable form: Planned availability .

[13] Linked Data Resources from Linked Data Services LINDAS: https://lindas.admin.ch/

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Usage Note
other identifier	adms:identifier	Identifier	O	0..n	A secondary identifier of the Dataset. • This property allows for more detailed information about the identifer, including the identifier scheme, version, and the agency managing the scheme. This is useful when datasets are referenced across different systems or organizations, ensuring clarity and consistency. • Examples are MASTADS [*MASTADS*], DOI [*DOI*], EZID [*EZID*], W3ID [*W3ID*], DataCite [*DataCite*] or other subject-specific identifiers. • See also: recommended property 3.3.3 Property: identifier. For more on dereferencable identifiers, see DCAT 3 – 8. Dereferenceable identifiers
documentation	foaf:page	foaf:Document	O	0..n	• This property refers to a page or document about this Dataset.
frequency	dct:accrualPeriodicity	dct:Frequency	O	0..1	This property refers to the frequency at which the Dataset is updated. • CV to be used: http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/frequency
image	schema:image	schema:url or schema:ImageObject	O	0..3	A thumbnail picture illustrating the content of the Dataset. • For distributions that consist of visual content (photographs, videos, maps, etc.) it makes sense to add a limited number of thumbnails to the metadata. • It's a DCAT-AP CH Custom Class (not present in DCAT-AP)
Applicable legislation	dcatap:applicableLegislation	eli:LegalResource	O	0..n	The legislation that mandates the creation or management of the dataset. • An ELI identifier SHOULD be used. The FedLex identifier SHOULD be used for the federal level. If there is no ELI or FedLex identifier, then the dct:relation property MUST be used to indicate the legal basis. • For more information see DCAT-AP – LegalResource
in series	dcat:inSeries	dcat:DatasetSeries	O	0..n	A dataset series of which the dataset is part. • Subproperty of: dct:isPartOf • See also: guidance at DCAT 3 – Use of inverse properties.
was generated by	prov:wasGeneratedBy	prov:Activity	O	0..n	An activity that generated, or provides the business context for, the creation of the dataset. • The activity associated with generation of a dataset will typically be an initiative, project, mission, survey, on-going activity ("business as usual") etc. Multiple prov:wasGeneratedBy properties can be used to indicate the dataset production context at various levels of granularity.

Table 7: Class – Dataset

4.6 Class: Distribution

A metadata entry of this class describes a distribution of the data, which is a specific representation of a Dataset. A Dataset might be available in multiple serializations that may differ in various ways, including natural language, media-type or format, schematic organization, temporal and spatial resolution, level of detail or profiles (which might specify any or all of the above).

A distribution represents a general availability of a Dataset. It implies no information about the actual access method of the data, i.e. whether by direct download or through a Web page. The use of dcat:downloadURL property indicates directly downloadable distributions.

Examples of distributions include a CSV file, a [netCDF] file, a JSON document, or a data-cube, files made accessible according to different profiles, such as XML or JSON schemas or [ShEx] or [SHACL] expressions.

In some cases all distributions of a dataset will be fully informationally equivalent, in the sense that lossless transformations between the representations are possible. An example would be different serializations of an RDF graph using RDF/XML [RDF-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR], [Turtle], [N3], [JSON-LD]. However, in other cases the distributions might have different levels of fidelity to the underlying data. For example, a graphical representation about the data on a CSV file may not contain the same total information recorded in the CSV file, but they could be considered as two distributions for the same dataset as they are about the same data.

As a counter-example, budget data for different years would usually be modeled as different datasets, each with their own distributions, since all distributions of one dataset should broadly contain the same data. As an additional consideration, datasets that represent a temporal sequence (e.g., annual statistics, time series) should not be modeled as multiple distributions of a single dataset. Instead, each temporal instance should be described as a separate dcat:Dataset, and grouped using dcat:DatasetSeries. This ensures that each dataset has its own metadata and access methods, and aligns with the conceptual distinction between dataset versions and dataset series.

Nevertheless, the question of whether different representations can be understood to be distributions of the same dataset, or distributions of different datasets, is application specific. Judgment about how to describe them is the responsibility of the provider, taking into account their understanding of the expectations of users, and practices in the relevant community.

DCAT-AP provides guidelines about the usage of Data services and Distribution in relation to Dataset: https://semiceu.github.io/DCAT-AP/releases/3.0.0/#usage-guide-on-datasets-distributions-and-data-services.

And also one for the usage of Dataset Series: https://semiceu.github.io/DCAT-AP/releases/3.0.0/#usage-guide-on-dataset-series.

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Usage Note
access URL	**dcat:accessURL**	**rdfs:Resource**	**M**	**1..n**	**This property contains a URL that gives access to a Distribution of the Dataset. The resource at the access URL may contain information about how to get the Dataset.** • **Multiple AccessURLs for a distribution can only be assigned if there are different access methods or deployment mechanisms, such as multiple mirror servers or alternative protocols.** • **However, different formats must be described as separate distributions.**
license	**dct:license**	**dct:LicenseDocument**	**M**	**1..1**	**A licence under which the Distribution is made available.** • **CV to be used:** : https://dcat-ap.ch/vocabulary/licenses
availability	dcatap:availability	skos:Concept	R	0..1	This property indicates how long it is planned to keep the Distribution of the Dataset available. • CV to be used [*VOCAB-EU-AVAILABLITY*]. Vocabulary in human-readable form: Planned availability .
description	dct:description	rdfs:Literal	R	0..n	This property contains a free-text account of the Distribution. • The description MUST be provided if the distribution contains only part of the data offered by the Dataset. • This property can be repeated for parallel language versions of the description (see Chapter 3.5 on Multilingualism).
format	dct:format	dct:MediaTypeOrExtent	R	0..1	This property refers to the file format of the Distribution. • CV to be used: http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/file-type • If a format is not available: a) media type (IANA Media Types) should be used b) If necessary, a discussion to evaluate the adoption within the EU should be launched (Contact point: OP-EU-VOCABULARIES@publications.europa.eu).
rights	dct:rights	dct:RightsStatement	R	0..1	This property refers to a statement that specifies rights associated with the Distribution. • In general this property is not needed, as long as you already provide dct:licence, dct:accessRights. • Prioritize using dct:licence, dct:accessRights and for a link to a legal text dcat:applicableLegislation . Use dct:rights only for additional, specific rights information. • When using dct:rights, we advise you to use the Open Data Rights Statement Vocabulary (ODRS). • To refer to a dct:RightStatement it is recommended to use an URI.

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Usage Note
title	dct:title	rdfs:Literal	R	0..n	This property contains a name given to the Distribution. • This property can be repeated for parallel language versions of the description (see Chapter 3.5 on Multilingualism). • The title MUST be given if the distribution contains only part of the data offered by the Dataset • The title can be given in several languages. In multilingual data portals, the title in the language selected by a user will usually be shown as title for the distribution.
update/ modification date	dct:modified	rdfs:Literal typed as xsd:date, xsd:dateTime, xsd:gYear or xsd:gYearMonth	R	0..1	This property contains the most recent date on which the Distribution was changed or modified.
access service	dcat:accessService	dcat:DataService	O	0..n	This property refers to a data service that gives access to the distribution of the Dataset
byte size	dcat:byteSize	rdfs:Literal typed as xsd:decimal	O	0..1	This property contains the size of a Distribution in bytes. • If the precise size is not known, an approximate size can be indicated.
checksum	spdx:checksum	spdx:Checksum	O	0..1	This property provides a mechanism that can be used to verify that the contents of a distribution have not changed. • The checksum is related to the downloadURL. • Property added in [*VOCAB-DCAT-3*]: `spdx:checksum`
Coverage **(deprecated)**	dct:coverage	dct:LocationPeriodOrJurisdiction	O	0..n	**Deprecated since DCAT-AP CH v3.0.0, see requirements for deprecated properties 2.2.2 Requirement levels** If a dataset contains distributions that differ regarding their content beyond just differences in format or resolution this property can be used to specify temporal or spatial coverage of the data that the distribution contains. • It's a DCAT-AP CH Custom Class (not present in DCAT-AP).
documentation	foaf:page	foaf:Document	O	0..n	This property refers to a page or document about this Distribution.
download URL	dcat:downloadURL	rdfs:Resource	O	0..n	This property refers to a URL that is a direct link to a downloadable file in a given format. • In case of a downloadable file, it is good practice to repeat the mandatory accessURL in this more specific property, to indicate to the data user that the distribution has this extra characteristic of being downloadable. The downloadURLs MAY thus be the same as the accessURLs but they MAY also differ.
identifier	dct:identifier	rdfs:Literal	O	0..1	An identifier for the distribution, that identifies it as a resource mainly for the organisation publishing the data. • It's a DCAT-AP CH Custom Class (not present in DCAT-AP).

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Usage Note
image	schema:image	schema:url or schema:ImageObject	O	0..3	A thumbnail picture illustrating the content of the Distribution. • For distributions that consist of visual content (photographs, videos, maps, etc.) it makes sense to add a limited number of thumbnails to the metadata. • It's a DCAT-AP CH Custom Class (not present in DCAT-AP).
language	dct:language	dct:LinguisticSystem	O	0..n	This property refers to a language used in the Distribution. • This property can be repeated if the metadata is provided in multiple languages. • The property MUST be set if the distribution is language-dependent, or if it is given in some of the languages German, French, Italian and English but not in all four languages. • CV to be used: http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/language
linked schemas	dct:conformsTo	dct:Standard	O	0..n	An established schema to which the described distribution conforms.
media type	dcat:mediaType, subproperty of dct:format	dct:MediaType	O	0..1	This property refers to the media type of the distribution as defined in the official register of media types managed by IANA. • The value of the element dcat:mediaType must correspond to a MIME type according to IANA: [*IANA-MEDIA-TYPES*].
packaging format	dcat:packageFormat	dct:MediaType	O	0..1	This property refers to the format of the file in which one or more data files are grouped together, e.g. to enable a set of related files to be downloaded together. • It SHOULD be expressed using a media type as defined in the official register of media types managed by IANA [*IANA-MEDIA-TYPES*].
release date	dct:issued	rdfs:Literal typed as xsd:date, xsd:dateTime, xsd:gYear or xsd:gYearMonth	O	0..1	This property contains the date of formal issuance (e.g., publication) of the Distribution. • Date of formal issuance (publication) of the distribution • Use the first time issuance of the distribution.
temporal resolution	dcat:temporalResolution	xsd:duration	O	0..1	This property refers to the minimum time period resolvable in the dataset distribution.
applicable legislation	dcatap:applicableLegislation	eli:LegalResource	O	0..n	The legislation that mandates the creation or management of the distribution. • An ELI identifier SHOULD be used. The FedLex identifier SHOULD be used for the federal level. If there is no ELI or FedLex identifier, then the dct:relation property (see 3.3.19 Property: related resource) MUST be used to indicate the legal basis. • For more information see DCAT-AP – LegalResource

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Usage Note
has policy	odrl:hasPolicy	odrl:Policy	O	0..1	The policy expressing the rights associated with the distribution if using the [ODRL] vocabulary. • Information about rights expressed as an ODRL policy [ODRL MODEL] using the ODRL vocabulary [VOCAB ODRL] *MAY* be provided for the distribution. See also guidance at DCAT 3 – 9. License and rights statements . • See also: see 3.6.2 Property: license, see 3.3.13 Property: access rights, see 3.6.6 Property: rights
status	adms:status	skos:Concept	O	0..1	The status of the distribution in the context of maturity lifecycle. • CV to be used [*VOCAB-EU-STATUS*]. Vocabulary in human-readable form: Status. • See also: Distribution 3.6.3 Property: availability and Dataset 3.5.4 Property: availability. For more information about a resource lifecycle see DCAT 3 – 11.3 Resource life-cycle.

Table 8: Class – Distribution

4.7 Class: Data Service

A Data Service is a collection of operations that provides access to one or more Datasets or data processing functions. If a dcat:DataService is bound to one or more specified Datasets, they are indicated by the dcat:servesDataset property.

DCAT-AP provides guidelines about the usage of Data services and Distribution in relation to Datasets: https://semiceu.github.io/DCAT-AP/releases/3.0.0/#usage-guide-on-datasets-distributions-and-data-services.

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Usage Note
endpoint URL	**dcat:endpointURL**	**rdfs:Resource**	**M**	**1..n**	**The root location or primary endpoint of the service (an IRI).**
endpoint description	dcat:endpointDescription	rdfs:Resource	R	0..n	A description of the services available via the endpoints, including their operations, parameters etc. • This property contains a description of the services available via the end-points, including their operations, parameters etc.The property gives specific details of the actual endpoint instances.
serves dataset	dcat:servesDataset	dcat:Dataset	R	0..n	This property refers to a collection of data that this data service can distribute.
access rights	dct:accessRights	dct:RightsStatement	O	0..1	This property MAY include information regarding access or restrictions based on privacy, security, or other policies.
documentation	foaf:page	foaf:Document	O	0..n	This property refers to a page or document about this Data Service.

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Usage Note
applicable legislation	dcatap:applicableLegislation	eli:LegalResource	O	0..n	The legislation that mandates the creation or management of the Data Service. • An ELI identifier SHOULD be used. The FedLex identifier SHOULD be used for the federal level. If there is no ELI or FedLex identifier, then the dct:relation property (see 3.3.19 Property: related resource) MUST be used to indicate the legal basis. • For more information see DCAT-AP – LegalResource

Table 9: Class – Data Service

4.8 Class: Dataset Series

A collection of datasets that are published separately but share some characteristics that group them.

It is recommended to avoid Dataset Series without a Dataset in the collection. Therefore at least one Dataset should refer to a Dataset Series using the property in series (dcat:inSeries).

DCAT-AP provides a usage guide on Dataset Series: https://semiceu.github.io/DCAT-AP/releases/3.0.0/#usage-guide-on-dataset-series.

Note on the classification of dataset series in DCAT-AP CH v3:

DCAT-AP defines the dataset series only as a subclass of dcat:Resource. DCAT, however, defines it as a subclass of dcat:Dataset. Until this contradiction is resolved, the class is listed as a subclass of dcat:Resource in the UML representation, but reference is still made to the possible use of properties of dcat:Dataset.

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Usage Note
applicable legislation	dcatap:applicableLegislation	eli:LegalResource	O	0..n	The legislation that mandates the creation or management of the Data Service. • An ELI identifier SHOULD be used. The FedLex identifier SHOULD be used for the federal level. If there is no ELI or FedLex identifier, then the dct:relation property (see 3.3.19 Property: related resource) MUST be used to indicate the legal basis. • For more information see DCAT-AP – LegalResource
frequency	dcat:accrualPeriodicity	dct:Frequency	O	0..1	The frequency at which the Dataset Series is updated. The frequency of a Dataset Series is not equal to the frequency of the dataset in the collection. The frequency of a Dataset Series is the pace at which new elements are added to the dataset series. Whereas the frequency of a Dataset ist the frequency (pace) at which the Dataset is updated. • CV to be used: [*VOCAB-EU-FREQUENCY*].

Property	URI	Range	Req Level	Card	Usage Note
spatial/geographic	dct:spatial	dct:Location	O	0..n	This property refers to a geographical area covered by the Catalog. • This property may be indicated using an IRI reference or may be encoded as an instance of dct:Location. • CV to be used for IRI reference: LINDAS[14] resources SHOULD be used. Whenever a particular location is not available as LINDAS resource, then the EU Vocabularies Named Authority Lists MAY be used: [VOCAB-EU-CONTINENT], [VOCAB-EU-COUNTRY], [VOCAB-EU-PLACE], if the location is not in one of the mentioned EU Vocabularies, then Geonames URIs MAY be used: [GEONAMES]. • LINDAS resources: The IRIs for different administrative levels of Swiss spatial locations can be discovered by browsing LINDAS starting at https://ld.admin.ch/country/CHE. By following the links in the section schema:location, the desired level can be discovered. Examples on each administrative level include: Country – Switzerland: https://ld.admin.ch/country/CHE Canton – Aargau: https://ld.admin.ch/canton/19 District – Brig: https://ld.admin.ch/district/2301 Municipality – Versoix: https://ld.admin.ch/municipality/6644 For special regions (e.g. market observation regions, forest inventory regions) Swisstopo can be contacted, further information is available at https://geo.ld.admin.ch/ • For the encoding as instance of dct:Location see the class Location (DCAT-AP – 7.12 Location).
temporal coverage	dct:temporal	dct:PeriodOfTime	O	0..n	A temporal period that the Dataset Series covers. • When temporal coverage is a dimension in the dataset series then the temporal coverage of each dataset in the collection should be part of the temporal coverage. In that case, an open-ended value is recommended, e.g. after 2012.

Table 10: Class – Dataset Series

[14] Linked Data Resources from Linked Data Services LINDAS: https://lindas.admin.ch/

5 Conformance to DCAT-AP

This section is non-normative.

DCAT-AP CH is a sub-profile of DCAT-AP and DCAT-AP is an application profile of DCAT.

The DCAT-Profile Guidance states that application profiles may form hierarchies.

There is a close collaboration between DCAT-AP and DCAT-AP CH which takes place mostly as an online discussion on GitHub at https://github.com/SEMICeu/DCAT-AP.

The following diagram captures the relationship between DCAT, DCAT-AP and DCAT-AP CH:

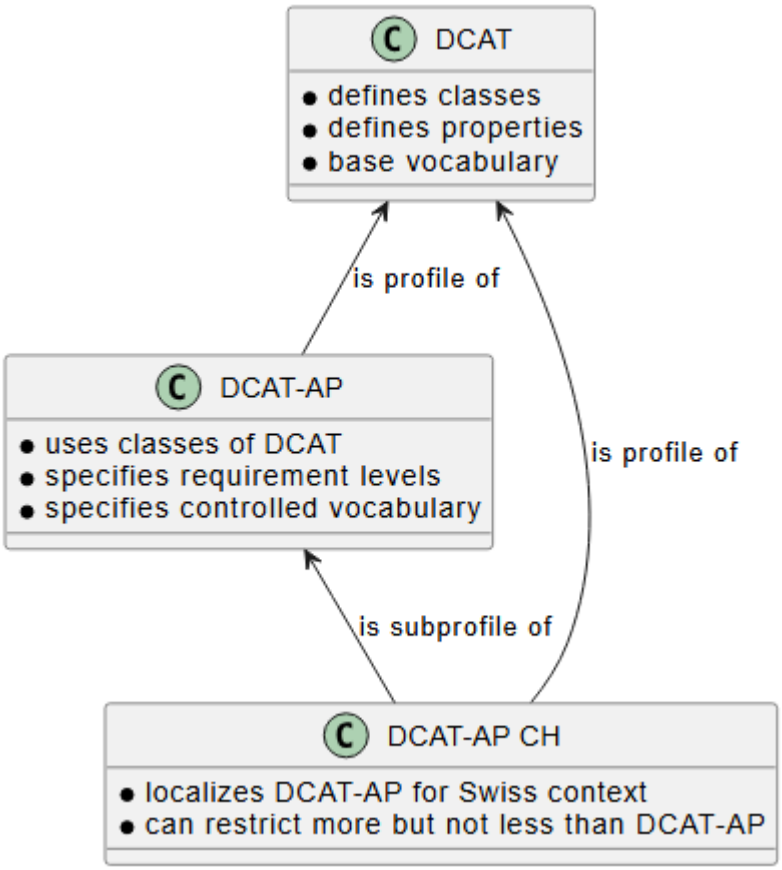

Figure 2: Relationship between DCAT, DCAT-AP and DCAT-AP CH

For the previously mentioned interoperability reasons, DCAT-AP CH aims to stay a sub-profile of DCAT-AP. Furthermore, this way it can be assured that metadata structured as DCAT-AP CH can be efficiently harvested by data.europa.eu.

DCAT-AP CH also aims for completeness, in the way that a data provider that only uses DCAT-AP CH as guidance should be able to form a data catalogue that automatically conforms to DCAT-AP.

Therefore:

- DCAT-AP CH contains all core classes currently known to be in DCAT-AP (Version 3.0.0)
- DCAT-AP CH contains all currently known recommended and mandatory properties of DCAT-AP (Version 3.0.0). For these mentioned properties the usage conditions of DCAT-AP CH apply.
- Properties of DCAT-AP or DCAT that are not mentioned in DCAT-AP CH are considered to be optional. For these properties the usage conditions of DCAT-AP and DCAT apply in the following order: if the property is part of DCAT-AP, DCAT-AP's usage conditions apply, if it is a property of DCAT only, then DCAT's usage conditions apply

Custom properties in DCAT-AP CH

DCAT-AP CH MAY introduce Swiss specific properties and vocabulary, such as the list of cantons of Switzerland, which don't exist in the DCAT or DCAT-AP vocabulary. It SHOULD however not introduce its own (custom) properties that can already be expressed in DCAT with different vocabularies. In those cases, the DCAT-AP or DCAT vocabulary have to be used.

Therefore, a property that were custom in Version 2 has been removed in Version 3 of DCAT-AP CH:

- The property dct:coverage on class dcat:Distribution, which was necessary for modelling the distribution of datasets as data series, is now considered obsolete. Where possible, data series should be modelled as class dataset with the class dataset series. (See sections 3.6, Class: Distribution, and 3.8, Class: Dataset Series) temporal coverage can be expressed with dct:temporal and the spatial coverage with dct:spatial.

DCAT-AP CH still defines custom properties where a replacement by DCAT-AP or DCAT vocabulary is currently not considered possible or useful (in DCAT-AP Version 3.0.0):

- schema:image on dcat:Dataset and dcat:Distribution: this property is used to provide thumbnails for Distributions that contain visual data

6 Conformance to DCAT-AP CH

6.1 Data Provider requirements

A data catalogue conforms to DCAT-AP CH if:

- An RDF description of the catalogue is available
- All classes and properties defined in DCAT-AP CH v3 are used in a way consistent with the semantics declared in this specification.
- Properties not mentioned in this specification MAY be used if they are included in either DCAT-AP or DCAT and their usage conforms to DCAT-AP if they are included in DCAT-AP or to DCAT if they are only included in DCAT.

6.2 Receiver requirements

An application (data portal) conforms to DCAT-AP if:

- It is able to process RDF catalogs that conform to DCAT-AP CH.
- Processing means that it MUST accept incoming data and transparently provide this data to applications and services.
- Processing does not prescribe whether and how the metadata is stored internally, displayed or made searchable.
- This processing of metadata also applies to classes and properties not mentioned in DCAT-AP CH that are part of DCAT-AP or DCAT. A DCAT-AP CH conformant receiver MUST also be able to process these classes and properties.

6.3 Receiver requirements

An application (data portal) conforms to DCAT-AP if:

- It is able to process RDF catalogs that conform to DCAT-AP CH.
- Processing means that it MUST accept incoming data and transparently provide this data to applications and services.
- Processing does not prescribe whether and how the metadata is stored internally, displayed or made searchable.
- This processing of metadata also applies to classes and properties not mentioned in DCAT-AP CH that are part of DCAT-AP or DCAT. A DCAT-AP CH conformant receiver MUST also be able to process these classes and properties.

7 Safety considerations

There are no safety considerations necessary.

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Annex B – Cooperation & Verification

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Annex C – Abbreviations and Glossary

CSV	Comma-separated values (file format)
DCAT	Data Catalog Vocabulary
DCAT AP	DCAT- Application Profile for European Data Portals
DCAT-AP CH	DCAT- Application Profile for Data Portals in Switzerland
Eurovoc	thesaurus developed, published and used by the European Union to index documents of the European institutions
FTP	File Transfer Protocol
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol
IANA	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
ISO	International Standards Organization
MIME Type	Internet Media Type resp. Content Type (MIME stands for “Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions”)
N-Triples	plain text serialisation format for RDF graphs (subset of Turtle)
N3	Notation 3; formal, non-XML-based language that can be used as syntax for RDF data
Turtle	terse RDF triple language; plain text serialisation format for RDF graphs (subset of Notation 3)
OGD	Open Government Data
RDF	Resource Description Framework
RDF/XML	XML serialisation of RDF
TERMDAT	the terminology database of the Federal Administration of Switzerland
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
WebDAV	Web-based Distributed Authoring and Versioning; open standard for making files available on the internet
XML	Extended Markup Language; markup language for the representation of hierarchically structured data in the form of text files

List of referenced namespaes

dcat	http://www.w3.org/ns/dcat#	[VOCAB-DCAT]
dcatap	http://data.europa.eu/r5r/	[*VOCAB-DCAT-AP*]
dct	http://purl.org/dc/terms/	[DCTERMS]
foaf	http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/	[FOAF]
schema	http://schema.org/	[schema-org]
rdf	http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#	[RDF-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR]
rdfs	http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#	[RDF-SCHEMA]
vcard	http://www.w3.org/2006/vcard/ns#	[VCARD-RDF]
xsd	http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#	[XMLSCHEMA11-2]
adms	http://www.w3.org/ns/adms#	[VOCAB-ADMS]
skos	http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#	[SKOS-REFERENCE]
locn	http://www.w3.org/ns/locn#	[LOCN]
prov	http://www.w3.org/ns/prov#	[PROV]
spdx	http://spdx.org/rdf/terms#	[SPDX]
gsp	http://www.opengis.net/ont/geosparql#	[GeoSPARQL]
odrl	http://www.w3.org/ns/odrl/2/#	[ODRL]

Multilingual glossary

English	Deutsch	Französisch	Italienisch
DCAT Application Profile	DCAT-Anwendungs-profil	Profil d'application DCAT	Profilo applicativo di DCAT
Catalog	Katalog (auch: Daten-katalog)	Catalogue (aussi : ca-talogue de données)	Catalogo
Dataset	Datensatz	Jeu de données	Set di dati
Distribution	Bereitstellungsform	Forme de distribution	Distribuzione
Metadata record	Metadateneintrag	Métadonnées	Record di metadati
Catalog record	Katalogeintrag	Métadonnée de ca-talogue	Catalog record di meta-data
Data Service	Datendienst	Service de données	Servizio di dati
Dataset Series	Datensatzreihe	Série de données	Serie di set di dati

Annex D – Changes in comparison to the previous version

The changes compared to the previous version are listed here. A detailed overview of the changes with references to the corresponding GitHub issues can be found in section B. Changelog of the respective Webpage from DCAT-AP CH v3.0.0[15].

D.1. General customisation

- The section Abstract has been updated.
- Addition of the three new classes Resource, Catalog Record and Dataset Series as well as a note about "inheritance" to the section 2.2.1 Classes.
- An updated UML replaces the mermaid diagram in section 2.2.1 Classes
- The section 2.2.3 Controlled vocabularies of DCAT-AP CH v3 has been updated.
- The usage notes that defined as part of the subgroup ‘controlled vocabularies’ have been adapted for properties:
    - 3.2.11 Property: spatial/ geographic
    - 3.5.2 Property: spatial/ geographical coverage
    - 3.8.3 Property: spatial/ geographic
    - 3.3.20 Property: creator
    - 3.3.6 Property: keyword/tag
    - 3.3.9 Property: theme/category
    - 3.3.13 Property: access rights
    - 3.3.12 Property: rights
    - 3.6.6 Property: rights

D.2. Alignment with DCAT-AP 3

The main focus of the eCH Expert Group by the creation of DCAT-AP CH V3 was to ensure the compatibility to DCAT-AP V3.

- DCAT and DCAT-AP introduced the new Dataset Series class. This class will be adopted in V3 of DCAT-AP CH.
- DCAT AP 3 introduced the property dcatap:applicableLegislation. DCAT-AP CH V3 adopted this property for the classes dcat:Catalog, dcat:Dataset, dcat:Distribution, dcat:DataService and dcat:DatasetSeries.
- Terminology: Updated the list of prefixes.

[15] DCAT-AP CH – Version 3.0.0 Working Draft. https://www.dcat-ap.ch/releases/3.0_workingdraft/dcat-ap-ch_3.0_working-draft.html

D.3.Class dcat:Catalog

- The properties contact point, description, publisher, title, language, licence, release date, rights and update/modification date, which are now listed in the new introduced abstract class 3.3 Class: Cataloged Resource (see Issue 248), have been removed from the list of 3.2 Class: Catalog.
- Introduction of the property dcatap:applicableLegislation.
- Introduction of the property dcat:resource because of the introduction of 3.3 Class: Cataloged Resource.
- Introduction of the property dcat:record because of the introduction of 3.4 Class: Catalog Record.

D.4 Class dcat.Resource

- Introduction of the new abstract class 3.3 Class: Cataloged Resource.
- The following properties already available in DCAT-AP CH v2 are now listed under dcat:Resource and apply to the subclasses of dcat:Resource: contact point, description, identifier, publisher, title,keyword/tag, landing page, release date, theme/category, update/modification date, rights, access rights, conforms to, is referenced by, language, qualified attribution, qualified relation, related resource, license.
- Introduction of the following properties:
    - odrl:hasPolicy.
    - adms:status.
    - dcat:version and adms:versionNotes.
    - dct:creator.
    - dct:hasPart.
    - dcat:first, dcat:last and dcat:prev because of the introduction of 3.8 Class: Dataset Series.
- The range of dcat:keyword has been adapted to allow controlled vocabularies DCAT-AP CH goes one step further than DCAT-AP. This step is important because rdsf:Literal is untidy (free text) and does not handle multilingualism very well.

D.5 Class dcat:CatalogRecord

- Introduction of the new class 3.4 Class: Catalog Record.

D.6 Class dcat:Dataset

- The properties contact point, description, publisher, title, language, release date, rights and update/modification date, access rights, conforms to, is referenced by, qualified attribution, qualified relation, related resource, which are now listed in the new introduced abstract class 3.3 Class: Cataloged Resource , have been removed from the list of 3.5 Class: Dataset.
- Introduction of the following properties:
  - dcatap:applicableLegislation.
  - dcatap:availability – already located at dcat:Distribution.
  - adms:identifier.
  - dcat:inSeries because of the introduction of 3.8 Class: Dataset Series.
  - prov:wasGeneratedBy.

D.7 Class dcat:Distribution

- Set dct:coverage as deprecated.
- Introduction of the following properties:
  - dcatap:applicableLegislation.
  - adms:status.
  - odrl:hasPolicy.

D.8 Class dcat:DataService

- The properties contact point, publisher, title, license, access rights, keyword/tag, landing page, which are now listed in the new introduced abstract class 3.3 Class: Cataloged Resource (see Issue 248), have been removed from the list of 3.7 Class: Data Service.
- Introduction of the following properties:
  - dcatap:applicableLegislation.

D.9 Class dcat:DatasetSeries

- Introduction of the new class 3.8 Class: Dataset Series.

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