AES60-2011

AES standard for audio metadata -Core audio metadata

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Abstract

This specification addresses the creation, management and preservation of material that can be re-used as originally produced, or may provide input material for new production projects. Material is expected to be exchanged between various organisations or between production facilities in a distributed environment.

The core set of metadata presented in this specification is a co-publication of EBU Tech3293-2008 EBU Core, itself an extension to and a refinement of the Dublin Core. EBUCore is a minimum list of attributes characterizing video and / or audio media resources. An XML representation is also provided in case this metadata would be implemented, for example in archive exchange projects using the Open Archive Initiative's Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH).

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Foreword

This foreword is not part of the AES60-2011 AES standard for audio metadata - Core audio metadata.

This document has its roots in the AES project X098A where the concept of providing a core administrative metadata set for audio exchange explored. This metadata set was based on Dublin Core and expanded to meet the basic requirements of the audio industry. It was well ahead of its time and as a result did not attract sufficient industry traction to complete until comparatively recently where similar work covering both audio and video was carried out within the EBU. The decision was eventually taken to base the AES core descriptive metadata on the EBU core and co-publish this under the auspices of EBU and AES, which is expected to have a greater impact on the industry as a whole.

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Note on normative language

In AES standards documents, sentences containing the word "shall" are requirements for compliance with the document. Sentences containing the verb "should" are strong suggestions (recommendations). Sentences giving permission use the verb "may". Sentences expressing a possibility use the verb "can".

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Introduction

The "AES Core" set of metadata defined in this specification has been identified as being the minimum information needed to describe audio media resources.

Modern IT-based production environments need metadata to identify and retrieve content correctly and efficiently. Metadata provides an important link between various production operations and the following core set of information is a minimum requirement for practical operations. Content archives provide a common basis to describe content in a way that supports other processes in the production chain.

The decision to issue AES Core as a co-publication with the EBU Core is seen as an important factor in maintaining interoperability between the audio and video industries. For this reason, this specification includes elements that may seldom be used in a purely audio context. However, much audio material is destined to coexist with video and other media at some point during its life, so these additional elements may not be superfluous. It is not expected that the AES will actively develop the non-audio aspects of this standard but rather rely on active cooperation with EBU to co-maintain the AES and EBU cores.

This "AES Core" metadata set is primarily a minimum list of elements and attributes for which an XML representation is also proposed. Being based on the EBU Core, it follows that it is also an extension to the Dublin Core metadata set. The Dublin Core is being used as a core metadata set by librarians and in cultural heritage projects. The AES Core and EBUCore, used for radio and television archives, offer a bridge between cultural-heritage databases, broadcasting production systems and broadcasting archive repositories.



Figure 1: Archiving - a core process to define metadata

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0 Preamble

0.1 Documentation conventions

A mono-spaced typeface is used to identify computer code expressions to distinguish them from regular text. Examples are showN using XML structural conventions.

1 Scope

This specification addresses the creation, management and preservation of material that can be re-used as originally produced, or may provide input material for new production projects. Material is expected to be exchanged between various organisations or between production facilities in a distributed environment.

The core set of metadata presented in this specification is based on the EBUCore, itself an extension to the Dublin Core. It is a minimum list of attributes characterizing audio and / or video media resources. An XML representation is also proposed in case this metadata would be implemented, for example in archive exchange projects using the Open Archive Initiative's Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH).

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 15836, Dublin Core Metadata Element Set, International Standards Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland.

XML schema, World Wide Web Consortium, www.w3.org

Namespaces in XML, World Wide Web Consortium, www.w3.org

RFC 2045 *Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) Part One: Format of Internet Message Bodies*, The Internet Society, www.isoc.org

RFC 3339 Date and Time on the Internet: Timestamps, The Internet Society, www.isoc.org

3 Definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Unique Resource Identifier URI http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3986

3.2 Unique Resource Namespace URN http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3986

3.3 Unique Resource Locator URL http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3986

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