

Originating source

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Meaning & purpose

The OriginatingSource is the entity holding the managed version of the RegistryObject metadata, represented by a URI. The OriginatingSource is the primary source of truth for the metadata record.

Aggregators need to be able to distinguish incoming feeds from each other. If metadata is exchanged using the OAI-PMH protocol, data source information is included in the OAI-PMH wrapper. However, not all metadata is exchanged using this protocol. Therefore OriginatingSource is included to record the data source within the record so that the information is available for use in other metadata exchange situations. This provides historical information and authority for the content of the metadata record.

In a federated aggregation context, OriginatingSource should identify the original physical source, such as a repository or server, from which the metadata originated, NOT the aggregator from which it was harvested by Research Data Australia.

Where an institutional aggregator includes records from many different data sources from sub-entities within the institution, OriginatingSource can perform a technical role in distinguishing the source of incoming feeds.

Originating Source attributes

Originating Source Type

If the OriginatingSource URI refers to the location of the authoritative version of metadata about this registry object, provide an Originating Source Type with value 'authoritative':

Type	Explanation
authoritative	The source holds the authoritative version of the metadata about the registry object. (There can only be one authoritative copy of a given metadata record; all other copies are not authoritative).

Use in Research Data Australia

Originating source is included mainly for management of records aggregators; accordingly, it is not displayed or searchable from Research Data Australia.

Best practice

OriginatingSource is supplied by the metadata provider within a RIF-CS document. It is not derived.

Originating source information should not be rounded up to the institutional level as this will nullify its purpose. Such grouping is already provided for by the [Group](#) attribute for each RegistryObject; this enables a group of contributors to be associated with a parent organisation for display in Research Data Australia.

If your data source is not an aggregator (does not contain records from other sources)

- Supply your data source URL (preferably in full).
- If this is not appropriate (for example, the record is created dynamically and is not managed on an ongoing basis, or the record is managed in internal systems that are not appropriate to expose), supply your institutional URL.

If your data source is an aggregator

- Supply the data source URL of the original provider for each record. This means you need to have this information at the metadata record level.
- If this is not appropriate (for example, the record is created dynamically and is not managed on an ongoing basis, or the record is managed in internal systems that are not appropriate to expose), supply an institutional URL for the original provider.

XML encoding examples

OriginatingSource providing full URL of data source

```
<originatingSource type="authoritative">http://data.aims.gov.au/geonetwork/srv/en/oaipmh</originatingSource>
```

OriginatingSource where data source information is not appropriate:

```
<originatingSource>http://www.qut.edu.au</originatingSource>
```

Change history

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Date	Change history
April 2010	Consultation draft
26 October 2010	First web publication, incorporating additional clarification
2 November 2010	Clarification of when it may be appropriate to use institutional url in originating source element
31 July 2017	Content revised and updated. XML examples clarified.