

Date Options

Purpose:

DDI has a number of standard options for expressing the content of Date. They have been structured to support bundling of ISO and non-ISO structured dates. The use of ISO dates is strongly encouraged but there is often the need to support the original expression of the date in any of a number of formats. The decision structure below is intended to assist you in selecting the appropriate date type. The table following that lists the available options for date, recommended cardinality, general usage, and structure notes. In general, do not use the primitive forms (i.e. xs:date, xs:gMonth, etc. as these are very constrictive for the user).

Complex Data Type				
Characteristics	isoDate	Date	ReferenceDate	DateRange
<i>Supports use of an ISO structured date (from a single year to a datetime plus period)</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Supports use of a non-ISO structured date</i>		X	X	X
<i>Supports the use of a type (external controlled vocabulary) and subject or keyword in conjunction with a date</i>			X	
<i>Supports the use of a start and end date</i>				X

Date Content

DDI promotes the use of an ISO formatted date but recognizes the need for capturing non-ISO date formats. Several ComplexDataTypes and Primitives are used to create the Date and DateRange options and should not be used directly unless supporting BOTH ISO and non-ISO date formats is disallowed.

Data Type	Cardinality	Usage	Structure Notes
Date	0..1	A single date expressed as an ISO date and/or non-ISO date structure; the ISO time interval structure this should only be used when the exact date is unclear (i.e. occurring at some point in time between the two specified dates) or in specified applications. Ranges with specified start and end dates should use the DateRange as a datatype.	Supports a single ISO date and any number of non-ISO dates
DateRange	0..1	A structured DateRange with start and end Date (both with the structure of Date and supporting the use of ISO and non-ISO date structures); Use to relate a period with a start and end date.	Supports a start and end ISO date and any number of non-ISO dates
IsoDate	USE Date EXCEPT if the content must be ISO and ISO only	Expression of the date in ISO format supporting date, dateTime, gMonth, gYear, period, etc.	Currently only used for the Version Date but made available if required
ReferenceDate	0..n	Bundles a Date with a subject; used in Topical Coverage	Designed for use with Topical Coverage allowing for the type of Date and the ability to bundle it with a specific subject or keyword Example: A collection date that is only applicable to a specific country