

Standard Properties Available for All Classes

PURPOSE:

DDI uses a number of properties expressed as Complex Data Types in standard way in order to provide consistency within the model. The following properties may be used by any identifiable class. They should be used with the property name, datatype, cardinality and description provided. Additional description may be added to clarify a specific use.

Descriptive Properties

Property Name	DataType	Cardinality	Description	Usage
name	Name	0..n	A linguistic signifier. Human understandable name (word, phrase, or mnemonic) that reflects the ISO/IEC 11179-5 naming principles. If more than one name is provided provide a context to differentiate usage.	Name is primarily used on classes that realize Member (classes that can be “members” of a “collection”) or cases where it is common for the class to have a linguistic signifier. Name should signify its context (software, registry, etc.). Example: RepresentedQuestion, InstanceVariable
displayLabel	DisplayLabel	0..n	A structured display label providing a fully human readable display for the identification of the object. Supports the use of multiple languages and structured text.	This label is meant to be displayed. It should be fully readable. Example: InstanceVariable name=MOMLOC displayLabel=Mother’s Location in File
definition	StructuredString	0..1	Natural language statement conveying the meaning of a concept, differentiating it from other concepts. Supports the use of multiple languages and structured text.	Limit usage of definition to Concept or classes acting as Concepts. This is NOT a general description.

purpose	StructuredString	0..1	Explanation of the intent of some decision or object. Supports the use of multiple languages and structured text.	Use in locations where you need to provide the purpose of the instantiated class. Example: The purpose of a collection.
usage	StructuredString	0..1	Explanation of the ways in which some decision or object is employed. Supports the use of multiple languages and structured text.	Use in locations where you need to relay information on the usage of the instantiated class.
rationale	StructuredString	0..1	Explanation of the reasons some decision was made or some object exists. Supports the use of multiple languages and structured text.	Use in locations where you need to relay the reason that the instantiated class exists.
overview	StructuredString	0..1	Short natural language account of the information obtained from the combination of properties and relationships associated with an object. Supports the use of multiple languages and structured text.	Use in locations where you need to capture a summary of the class. Example: Process contains an overview of the full process which can be used for an executive summary or as a means of informing a user of the process without having to relay the detail of the process steps.
descriptiveText	StructuredString	0..1	A short natural language account of the characteristics of the object.	Use only when other properties are inadequate to provide the level of description required.