

Coverage

[Meaning & purpose](#) | [Use in Research Data Australia](#) | [Best practice](#) | [XML encoding examples](#) | [Change history](#)

Do not use [Coverage](#) to record the physical location of an object. Use [SpatialLocation](#) within the [Location](#) element to describe where something (such as a collection) is physically located using geospatial coordinates.

Meaning & purpose

The Coverage element is a wrapper for [SpatialCoverage](#) and [TemporalCoverage](#) child elements, and describes the spatial or temporal topics or characteristics of an entity or object. Using both [SpatialCoverage](#) and [TemporalCoverage](#) elements allows collections to be discovered in searches covering a particular time or place.

- Spatial coverage refers to a geographical area where data was collected; a place which is the subject of a collection; or a location which is the focus of an activity. Spatial coverage can be either:
 - a point location, described using geospatial coordinates for a point (e.g. latitude and longitude)
 - an area, described using geospatial coordinates for an area (e.g. a bounding box)
 - a place or region (regional names may be based on legal jurisdiction (e.g. South Australia).
- Temporal coverage refers to a time period during which data was collected or observations made, or a time period that an activity or collection is linked to intellectually or thematically, for example, 1997 to 1998; the 18th century.

Use in Research Data Australia

Coverage information displays as a map in Research Data Australia if correctly formatted spatial information is provided, and as dates where temporal information is provided.

Best practice

The [SpatialCoverage](#) and [TemporalCoverage](#) elements can be recorded in separate Coverage elements or in the same Coverage element.

See [SpatialCoverage](#) and [TemporalCoverage](#) for detailed information on these elements.

XML encoding examples

Spatial and temporal coverage using the same Coverage wrapper

```
<coverage>
  <spatial type="kmlPolyCoords">115.625357,-31.767240 115.754393,
-31.774751 115.757967,-32.462250 115.513179,-32.393528</spatial>
  <temporal>
    <date type="dateFrom" dateFormat="W3CDTF">2001</date>
    <date type="dateTo" dateFormat="W3CDTF">2004</date>
  </temporal>
</coverage>
```

Spatial and temporal coverage using separate Coverage wrappers

```
<coverage>
  <spatial type="iso19139dcmiBox">northlimit=-21.16667; southlimit=-
43.81833; westlimit=147.43333; eastLimit=159.98333</spatial>
  <spatial type="text">northlimit=-21.16667; southlimit=-43.81833;
westlimit=147.43333; eastLimit=159.98333</spatial>
</coverage>

<coverage>
  <temporal>
    <date type="dateFrom" dateFormat="W3CDTF">1977-10-14</date>
    <date type="dateTo" dateFormat="W3CDTF">1978-01-09</date>
  </temporal>
</coverage>
```

Change history

✓ [Click here to view...](#)

Date	Change history
Nov 2012	Page created
Dec 2016	Page updated
31 Mar 2017	Page reviewed and XML examples added