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Role of geospatial metadata in improving geographical name retrieval from the National Center for Archives and Records in Saudi Arabia

Summary**

The present study focuses on the role that metadata in general plays in expanding interoperability opportunities. Interoperability is defined as follows: the ability to develop standardized agreements to make data exchange and integration possible. The study focuses on using geospatial metadata as a systematic method for consolidating geographic data standards through documents using a set of agreed-upon data to facilitate accurate retrieval and location of documents, and putting forward best practices, standards and developments in the management of geographical names and their consolidation through the use of geospatial metadata.

The study aims to shed light on the role of geospatial metadata in improving the retrieval of geographical names from the National Center for Documents and Archives in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The researchers used the content analysis approach adopted from ISO-19115 to describe geospatial metadata and verify the complementarity of elements through documents at the National Center for Documents and Archives.

The main findings of the study are as follows:

- The National Center for Documents and Archives applies the ISO-19115 metadata elements standard at a rate of 73.3 per for an average of 11 out of 15 elements.

* [GEGN.2/2025/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by Mohammed Alhilal, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, National Center for Archives and Records. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2025/27/CRP.52, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/.



- The Center engages in archival description. It devotes attention to the system of clarifying the title of a geospatial document as well as the relation of a document to its source by clarifying the party responsible for the document appearing in the system, in order to support the document inquiry process.
- The Center pays attention to clarifying the two elements of document format and document type to support the possibilities for a digital transformation in the Center's future development plans.
- The metadata organization system used by the National Center for Archives and Records clarifies the intellectual property rights of documents approved and received by them through other stakeholders. That promotes greater transparency in document governance.
