What is a registry?

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What is a Registry?

- Simply put, a registry is a list, and

- The list is maintained by a registrar separately from a standard.
Why?

- Standards can contain lists, so why provide a separate mechanism?
  - Registries are easier to maintain than standards, and
  - Registries can be made openly available
Definition

- The ISO directives define a registration authority but not actually the term register, but the JTC1 directives do have the definition.

- **register:** A set of files (paper, electronic, or a combination) containing the assigned data elements and the associated information. [ISO/IEC JTC1 Directives - Annex E]”, also [ISO 11179-6]
What does “registration” mean?

“The assignment of an unambiguous identifier to a data element in a way that makes the assignment available to interested parties. [ISO/IEC JTC1 Directives - Annex E], also [ISO 11179-6]
What is a “registration authority”?

- “An organization approved by ISO/IEC for performing international registration according to the rules for operation in 2.7.2 (JTC1 directives) and the procedure guidelines in E2 (JTC1 directives)”. [ref. JTC1 Directives]

- “Any organization authorized to register data elements”. [ref. ISO 11179-6]

- No definition in ISO Directives, but still the section on Registration Authorities [ref. ISO/IEC Directives Part 1 Annex N]
Registration procedures per the ISO directives

- General rules about Registration Authorities are in ISO/IEC Directives Part 1, Annex N

- Registration Authorities MUST be approved by the ISO and IEC Councils, so they can not be created trivially.

- JTC1 includes more rigorous rules that may be brought into TC211 by including them in a procedure standard.
Purposes of a registry?

- Document initial content
- Assist implementation
- Control Maintenance
- Document extensions (International, National and organizational)
- Standardize elements themselves for use in other applications

[Ref: TC211 N 978]
Other purposes

- Handling maintenance of versions (temporal)

- For specific aspects, provide a more flexible mechanism for the evolution of a standard (for example: a new permissible value in a codelist, 3-5 year standard process vs 3-6 months in a registry process)
What a registry isn’t?

- A way to circumvent the ISO standard process
  - Rules MUST be in place to prevent this.

- A mixed bag of anything from any source
  - Rules MUST be in place to prevent this.
  - Sources MUST be clearly identified.
  - Standards MUST indicate precisely what is allowed to be registered.
Relationship of standards and registries?

- Standards always have precedence over registries.
- A standard must state clear procedures and rules.
- A Registration Authority must follow these procedures and rules for a registry.
  - For example: ISO 19115 Metadata (Annex F) clearly specifies how to create user-defined metadata element. User-defined metadata elements could be registered.
Specific types of maintenance of standards can be initiated with registries within strict ISO standard process.

A standard may include a code list of five permissible values. A sixth one may be added through the registry mechanism. This sixth one can be added to the standard later in a future amendment.
Registries are widely used in ISO

- There are currently 48 Registration Authorities for ISO/IEC and ISO/IEC JTC1.
- These are distributed over 10 countries.

Registration works.
TC211 possibilities

- Registries could be used in TC211 for:
  - metadata elements
  - codelists
  - model components as objects, attributes, relationships (including support for encoding directive)
  - conforming implementations (profiles and instantiations)

- The appropriate use of registries will eliminate the need for equivalence tables in the support of CLA.