

All things Geospatial...

- **Geospatial Information** - Information that is referenced by a geographic location
- **Geospatial Data** - Information relating to the location of, and relationships between, geographical features

Many of the reports captured by the WMRO resource catalogue cover a specific geography (e.g. the WM Region) and in theory therefore could be classified as geospatial information. However, for the purposes of the geospatial template the focus should be on geospatial data, leaving the main template for reports and publications.

For GIS/Remote sensing data: Metadata may exist at the collection level (e.g. satellite series, field survey sampling points), at a data product level (an image mosaic), at a data unit level (a vector data set), a group of features of a given type (certain roads), or even at a specific feature instance (a single road). Regardless of the level of abstraction, these associations of metadata to data objects should be maintained. In practice, most metadata are currently collected at the data set level, and a metadata entry in a catalogue refers the user to its location for access. Increasingly sophisticated providers of geospatial data are including metadata at other levels of detail so as to preserve information richness.

For other data: much of this is collected with a spatial reference (estimated by many to be approx. 90%) and is therefore suitable to be incorporated into a GIS system or other spatial database. This type of data is geospatial and should ideally be catalogued using the geospatial template. However, **type** may be a limiting factor for doing this, since it only offers Document, Image, Map, Model, Profile, Table, and Video – most data sets of this type would therefore be captured by table, with Format providing the detail of which package/structure the data is in.

The extra categories captured by the geospatial template are:

- Geospatial keyword – similar to keyword but allows for capture of geospatial topics including boundary etc
- Spatial representation – captures the spatial data type (raster, vector, TIN, Table etc)
- Spatial reference system – captures the co-ordinate reference system or area type which the data is based on (e.g. British National Grid, Postcode or Census output area) – this is needed to geocode or match tables of data to the vector boundaries/points in order to place it on the map
- Geo Topic – allows capture of what type of geospatial data it is (boundaries, points, elevation model etc)
- Data format - allows capture of GIS specific formats
- Vertical extent – allows for capture of above and below ground data (e.g. bore hole data and contour elevation data)
- Bounding co-ordinates – allows for capture of coverage of a dataset in terms of bounding co-ordinates rather than a named area

- Spatial resolution – captures the level of spatial detail; important for a user to determine whether data has been captured at a level of accuracy sufficient for their intended use

These allow the user to understand more about how the data was collected, its fitness for purpose and what its limitations may be...e.g. incompatible format, insufficient resolution, point data when polygon data is needed etc