

# Data Interchange for Geotechnical and GeoEnvironmental Specialists (DIGGS)

[DIGGSML.ORG](http://DIGGSML.ORG)

## Release Notes:

### Version 1.0a – Initial Public Review release

The public review phase will run for three months ending in October 2008. Anyone can review and comment on the schema using the DIGGS website forum ( [DIGGSML.org](http://DIGGSML.org) ). In order to gain access to the schema and the forum, you must create a user account on the website. The website login and password you create are the same ones to use for logging into the forum.

We have the DIGGS core development group monitoring the forum in order to respond to questions, comments and provide answers to implementation questions.

We will release an updated version of the schema at least every month during the review process. If a significant number of changes have occurred that will improve the review process, we will consider intermediate updates.

We expect the official version (1.0) to be release in November 2008.

The schema can be downloaded from the DIGGSML website. Login to your member account, click the schema link on the left menu and download the install file. The install file will ask for the location where you wish to extract the schema, documentation and example files, it is recommend that you install it to a directory without spaces in the name. The install will automatically create a “catalog.xml” file in the source/schemas/ directory. The catalog file is used by XML editors that provide schema validation. We have verified the following editors: Apache Xerces-J 2.9.1 , Altova XML Spy 2008 Enterprise Edition, Oxygen XML 9, Stylus Studio Enterprise 2008

The following files are included in this release:

- 1) Introduction to DIGGS (a short summary of what the DIGGS standard includes and how it can be used)
- 2) Data dictionary in PDF and XML (a detailed description of all the objects (tables) and attributes (elements) ) (note that the XML version can be read directly into Excel)
- 3) UML diagrams (a graphic description of the schema hierarchy and connectivity)
- 4) Schemas (the xsd files)
- 5) Example files in DIGGS XML format with equivalent AGS files.

As part of the final release, we will host two versions of the schema on the website: “Official release version” and “Proposed next release options”. People implementing DIGGS will be able to propose new properties or new objects for the schema (through the forum). The core team will evaluate the proposed change to be sure it is not a duplication of existing capabilities. New capabilities will be added

and the “proposed” schema updated on the website. After a proposed period of time, the DIGGS technical committee will meet, review the proposed changes and produce an official a new release.

One key for this update will be the ability for implementers to post new or updated codelists (pick lists) and not have to wait until a new release.

We encourage people to participate with the DIGGS organization and implement the schema as part of the review process.