

# Guidelines for Metadata Distribution in Japan: Improving Interoperability of Metadata to Digital Resources

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# Guidelines for Metadata Distribution

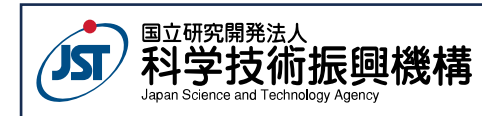
- These Guidelines are developed by NDL in cooperation with



- National Institute of Informatics (NII)



- Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)



- A number of other academic libraries and research institutions in Japan

- Japan Consortium for Open Access Repository
- Future Scholarly Information Systems Committee
- National Institute of Japanese Literature

# Guidelines for Metadata Distribution

- We published *Metadata Distribution Guidelines for General Use* in March 2022
  - *Guidelines for Research Data* were published in March 2023
  - *Guidelines for Historical Materials* were published in June 2023
- The Guidelines include
  - Correspondence between properties of the major metadata schemas used in Japan
  - Important information about metadata distribution and distribution routes

# Background

## Metadata aggregators and search systems in Japan

	NDL Search	IRDB (Institutional Repositories DataBase)
Metadata Schema	DC-NDL	JPCOAR Schema
Systems for which metadata is aggregated	Catalogue databases and digital archives of the NDL; public, universities, or specialized libraries; and academic institutions	Digital archives and institutional repositories of universities and other academic institutions
Target materials	Library materials and digital collections	Research published in journal articles and research data
Vocabularies	DC, Vocabulary defined by NDL (dcndl:), etc...	COAR, OpenAIRE, DataCite, DC, etc...

# Why guidelines rather than schemas?

## ◆ New common schema:

😊 The more standardized the metadata being distributed, the easier it is to link between databases.

☹️ Strongly standardized metadata is expensive to create.  
Standardization might even make it more difficult to include the necessary information for different types of material.

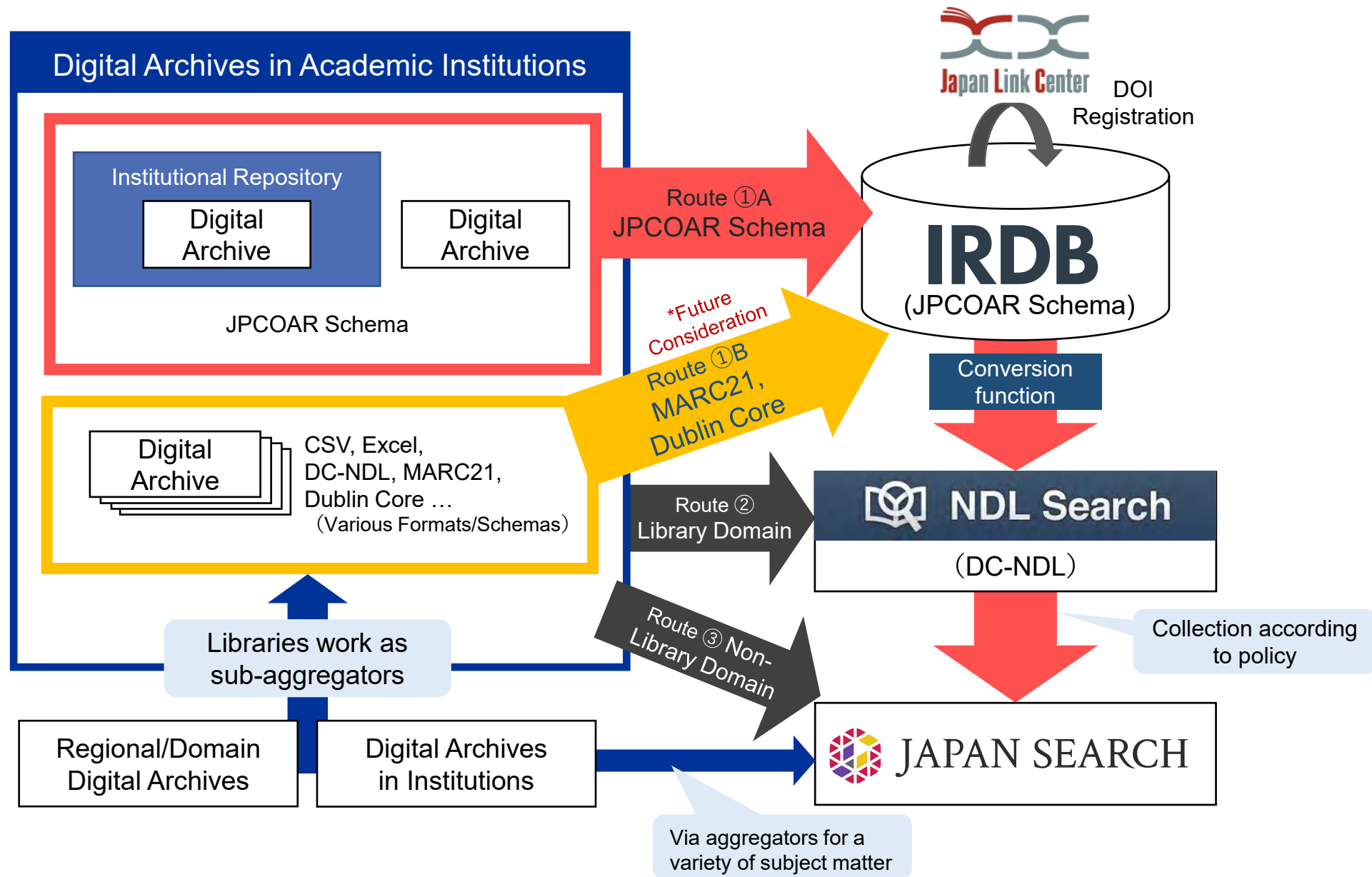
## ◆ Guidelines:

😊 While making use of the metadata of each institution, we can maintain appropriate metadata properties for various type of materials.



These guidelines aim to promote a kind of loose standardization by indicating compatibility and correspondence between existing schemas.

# Metadata Distribution Routes for Digital Content



# Organising compatibility and setting recommended levels

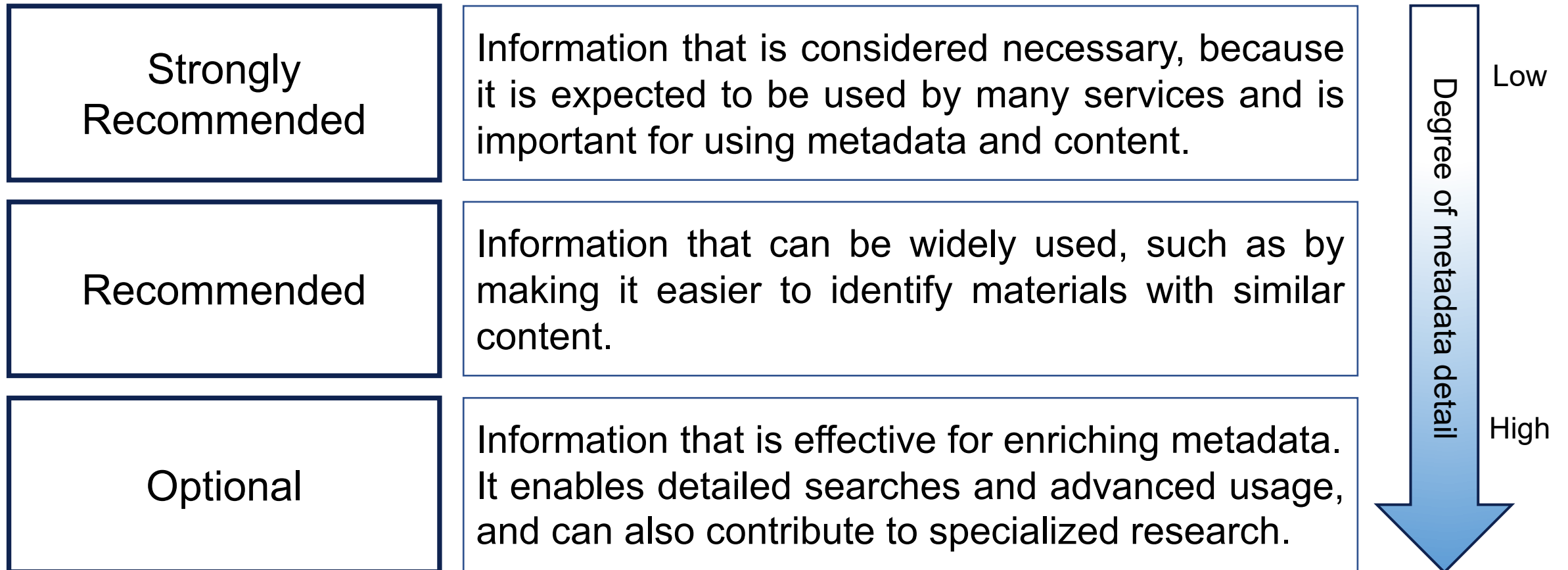
## 1. Title

No.	Property name	Recommended levels	DC-NDL	JPCOAR Schema	Others
1-1	Title Volume Volume title	Strongly Recommended	dcterms:title dc:title dcndl:volume dcndl:volumeTitle	dc:title dcndl:volumeTitle	Title
1-2	Alternative title Alternative volume Alternative volume title	Recommended	dcndl:alternative dcndl:alternativeVolume dcndl:alternativeVolumeTitle	dcterms:alternative	Title
1-3	Series title	Recommended	dcndl:seriesTitle	jpcoar:relation @relationType="isPartOf" jpcoar:relation @relationType="inSeries"	isPartOf
1-4	Edition	Recommended	dcndl:edition	dcndl:edition	edition

- ◆ The above is a tentative English translation of a part of the *Metadata Distribution Guidelines* for general use. The URL of the original text is: [https://iss.ndl.go.jp/information/guideline\\_2/#1](https://iss.ndl.go.jp/information/guideline_2/#1)

# Setting recommendation levels

- Set the recommendation levels for each property required in metadata distribution.
- Clarify information that is important for utilization and information that is needed to enrich metadata.





# Information regarding metadata distribution

## 9-1. License information

Property name	Recommended levels	DC-NDL	JPCOAR Schema	Others
License information	Strongly Recommended	[license]	dc:rights jpcoar:license	license

## Important points regarding metadata distribution

In recording license information, universal format is highly convenient.

CC0	<a href="https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/deed.ja">https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/deed.ja</a>
PDM (public domain)	<a href="https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/mark/1.0/deed.ja">https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/mark/1.0/deed.ja</a>
CC BY (Attribution)	<a href="https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/deed.ja">https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/deed.ja</a>

About types of rights statements, see also:

Reference) JAPAN SEARCH Available Rights Statements

<https://jpsearch.go.jp/policy/available-rights-statements>

Metadata license information is an essential property for distribution, and we recommended using CC0 whenever possible.

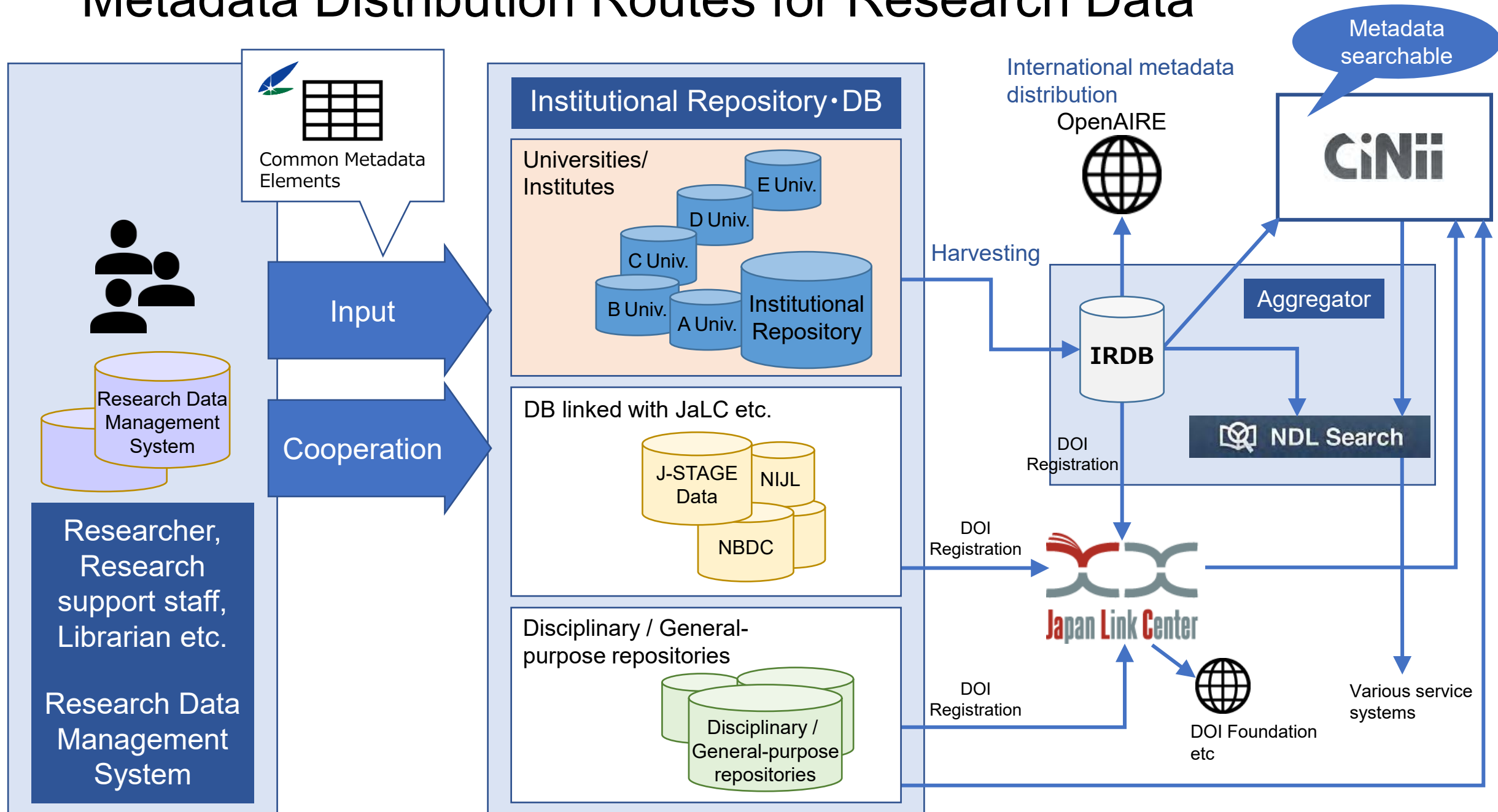
An open metadata license makes it available not only to organizations that directly collaborate but also to all users beyond that.

If a license is not granted or the license is not open, the use of the metadata will be limited to collaborating organizations, and the metadata will not be utilized. Even if metadata cannot be made open data, we recommended providing some kind of license information for users.

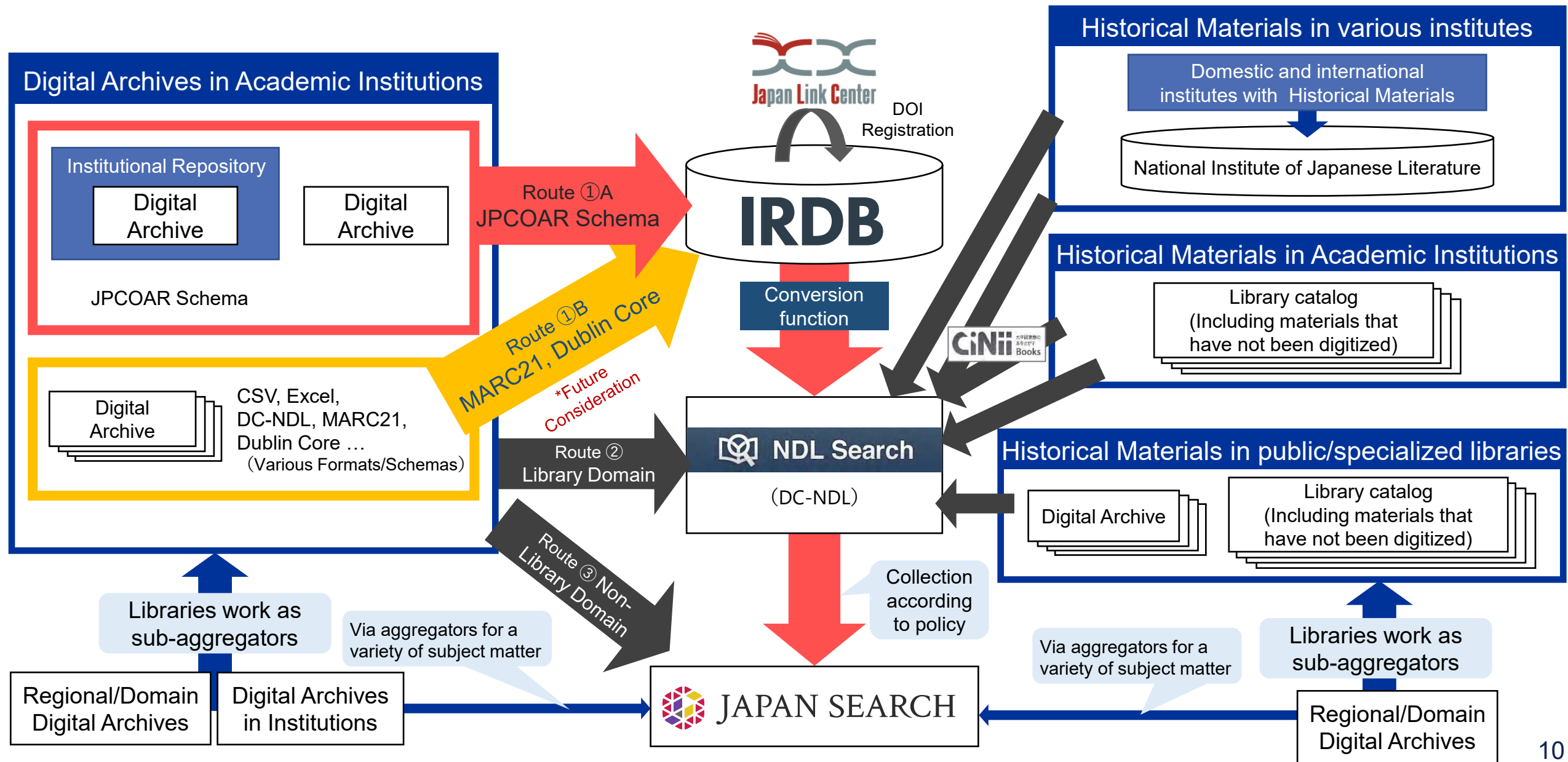
We also recommend providing content license information from the perspective of promoting the use of information resources.

- ◆ The above is a tentative English translation of a part of the *Metadata Distribution Guidelines for General Use*. The URL of the original text is: [https://iss.ndl.go.jp/information/guideline\\_/#9-1](https://iss.ndl.go.jp/information/guideline_/#9-1)

# Metadata Distribution Routes for Research Data



# Metadata Distribution Routes for Historical Materials



# Conclusion

- These Guidelines will improve the distribution of metadata and content by reducing the cost to an institution of independently designing metadata interoperability as well as by establishing efficient and sustainable metadata distribution routes.
- We expect to revise these guidelines on a continuing basis.
- We hope that the guidelines will serve as a basis for common understanding by all concerned parties and as a tool for communication, with the goal of advancing the sophistication of metadata distribution.

Thank you for your attention !

For more information:  [ml-metaguide@ndl.go.jp](mailto:ml-metaguide@ndl.go.jp)

The URL of the original text of *Metadata Distribution Guidelines*  
(Japanese page only)

- for General Use [https://iss.ndl.go.jp/information/guideline\\_2/](https://iss.ndl.go.jp/information/guideline_2/)
- for Research Data [https://iss.ndl.go.jp/information/guideline\\_researchdata/](https://iss.ndl.go.jp/information/guideline_researchdata/)
- for Historical Materials [https://iss.ndl.go.jp/information/guideline\\_classic/](https://iss.ndl.go.jp/information/guideline_classic/)