

EML - Bug #596

Proposal: make attribute optional in OtherEntityType.

09/18/2002 04:52 PM - David Blankman

Status:	Resolved	Start date:	09/18/2002
Priority:	Normal	Due date:	
Assignee:	Matt Jones	% Done:	0%
Category:	eml - general bugs	Estimated time:	0.00 hour
Target version:	EML2.0.0rc2	Spent time:	0.00 hour
Bugzilla-Id:	596		

Description

While in the process of documenting eml-entity, I was struck by the fact that attributeList is required for otherEntityType.

I would like to suggest that entityDescription is a more likely candidate for a required element that simply importing EntityGroup unmodified.

If, in the absense of an eml=photograph, we are expecting users to use otherEntity to document photographs, I think that attributeList should be made optional for OtherEntityType.

On IRC I asked the question, what is the meaning of "attribute" in the context of a photograph. One answer was, a list of RGB values. That might have utility for advanced machine processing, but it is not something that a user is going to fill out. For a non-georeferenced photographs which LTER information managers have indicated that they consider to be data, a description of the photograph under entity description makes sense. Saying that a photograph has a single attribute and that the attribute is either RGB values or even a description of the photograph itself seems to me to be an artificial imposition of unnecessary structure.

Since otherEntity is by definition a place holder for an entity that we have not defined, it seems to me that trying to fit it into exactly the same structure as defined entities is a mistake.

History

#1 - 10/01/2002 12:48 PM - Matt Jones

Agreed during conference call to move attribute out of EntityGroup and put it in each of the Entity modules, and to make it required everywhere except otherEntity, where it would be optional.

#2 - 10/02/2002 11:30 AM - Matt Jones

Completed. attributeList and constraint were moved out of EntityGroup and into the individual entity type modules, where the decision about whether they are mandatory or not can be made on a module by module basis. RESOLVED FIXED.

#3 - 03/27/2013 02:14 PM - Redmine Admin

Original Bugzilla ID was 596