

How and where to specify an ORCID in a metadata record?

USGS has asked that all authors of USGS data releases and publications obtain an ORCID and use it within IPDS to make sure their work is properly distinguished from that of other people who happen to have the same name as they do. But the metadata standards (CSDGM and ISO) don't include elements intended to hold identifiers other than the name of the person. So where do we put the ORCID?

For CSDGM:

- Append the ORCID to the `Contact_Person` value, after the name,
- Append the ORCID to `Originator`, after the name, using only one `Originator` element for each person,
- Include the ORCID in `Contact_Instructions` since that element typically doesn't have important information,
- Put the ORCID into a new metadata extension `Contact_Identifier` that is optional, repeatable within `Contact_Information`, and whose content is supposed to be exactly one URL,
- Append the ORCID to `Data_Set_Credit` (this would enable us to give ORCID of an originator whose contact information isn't provided through a `Contact_Information` section).

Part of the pain in this issue is that we don't know how downstream systems will handle the ORCID. The most important downstream systems we care about are the [USGS Science Data Catalog](#), [data.doi.gov](#), and [data.gov](#).