***Best Practice 9: Provide locale parameters***

*Information about locale parameters (date, time, and number formats, language) SHOULD be made available.*

**Why:**

Some data fields differ subtly but significantly with changes in locale. Providing information about the locality for which the data is currently published aids data users in interpreting its meaning. Date, time, and number formats can have very different meanings, despite similar appearances. Making the language explicit allows users to determine how readily they can work with the data and may enable automated translation services.

**Intended Outcome:**

Users working with the data in a locale that differs from that in which it was originally published will be able to interpret the meaning of the data accurately. Errors in dates, times, and numbers will be avoided.

**Possible Approach to Implementation:**

Provide locale metadata for date, time, and number fields, and include the language in which the data is published in the dataset metadata. Where an international format specification exists, e.g., ISO 8601 for dates and times, use it.

**How to Test**

Check that the metadata for the dataset itself includes the language in which it is published and that all numeric, date, and time fields have locale metadata provided either with each field or as a general rule.

**Evidence**

Relevant requirements: [R-formatLocalize](http://www.w3.org/TR/dwbp-ucr/#R-FormatLocalize)