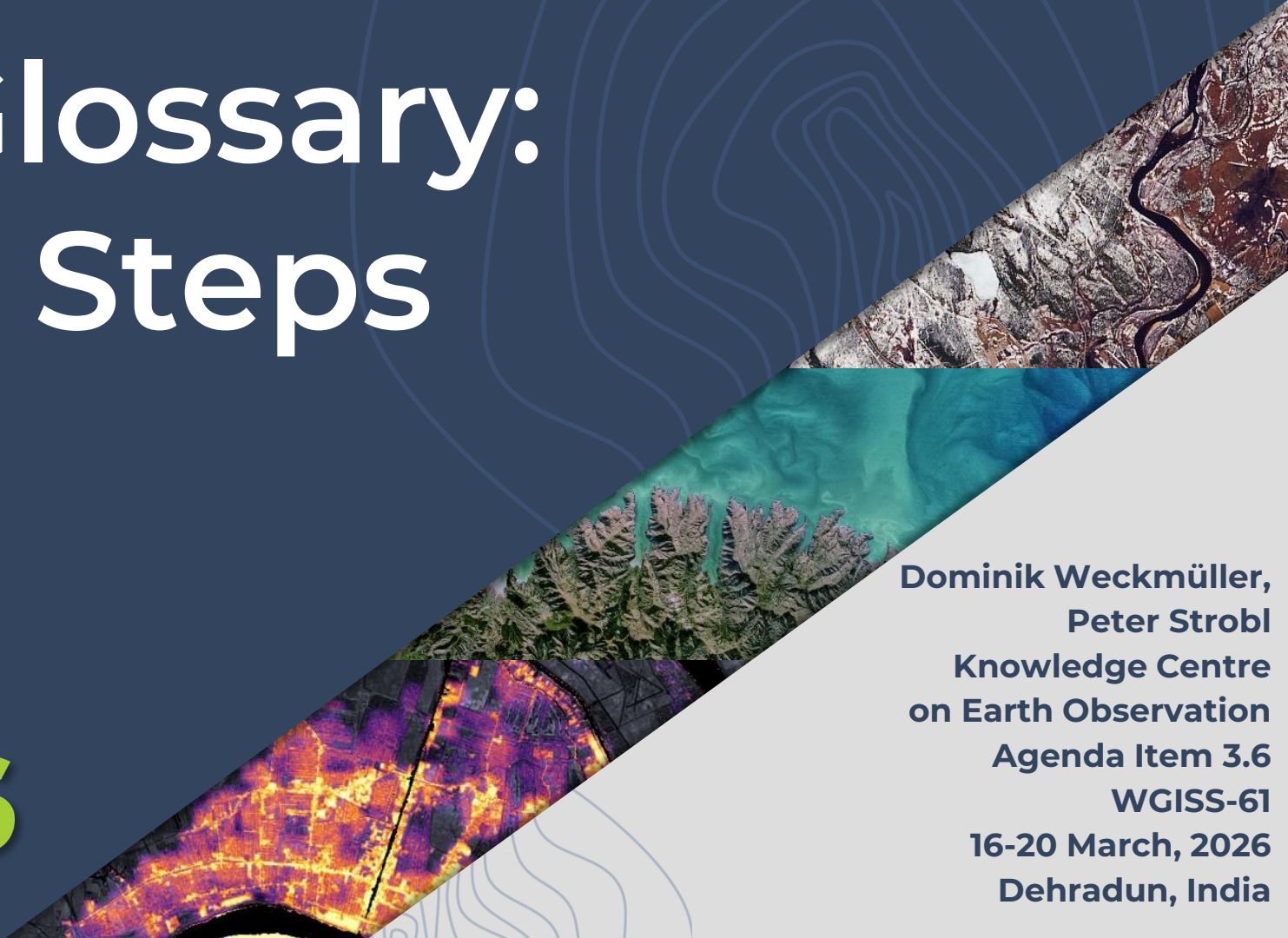
EO Glossary: Next Steps



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Knowledge Centre
on Earth Observation

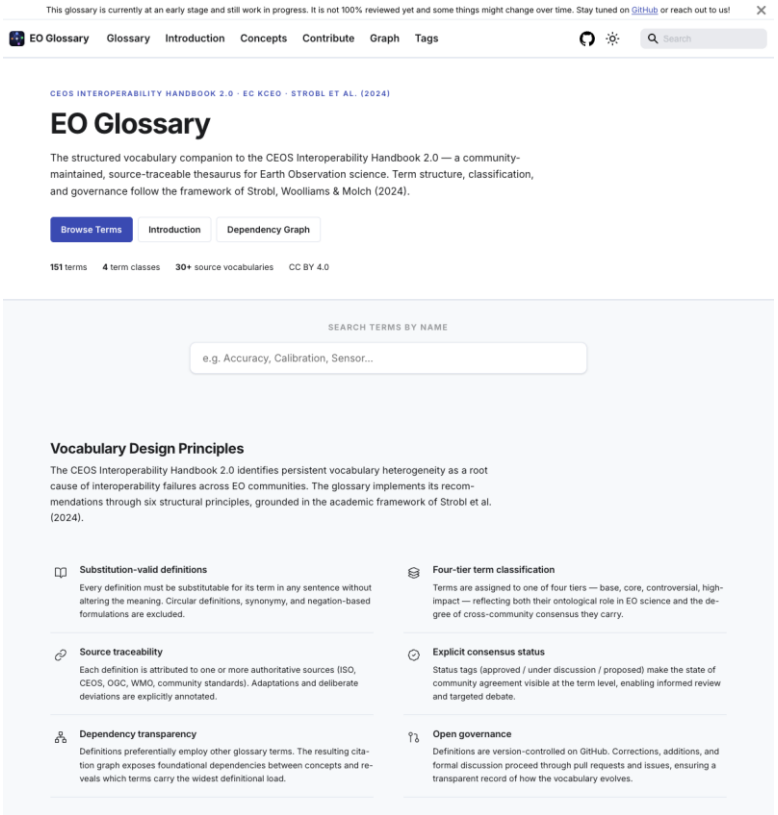
Agenda Item 3.6
WGISS-61
16-20 March, 2026
Dehradun, India

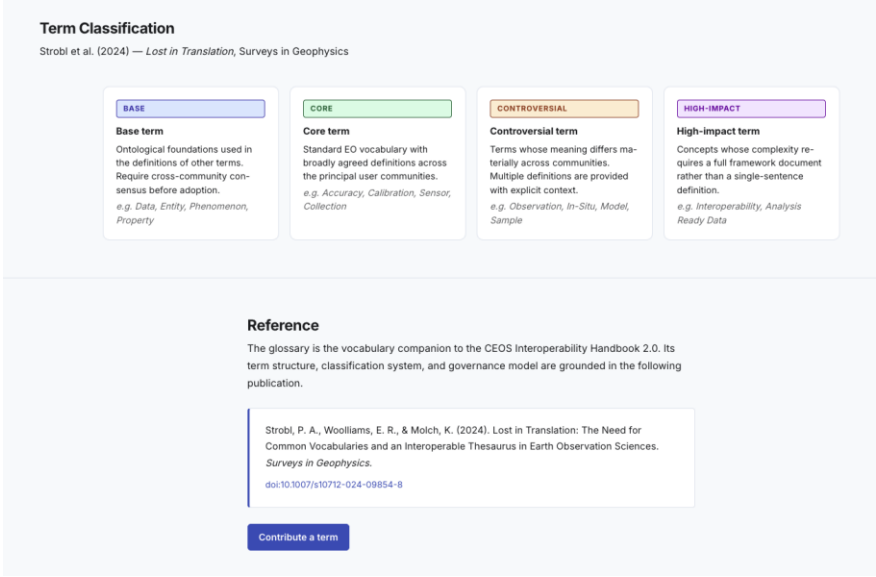
CEOS
Committee on
Earth Observation Satellites

Problems found in many Glossaries

- Simple **lists of words** are not used often – structure is important
- Lack of **versioning** (or keep older definitions) – and definitions change
- **Ambiguity** of definitions for some terms – e.g. ISO online browsing platform has 77 versions of ‘observation’
- **Inconsistent** definitions (e.g. in-situ, observation, sample, …)
- **Superficial** definitions (e.g. interoperability) lacking full framework
- **Circular** definitions – and poor use of the foundational ‘base terms’
- Often either **human-** ***or*** **machine-**readable!
- Development process – **isolated** efforts – creates these problems

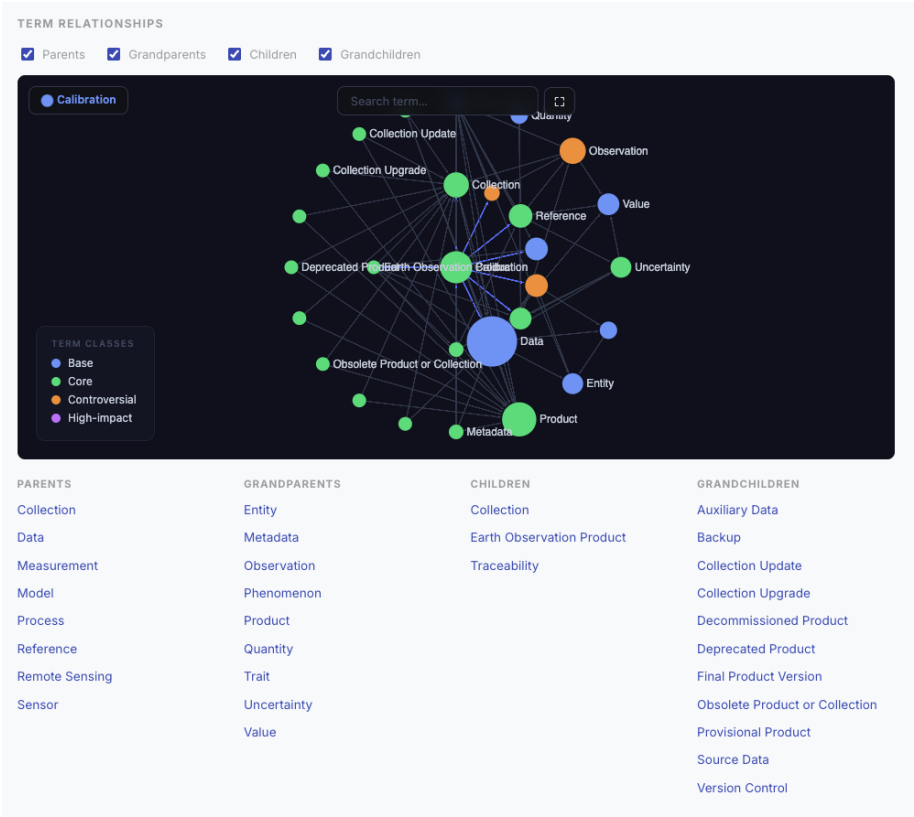
EO Glossary - Overhaul





- Major Tech Overhaul
- Switched from mkdocs-material (EOL) to docusaurus
  https://ceos-org.github.io/eo-glossary/
  https://github.com/ceos-org/eo-glossary

EO Glossary - Overhaul



- Per-term graph view and relationships
- https://ceos-org.github.io/eo-glossary/terms/calibration

EO Glossary – AI-Ready!

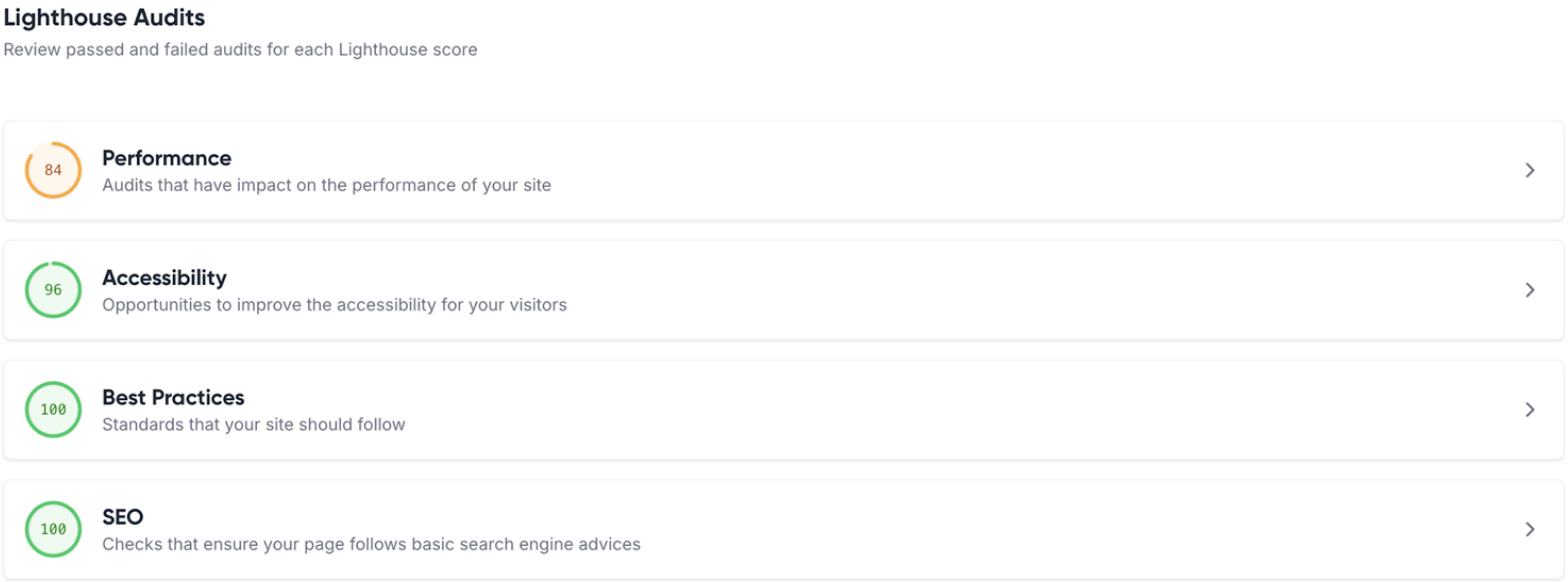
At a Glance

Resource	URL	Format	Best for
AI guidance	`/llms.txt`	Markdown	LLM crawlers and agents (llmstxt.org standard)
All definitions (plain text)	`/llms-full.txt`	Markdown	Direct LLM ingestion, RAG chunking
All definitions (structured)	`exports/json/terms.json`	JSON	RAG pipelines, programmatic access
All definitions (columnar)	`exports/parquet/`	Parquet	DuckDB, data science, analytics
All definitions (spreadsheet)	`exports/xlsx/`	XLSX	Excel, Google Sheets, manual review
Per-term JSON	`/terms/{slug}.json`	JSON	Single-term lookups
Per-term Markdown	`/terms/{slug}.md`	Markdown	Raw source files
Sitemap	`/sitemap.xml`	XML	Web crawlers
RSS feed	`/rss.xml`	RSS 2.0	Feed readers, change tracking

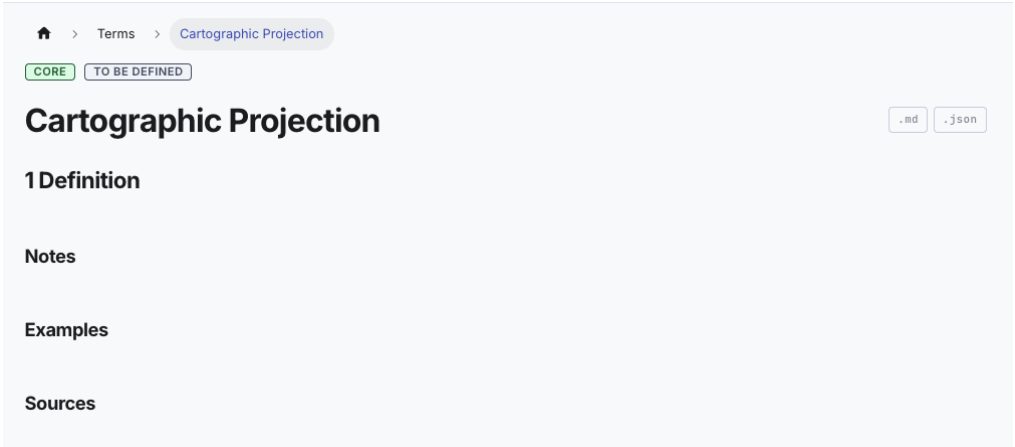
All exports are regenerated automatically on every push to `main`.

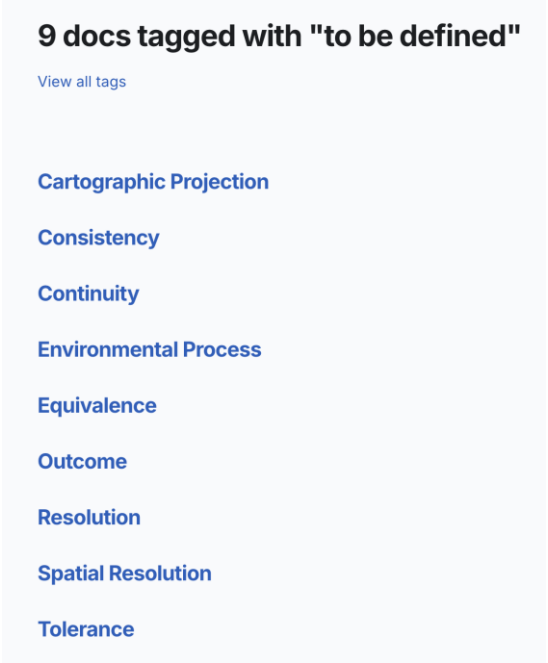
- All kinds of export files auto-generated
- Optional MCP-Server
- Easily crawlable

EO Glossary – Perfect SEO



EO Glossary – Tag your friends!





- Tag your friends (or enemies) on GitHub to review missing terms
- Or get started by yourself

https://ceos-org.github.io/eo-glossary/tags

EO Glossary – Governance

1. Contributors

- **Who:** The global Earth Observation (EO) community, including members from the public, private, and academic sectors.
- **Responsibilities:**
  - Propose new terms.
  - Suggest edits or alternate definitions for existing terms.
  - Participate in community discussions on GitHub Issues.
- **How to join:** Anyone can contribute by opening a Pull Request (PR) or Issue in the GitHub repository. Please refer to our Contribution Guidelines for step-by-step instructions.

2. Moderators

- **Who:** Trusted technical experts and glossary maintainers managing daily repository operations.
- **Responsibilities:**
  - Review incoming edits for formatting, clarity, and adherence to dictionary principles (e.g., ensuring no circular definitions).
  - Approve and merge simple, non-controversial changes ("Agile" workflow).
  - Tag terms appropriately (e.g., `base`, `core`, `controversial`, `to be discussed`).
  - Flag foundational changes or controversial terms for review by the CEOS Expert Groups.

3. Distributed Steering Group (CEOS Expert Groups)

- **Who:** Chairs, Vice-Chairs, or nominated Leads from existing CEOS Working Groups and Virtual Constellations (e.g., WGCV, WGClimate, WGISS).
- **Responsibilities:**
  - Provide the ultimate authority and veto rights on terms assigned to their specific domain.
  - Review foundational and controversial changes during the Pre-Release Cycle.
  - Set the strategic direction for terminology within their expertise.

https://ceos.org/document_management/Working_Groups/WGISS/Meetings/WGISS-60/WGISS-60%20Minutes%20and%20Actions%20v1.0.pdf

EO Glossary – Governance

The Agile Track (Daily Operations)

Simple additions, formatting fixes, or non-controversial updates are handled continuously.

1. A Contributor opens a PR.
2. A Moderator reviews the PR against styling and structural guidelines.
3. If the change is straightforward, the Moderator merges it directly to the live site.

The Authority Track (Pre-Release Cycle)

Foundational terms (e.g., *Data*, *Resolution*, *In-situ*) or highly debated definitions require domain expert consensus.

1. **Collation:** Over a 6-to-12-month period, Moderators collate proposed foundational changes into a "Pre-release" branch.
2. **Assignment:** Proposed terms are assigned to the relevant CEOS Expert Group based on domain (e.g., radiometric calibration terms go to WGCV).
3. **Review:** The designated CEOS Points of Contact review the Pre-release package. They may approve the changes, request modifications, or exercise veto rights.
4. **Release:** Once consensus is reached among the Expert Groups, the Pre-release is officially merged into the main dictionary as a new authoritative version.

Peter's Disclaimer – Use & Spread

During its 2025 plenary, CEOS principals adopted the Interoperabililty Handbook 2.0 part of which are recommendations on drafting definitions and building an interactive glossary. CEOS documents currently being developed should therefore follow these guidelines when drafting their terminology sections:

1. check whether the term you want to see defined is already in your document's '*terms and definitions*' section
2. if not there yet, add it and look for a definition in https://ceos-org.github.io/eo-glossary/ or other glossaries such as https://isotc211.geolexica.org/ or whichever source you consider suitable
3. if you find a definition with which you agree, copy it to your document and provide a link to the source, eventually with hints which other sources exist
4. if found no suitable definition and would like to modify or draft a new one, follow the guidelines THES#2-THES#6 in the CEOS interoperability handbook
   Most importantly develop the definition in four parts:
   1) Definition, 2) Notes, 3) Examples, and *4) Sources*
5. once the document is mature make sure that any new or modified terms (which might have relevance beyond that document) will be transferred back into the CEOS glossary (e.g. by opening an issue) and, once accepted, the respective link can be included in the original document as the new source