

Recommendations for labeling unofficial/development versions of GNDS

C.M. Mattoon, J. Conlin

May 12, 2020 EG-GNDS meeting

Motivation

- Institutions may wish to try out GNDS format modifications before they are officially approved by EG-GNDS
 - For example, LLNL is currently using 'GNDS-1.10' which has several (but not all) format proposals from this year already implemented. Test files labeled 'GNDS-1.10' have been distributed outside LLNL
- To avoid confusion between these test versions and officially approved versions of GNDS, we suggest a convention for labeling these internal versions

Suggested versioning system:

- Append institution and optional internal version number to latest official GNDS.
 - For example, instead of 'GNDS-1.10' LLNL could use 'GNDS-1.9.LLNL' or 'GNDS-1.9.LLNL.x' where 'x' is an integer that is incremented as internal changes are made at LLNL
- Additional suggestion: EG-GNDS avoid using 1.10 for next official GNDS specification
 - Should not be necessary in the future if suggested guidelines are followed

These are suggestions, not mandates

- Even if not adopted we can still easily detect non-standard GNDS files using a schema validator along with a schema derived from the official format specification
 - However, suggested labeling convention makes it easier to understand *why* files don't comply with official GNDS specifications and hopefully saves time