



# searchRetrieve: Part 4. APD Binding for OpenSearch Version 1.0

## Committee Specification Draft 01

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### Specification URIs

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#### Technical Committee:

OASIS Search Web Services TC

#### Chairs:

Ray Denenberg ([rden@loc.gov](mailto:rden@loc.gov)), Library of Congress  
Matthew Dovey ([m.dovey@jisc.ac.uk](mailto:m.dovey@jisc.ac.uk)), JISC Executive, University of Bristol

#### Editors:

Ray Denenberg ([rden@loc.gov](mailto:rden@loc.gov)), Library of Congress  
Larry Dixon ([ldix@loc.gov](mailto:ldix@loc.gov)), Library of Congress  
Ralph Levan ([levan@oclc.org](mailto:levan@oclc.org)), OCLC  
Janifer Gatenby ([Janifer.Gatenby@oclc.org](mailto:Janifer.Gatenby@oclc.org)), OCLC  
Tony Hammond ([t.hammond@nature.com](mailto:t.hammond@nature.com)), Nature Publishing Group  
Matthew Dovey ([m.dovey@jisc.ac.uk](mailto:m.dovey@jisc.ac.uk)), JISC Executive, University of Bristol

#### Additional artifacts:

This prose specification is one component of a Work Product which also includes:

- XML schemas: <http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/csd01/schemas/>
- *searchRetrieve: Part 0. Overview Version 1.0.*  
<http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/csd01/part0-overview/searchRetrieve-v1.0-csd01-part0-overview.html>
- *searchRetrieve: Part 1. Abstract Protocol Definition Version 1.0.*  
<http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/csd01/part1-apd/searchRetrieve-v1.0-csd01-part1-apd.html>

- *searchRetrieve: Part 2. searchRetrieve Operation: APD Binding for SRU 1.2 Version 1.0.*  
<http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/csd01/part2-sru1.2/searchRetrieve-v1.0-csd01-part2-sru1.2.html>
- *searchRetrieve: Part 3. searchRetrieve Operation: APD Binding for SRU 2.0 Version 1.0.*  
<http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/csd01/part3-sru2.0/searchRetrieve-v1.0-csd01-part3-sru2.0.html>
- *searchRetrieve: Part 4. APD Binding for OpenSearch Version 1.0.* (this document)  
<http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/csd01/part4-opensearch/searchRetrieve-v1.0-csd01-part4-opensearch.html>
- *searchRetrieve: Part 5. CQL: The Contextual Query Language Version 1.0.*  
<http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/csd01/part5-cql/searchRetrieve-v1.0-csd01-part5-cql.html>
- *searchRetrieve: Part 6. SRU Scan Operation Version 1.0.*  
<http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/csd01/part6-scan/searchRetrieve-v1.0-csd01-part6-scan.html>
- *searchRetrieve: Part 7. SRU Explain Operation Version 1.0.*  
<http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/csd01/part7-explain/searchRetrieve-v1.0-csd01-part7-explain.html>

#### Related work:

This specification is related to:

- OpenSearch » 1.1 » Draft 5 specification.  
[http://www.opensearch.org/Specifications/OpenSearch/1.1/Draft\\_5](http://www.opensearch.org/Specifications/OpenSearch/1.1/Draft_5)

#### Abstract:

This document, “*APD Binding for OpenSearch*” is a binding of the OASIS SWS Abstract Protocol Definition to the OpenSearch version 1.1 Draft 5 Specification. This is one of a set of documents for the OASIS Search Web Services (SWS) initiative.

#### Status:

This document was last revised or approved by the OASIS Search Web Services TC on the above date. The level of approval is also listed above. Check the “Latest version” location noted above for possible later revisions of this document.

Technical Committee members should send comments on this specification to the Technical Committee’s email list. Others should send comments to the Technical Committee by using the “[Send A Comment](#)” button on the Technical Committee’s web page at <http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/search-ws/>.

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##### **[SearchRetrievePt4]**

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# Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	5
1.1	Terminology.....	5
1.2	References.....	5
1.3	Namespace.....	5
2	Model.....	6
2.1	Relationship to Abstract Protocol Definition .....	6
2.2	Processing Model .....	6
2.3	Result Set Model .....	7
2.4	Data Model.....	7
2.5	Diagnostic Model .....	7
2.6	Description and Discovery Model .....	7
3	OpenSearch Request.....	9
3.1	Actual Request Parameters for this Binding.....	9
3.2	Abstract Vs. Actual Parameters.....	9
4	OpenSearch Response .....	10
4.1	Response Elements.....	10
4.1.1	Actual Response Elements .....	10
4.1.2	Abstract Vs. Actual Elements.....	10
4.2	OpenSearch Response Examples .....	11
5	Open Search Description Document.....	14
5.1	Description Elements.....	14
5.1.1	URL Element .....	16
5.1.2	Query Element.....	17
5.2	Example Description Documents .....	18
5.3	Extensibility.....	19
5.4	Autodiscovery .....	19
6	Conformance.....	21
6.1	Client Conformance.....	21
6.2	Server Conformance.....	21
Appendix A.	Acknowledgements.....	22

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# 1 Introduction

This is one of a set of documents for the OASIS Search Web Services (SWS) initiative.

**This document, “*APD Binding for OpenSearch*”** is a binding of the OASIS SWS Abstract Protocol Definition.

This specification is intended to be fully compatible with  
[http://www.opensearch.org/Specifications/OpenSearch/1.1/Draft\\_5](http://www.opensearch.org/Specifications/OpenSearch/1.1/Draft_5)

The set of documents includes the Abstract Protocol Definition (APD) for searchRetrieve operation, which presents the model for the SearchRetrieve operation and serves as a guideline for the development of *application protocol bindings* describing the capabilities and general characteristic of a server or search engine, and how it is to be accessed.

The collection of documents also includes three bindings (3, 4, and 5 in the list below). This document is one of the three.

The eight documents in this collection of specifications are:

1. Overview
2. APD
3. SRU1.2
4. SRU2.0
5. OpenSearch (this document)
6. CQL
7. Scan
8. Explain

## 1.1 Terminology

The key words “MUST”, “MUST NOT”, “REQUIRED”, “SHALL”, “SHALL NOT”, “SHOULD”, “SHOULD NOT”, “RECOMMENDED”, “MAY”, and “OPTIONAL” in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119].

## 1.2 References

All references for the set of documents in this collection are supplied in the Overview document:

*searchRetrieve: Part 0. Overview Version 1.0*

<http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/csd01/part0-overview/searchRetrieve-v1.0-csd01-part0-overview.doc>

## 1.3 Namespace

All XML namespaces for the set of documents in this collection are supplied in the Overview document:

*searchRetrieve: Part 0. Overview Version 1.0*

<http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/csd01/part0-overview/searchRetrieve-v1.0-csd01-part0-overview.doc>

---

## 37 2 Model

38 This document describes the OpenSearch model, request parameters, response elements, and  
39 description document.

40 Search clients can use OpenSearch description documents to learn about the public interface of a search  
41 engine. These description documents contain parameterized URL templates that indicate how the search  
42 client should make search requests.

### 43 2.1 Relationship to Abstract Protocol Definition

44 The APD defines abstract request parameters and abstract response elements. A binding lists those  
45 abstract parameters and elements applicable to that binding and indicates the corresponding actual name  
46 of the parameter or element to be transmitted in a request or response.

#### 47 **Example.**

```
48 The APD defines the abstract parameter: startPosition as "The position within  
49 the result set of the first item to be returned."  
50 And OpenSearch refers to that abstract parameter and notes that its name, as  
51 used in the OpenSearch specification is 'startIndex'. Thus the request  
52 parameter 'startRecord' in OpenSearch represents the abstract parameter  
53 startPosition in the APD.
```

54 Different bindings may use different names to represent this same abstract parameter, and its semantics  
55 may differ across those bindings as the binding models differ. It is the responsibility of the binding to  
56 explain these differences in terms of their respective models.

### 57 2.2 Processing Model

58 A server provides a description document that a client reads to determine how to formulate a  
59 search/retrieve request and interpret the response. The client may send a request, including search  
60 terms, to the server, who replies with a response that includes results based on the search terms.

61 The server returns results either as a stream ("stream mode") or a page ("page mode"). A stream is an  
62 arbitrary range of results, for example, results 10 through 100. In page mode, the server groups the  
63 results into pages, and returns one page. The server will always return results as a stream or always as a  
64 page, and indicates one or the other in its description file.

65 If the server returns a page, the request may include the 'count' parameter, suggesting how many results  
66 there should be per page. The request may also include the 'startPage' parameter indicating which page  
67 is desired. (See [note 1](#).) The server may ignore the 'count' parameter and determine the number of  
68 results per page itself. (See [note 2](#).)

69 If the server returns a stream, the request may include the parameter 'startIndex' to indicate the desired  
70 position within the result set of the first result within the stream. For example if the value of the  
71 'startIndex' parameter is 61, and if the server returns 30 results, the stream will consist of results 61  
72 through 90. The request may also include the 'count' parameter (for example, a value of 30, if the client  
73 wants results 61 through 90) but the server may ignore it. (See [note 3](#).)

74 The response includes the element <totalResults>, the number of results found by the search. This  
75 element will be omitted only if the last of the available results is included in the response.

76 So the client can scroll through the results by issuing repeated requests until there is a response which  
77 omits the <totalResults> element, the omission signaling that there are no further results. Each request  
78 uses the same value for the parameter 'searchTerms', and :

- 79 • In stream mode: the value of the parameter 'startIndex' is the previous value plus the  
80 number of results included in the previous response.
- 81 • In page mode: the value of the parameter 'startPage' is the previous value plus one (1).

82 Notes:

- 83 1. The server returns one page only, contrary to the implication of the parameter name, 'startPage'.
- 84 2. If the server has ignored the count parameter, then the startPage parameter that the client has
- 85 suggested will not retrieve the specific results that the client had in mind.
- 86 3. The 'count' parameter is defined as "desired number of results per page", but it applies not only in
- 87 page mode, but also in stream mode: In stream mode the entire list of results is considered a
- 88 single page.

## 89 2.3 Result Set Model

90 There are no explicit (named) result sets in openSearch. It is assumed that if multiple requests are issued  
91 to a search engine with the same value of parameter 'searchTerms' the results will be identical, that is,  
92 the same set of results in the same order. Therefore the parameter 'searchTerms' can be considered to  
93 represent a result set.

## 94 2.4 Data Model

95 The data model of the Abstract Protocol Model says that a "*datastore* is a collection of units of data. Such  
96 a unit is referred to as an *item*..."

97 In this binding:

- 98 • A data store is referred to as a *search engine*.
- 99 • For an openSearch response, the abstract element <item> corresponds to
- 100 an element defined by the response schema, for example an <entry> or
- 101 <item> in ATOM 1.0 or RSS 2.0 respectively.
- 102 • An item is sometimes referred to as a "result".

103 The Abstract Protocol Model further notes that "associated with a datastore are one or more formats that  
104 may be used for the transfer of items from the server to the client. Such a format is referred to as an *item*  
105 *type*.."

106 In this binding:

- 107 • There is no parameter equivalent to *itemType*; the format is internally
- 108 defined by the response format.

109 The Abstract Protocol Model further notes that "The server may also partition the result set into *result*  
110 *groups*."

111 In this binding:

- 112 • 'groups' are referred to as 'pages'.

## 113 2.5 Diagnostic Model

114 OpenSearch does not include specific diagnostics. HTTP diagnostics are returned when a URL is badly  
115 formed or the server is unable to perform the search contained within the URL.

116 If the server is able to interpret but not process a request it can send back the OpenSearch Description  
117 Document that explains how to correctly construct a request.

## 118 2.6 Description and Discovery Model

119 OpenSearch mandates an OpenSearch Description Document that is consistent with the requirements of  
120 the Abstract Protocol Definition. There are six groups of data that may be included:

- 121 1. **General Description of the Server and its Capabilities.** The OpenSearch Description  
122 Document includes a *shortName*, and *longName* and also *tags* which are keywords that describe  
123 the server's *content (datastore)*.
- 124 2. **How to Formulate a Request.** The OpenSearch Description Document includes a mandatory  
125 [URL element](#) containing a mandatory request template.
- 126 3. **Query Grammar.** There is no explicit search grammar associated with OpenSearch.
- 127 4. **How to Interpret a Response.** The type attribute of the URL element indicates the MIME type  
128 (*format*) of the response.

129 5. **How to Process Results.** The OpenSearch Description Document may include extra elements  
130 explaining how to process and display the search results. These include an *image* and *attribution*  
131 for display against the results, an indication of *adultContent* and *syndicationRight*.

132 6. **Auto-Discovery Process.** An OpenSearch description documents may include a reference to  
133 other OpenSearch description documents.

134 The OpenSearch [URL template](#) represents a parameterized form of the URL by which a search engine is  
135 queried. The client processes the template, replacing each instance of a template parameter, with the  
136 value for that parameter. The template parameters are the request parameters shown below.



## 137 3 OpenSearch Request

### 138 3.1 Actual Request Parameters for this Binding

139 *Table 1: Summary of Actual Request Parameters*

Parameter Name	Description	Type/Value
searchTerms	keyword or keywords	string
startIndex	index of first search result desired by the client	positive integer
count	Number of search results desired by the client.	positive integer
startPage	page number of the set of search results desired by the search client.	positive integer
language	desired language for search results.	RFC 5646, or '*' to mean "any language"
inputEncoding	character encoding of the search request.	<a href="#">IANA Character Set Assignments</a> , default UTF-8
outputEncoding	character encoding requested for the search results. The default is UTF-8	<a href="#">IANA Character Set Assignments</a> , default UTF-8

### 140 3.2 Abstract Vs. Actual Parameters

141 The following table lists the Abstract parameters defined in the Abstract Protocol Definition, and the  
142 openSearch actual parameters, in two columns, with corresponding parameters in the same row.

143 *Table 2: Abstract Vs. Actual parameters*

Abstract Parameter Name from APD	openSearch Parameter
responseType	(None. See <a href="#">type attribute of &lt;url&gt; element</a> )
query	searchTerms
startPosition	startIndex
maximumItems	count
group	startPage
responseItemtype	(None. See <a href="#">Data Model, fourth bullet.</a> )
sortOrder	(None)
(None)	language
(None)	inputEncoding
(None)	outputEncoding

## 144 4 OpenSearch Response

### 145 4.1 Response Elements

146 This section summarizes the OpenSearch response elements and compares them with the abstract  
147 elements defined in the Abstract Protocol Definition.

#### 148 4.1.1 Actual Response Elements

149 The following table describes the actual XML response elements.

150 *Table 3: Summary of Actual Response Elements*

Element	Type	Occurrence	Meaning
<totalResults>	xs:integer	zero or one	number of search results.
<startIndex>	xs:positiveInteger	zero or one	index of the first search result in the response.
<itemsPerPage>	xs:positiveInteger	zero or one	number of search results returned per page.
<query>	xs:string	zero or more	See "Query".

#### 151 4.1.2 Abstract Vs. Actual Elements

152 The following table lists abstract elements from the Abstract Protocol Definition, and the openSearch  
153 actual elements, in two columns, with corresponding elements in the same row.

*Table 4: Abstract Vs. Actual elements*

Abstract Element From APD	openSearch Element
<numberOfItems>	<totalResults>
<numberOfGroups>	(none)
<resultSetId>	(none)
<item>	defined by the response schema, for example an <entry> in ATOM 1.0 or <item>RSS 2.0.
<nextPosition>	<i>In page mode:</i> find the <link> element where the value of the 'rel' attribute is "next". Within the corresponding query ('href' attribute) the value of the parameter corresponding to startPage is the number of the next page. <i>In stream mode:</i> <startIndex> + <itemsPerPage> - 1.
<nextGroup>	(none)
<diagnostics>	(none)
<echoedRequest>	the value of the 'href' attribute for the <link> element where the value of the 'rel' attribute is "self".
(none)	startIndex
(none)	itemsPerPage

(none)	Query
--------	-------

## 154 4.2 OpenSearch Response Examples

### 155 Example 1: A page of search results in Atom 1.0

156 The line numbers on the left are added for reference in the analysis below.

```

157 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
158 <feed xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom"
159       xmlns:OpenSearch="http://a9.com/-/spec/OpenSearch/1.1/">
160   <title>Example.com Search: New York history</title>
161   <link href="http://example.com/New+York+history"/>
162   <updated>2003-12-13T18:30:02Z</updated>
163   <author>
164     <name>Example.com, Inc.</name>
165   </author>
166   <id>urn:uuid:60a76c80-d399-11d9-b93C-0003939e0af6</id>
167   1. <OpenSearch:totalResults>4230000</OpenSearch:totalResults>
168   2. <OpenSearch:startIndex>21</OpenSearch:startIndex>
169   3. <OpenSearch:itemsPerPage>10</OpenSearch:itemsPerPage>
170   <OpenSearch:Query
171     4.   role="request" searchTerms="New York History" startPage="1" />
172     <link
173       rel="alternate" href="http://example.com/New+York+History?pw=3"
174       type="text/html"/>
175     <link
176     5.   rel="self"
177       href="http://example.com/New+York+History?pw=3&format=atom"
178       type="application/atom+xml"/>
179     <link
180     6.   rel="first"
181       href="http://example.com/New+York+History?pw=1&format=atom"
182       type="application/atom+xml"/>
183     <link
184     7.   rel="previous"
185       href="http://example.com/New+York+History?pw=2&format=atom"
186       type="application/atom+xml"/>
187     8. <link
188       rel="next"
189       href="http://example.com/New+York+History?pw=4&format=atom"
190       type="application/atom+xml"/>
191     9. <link
192       rel="last"
193       href="http://example.com/New+York+History?pw=4229991&format=atom"
194       type="application/atom+xml"/>
195     <link
196       rel="search" type="application/OpenSearchdescription+xml"
197       href="http://example.com/OpenSearchdescription.xml"/>
198   <entry>
199     <title>New York History</title>
200     <link
201       href="http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eguids/amerihist/nyc.html"/>
202     <id>urn:uuid:1225c695-cfb8-4ebb-aaaa-80da344efa6a</id>
203     <updated>2003-12-13T18:30:02Z</updated>
204     <content type="text">
205       ... Harlem.NYC - A virtual tour and information on
206       businesses ... with historic photos of Columbia's own New York
207       neighborhood ... Internet Resources for the City's History. ...
208     </content>
209   </entry>

```

210

- 211
- 212 **Analysis of the above example.**
- 213 'pw' is the name of the parameter corresponding to the openSearch parameter 'startPage', for this server.
- 214 • Lines 1-3 indicate that there were 4,230,000 results associated with the search term "New York
  - 215 History". This response includes 10 results beginning with result 21 (thus results 21-30).
  - 216 • Line 4 (<query role="request"...>) indicates how to regenerate the request from the beginning of
  - 217 the results (parameters searchTerms="New York History" and startPage="1")
  - 218 • Line 5 indicates that the URL to generate the same request that generated this response (<link
  - 219 rel="self...>) with a response in Atom format (type="application/atom+xml"), is
  - 220 "http://example.com/New+York+History?pw=3&format=atom"
  - 221 • line 6 (rel="first") indicates that the URL to get the first page of results, in atom, is
  - 222 href="http://example.com/New+York+History?pw=1&format=atom".
  - 223 • line 7 (rel="previous") indicates that the URL to get the previous page of results is
  - 224 href="http://example.com/New+York+History?pw=2&format=atom".
  - 225 • line 8 (rel="next") indicates that the URL to get the next page of results is
  - 226 href="http://example.com/New+York+History?pw=4&format=atom".
  - 227 • line 9 (rel="last") indicates that the URL to get the last page of results is
  - 228 href="http://example.com/New+York+History?pw=4229991&format=atom".
- 229

230 **Example 2: a page of search results in the RSS 2.0 format**

```

231 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
232 <rss version="2.0"
233     xmlns:OpenSearch="http://a9.com/-/spec/OpenSearch/1.1/"
234     xmlns:atom="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom">
235   <channel>
236     <title>Example.com Search: New York history</title>
237     <link>http://example.com/New+York+history</link>
238     <description>Search results for "New York history" at
239 Example.com</description>
240     <OpenSearch:totalResults>4230000</OpenSearch:totalResults>
241     <OpenSearch:startIndex>21</OpenSearch:startIndex>
242     <OpenSearch:itemsPerPage>10</OpenSearch:itemsPerPage>
243     <atom:link
244       rel="search" type="application/OpenSearchdescription+xml"
245       href="http://example.com/OpenSearchdescription.xml"/>
246     <OpenSearch:Query
247       role="request" searchTerms="New York History" startPage="1" />
248     <item>
249       <title>New York History</title>
250       <link>http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eguids/amerihist/nyc.html</link>
251       <description>
252         ... Harlem.NYC - A virtual tour and information on
253         businesses ... with historic photos of Columbia's own New York
254         neighborhood ... Internet Resources for the City's History. ...
255       </description>
256     </item>
257   </channel>
258 </rss>

```

260

261 **Example 3** a page of search results in the XHTML 1.0 format

```
262 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
263 <!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
264   "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
265 <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xml:lang="en" lang="en">
266   <head profile="http://a9.com/-/spec/OpenSearch/1.1/" >
267     <title>Example.com Search: New York history</title>
268     <link rel="search"
269           type="application/OpenSearchdescription+xml"
270           href="http://example.com/OpenSearchdescription.xml"
271           title="Example.com Web Search" />
272     <meta name="totalResults" content="4230000"/>
273     <meta name="startIndex" content="1"/>
274     <meta name="itemsPerPage" content="10"/>
275   </head>
276   <body>
277     <ul>
278       <li>
279         <a href="http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eguids/amerihist/nyc.html">
280           New York History
281         </a>
282         <div>
283           ... Harlem.NYC - A virtual tour and information on
284           businesses ... with historic photos of Columbia's own New York
285           neighborhood ... Internet Resources for the City's History. ...
286         </div>
287       </li>
288       <!-- ... -->
289     </ul>
290   </body>
291 </html>
```

---

## 292 5 Open Search Description Document

293 A server providing an OpenSearch interface provides a description document to describe the interface.

294 OpenSearch description documents have the following mime type (pending IANA registration):

295 **application/OpenSearchdescription+xml**

296 OpenSearch description elements (table below) have the following XML Namespaces URI

297 **http://a9.com/-/spec/OpenSearch/1.1/**

### 298 5.1 Description Elements

299 *Table 5: Description Elements*

Element	Occurrence	Description/ Restrictions
OpenSearchDescription	Must occur exactly once (as the root node of the document).	
ShortName	Must occur exactly once.	16 or fewer characters of plain text (no HTML or other markup).
Description	Must occur exactly once.	1024 or fewer characters of plain text (no HTML or other markup).
Url	Must occur one or more times.	See <a href="#">URL Element</a> .
Contact	May occur zero or one time.	Email address for owner of the description document
Tags	May occur zero or one time.	keywords describing search content. One or more single words delimited by spaces. Total 1024 or fewer characters of plain text (no HTML or other markup).
LongName	May occur zero or one time.	An extended human-readable title that identifies this search engine. 48 or fewer characters of plain text (no HTML or other markup).
Image	May occur zero or more times.	URL for an image that can be used in association with this search content. Attributes: height, width, type (MIME); all optional

Element	Occurrence	Description/ Restrictions
Query	May occur zero or one time.	See <a href="#">Query Element</a> .
Developer	May occur zero or one time.	human-readable name or identifier for creator or maintainer of the description document. 64 or fewer characters of plain text (no HTML or other markup).
Attribution		a list of all entities to be credited for the content in the search feed. 256 or fewer characters of plain text (no HTML or other markup).
SyndicationRight		the degree to which search results provided by this search engine can be queried, displayed, and redistributed See table below.
AdultContent	May occur zero or one time.	boolean: true if the search results may contain material intended only for adults.  "false", "FALSE", "0", "no", and "NO" will be considered boolean FALSE; all other strings will be considered boolean TRUE. Default: "false"
Language	May occur zero or more times.	one "Language" element for each language that the search engine supports. Values from RFC 5646. A value of "*" (default) signifies that the search engine does not restrict search results to any particular language.
InputEncoding	May occur zero or more times. (One for each character encoding that can be used to encode search requests.)	as specified by the IANA Character Set Assignments.  Default: "UTF-8".

300

#### Values for Parameter SyndicationRight

value   V right →	The search client may request search results	may display the search results to end users	client may send the search results to other search clients
"open",	yes	yes	yes
"limited"	yes	yes	no
"private"	yes	no	no
"closed"	no	no	no

## 301 5.1.1 URL Element

302 The Url element has the form as shown in the following example:

```
303 <Url
304   type= "application/rss+xml"
305   indexOffset="0"
306   rel="results"
307   template=
308   "http://example.com/search?q={searchTerms}&start={startIndex?}&format=
309   rss"/>
```

### 310 5.1.1.1 Attributes of the URL Element

311 **indexOffset, pageOffset.** The starting number for the first search result or first page of search results,  
312 for index-based and page-based results respectively. Defaults are "1"; the "indexOffset" and "pageOffset"  
313 attributes may be used to inform search clients of different starting values.

314 **type.** The MIME type of the search result format. The 'type' attribute of the <url> element is what the client  
315 uses to determine how to request a specific response format. There may be several <url> elements, each  
316 with a type attribute of a different value. The one with the desired value (mime type) is the one belonging  
317 to the template to use for that response format. This attribute is **required**.

318 **Rel.** The role of the resource being described in relation to the description document. A space-delimited  
319 list of valid rel value, each either a URI or one of the following:

- 320 • "results" (default)  
321 Requests search results in the specified format.
- 322 • "suggestions"  
323 Request search suggestions in the specified format.
- 324 • "self"  
325 Represents the canonical URL of this description document.
- 326 • "collection"  
327 Requests a set of resources.

328 An empty rel attribute value should be treated by the client as if the rel attribute was not present at all. If a  
329 client does not recognize the meaning of a rel value it should ignore it.

330 **template.** See [Template Syntax](#).

### 331 5.1.1.2 Template Syntax

332 The OpenSearch URL template represents a parameterized form of the URL by which a search engine is  
333 queried. The search client will process the URL template and attempt to replace each instance of a  
334 template parameter, generally represented in the form {name}, with a value determined at query time.

335 All parameter names are associated with a namespace; the OpenSearch 1.1 namespace is the default if  
336 no other is indicated. Parameter names are case sensitive.

337 A template parameter is designated as optional by using the "?" as shown in the two examples below.

338 The template parameters are the openSearch request parameters in [table 1](#).



## 339 Examples

340 **Example 1:** a search URL template that contains a template parameter:

341 `http://example.com/search?q={searchTerms}`

342 In this example, the openSearch parameter 'searchTerms', in curly brackets, is an abstract parameter to  
343 be replaced by the actual parameter for this search engine, in this case 'q'. '{searchTerms}' is required as  
344 indicated by the absence of "?"

345 **Example 2:** optional template parameter:

346 `http://example.com/feed/{startPage?}`

347 This example, the question mark, "?", is used to mean that the parameter startPage is optional.

### 348 5.1.2 Query Element

349 The Query element may appear in a description document or search response and is used to supply  
350 search requests that can be performed by a search client.

351 The Query element attributes correspond to the search parameters in a URL template. The core search  
352 parameters are explicitly defined as Query attributes, and custom parameters can be added via  
353 namespaces as needed.

354 At least one Query element with role="example" should be provided in each description document so that  
355 search clients can test the search engine. In addition a Query element with role="request" in each search  
356 response so that search clients can recreate the current search.

#### 357 5.1.2.1 Attributes of the Query Element

358 The query element may contain the following attributes defined in the OpenSearch namespace, as well  
359 as attributes from external namespace.

- 360 • **role.** Required. Values:
- 361 ○ "request" : the search query can be performed to retrieve the same set of search results.
  - 362 ○ "example"
  - 363 ○ "related" :thequery can be performed to retrieve similar but different search results.
  - 364 ○ "correction" : corrected query (e.g. a spelling correction) which can be performed to improve  
365 results set,
  - 366 ○ "subset": a query that will narrow the current set of search results.
  - 367 ○ "superset": a query that will broaden the current set of search results.
- 368 • **title.** Plain text string describing the search request. 256 or fewer characters. optional.
- 369 • **totalResults.** Expected number of results to be found if the search request were made. Optional.
- 370 • **searchTerms, count, startIndex, startPage, language, inputEncoding, outputEncoding.** The value  
371 representing these parameters. All are optional.

### 372 5.1.2.2 Query Element Examples

373 **Example 1:** Query element in a description document to provide an example search request

```
374 <Query role="example" searchTerms="cat" />
```

375

376 **Example 2:** Query element in a response to echo back the original search request

```
377 <Query role="request" searchTerms="cat" startPage="1" />
```

378 **Example 3:** Query element in a response to correct the spelling of "OpenSurch":

```
379 <Query role="correction" searchTerms="OpenSearch" totalResults="854000"  
380 title="Spelling correction"/>
```

381 **Example 4:** An extended parameter

```
382 <Query xmlns:custom="http://example.com/OpenSearchextensions/1.0/"  
383 role="example"  
384 searchTerms="cat"  
385 custom:color="blue"  
386 title="Sample search" />
```

387 **Example 5:** an extended role

```
388 <Query xmlns:custom="http://example.com/OpenSearchextensions/1.0/"  
389 role="custom:synonym"  
390 title="Synonym of 'cat'"  
391 searchTerms="feline" />
```

392

393 **Example 6:** a set of Query elements used in the context of an Atom-based OpenSearch response

```
394 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>  
395 <feed xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom"  
396 xmlns:OpenSearch="http://a9.com/-/spec/OpenSearch/1.1/">  
397 <!-- ... -->  
398 <OpenSearch:Query  
399 role="request" searchTerms="General Motors annual report" />  
400 <OpenSearch:Query  
401 role="related" searchTerms="GM" title="General Motors stock symbol" />  
402 <OpenSearch:Query  
403 role="related" searchTerms="automotive industry revenue" />  
404 <OpenSearch:Query  
405 role="subset" searchTerms="General Motors annual report 2005"  
406 <OpenSearch:Query role="superset" searchTerms="General Motors" />  
407 .....  
408 </feed>
```

## 409 5.2 Example Description Documents

410 **Example 1:** a simple OpenSearch description document

```
411 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>  
412 <OpenSearchDescription xmlns="http://a9.com/-/spec/OpenSearch/1.1/">  
413 <ShortName>Web Search</ShortName>  
414 <Description>Use Example.com to search the Web.</Description>  
415 <Tags>example web</Tags>  
416 <Contact>admin@example.com</Contact>  
417 <Url rel="results"  
418 type="application/rss+xml"  
419 template=  
420 "http://example.com/?q={searchTerms}&pw={startPage?}&format=rss"/>  
421 </OpenSearchDescription>
```

422

423 **Example 2:** a detailed OpenSearch description document

```

424 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
425 <OpenSearchDescription xmlns="http://a9.com/-/spec/OpenSearch/1.1/">
426 <ShortName>Web Search</ShortName>
427 <Description>Use Example.com to search the Web.</Description>
428 <Tags>example web</Tags>
429 <Contact>admin@example.com</Contact>
430 <Url
431 rel="results"
432 type="application/atom+xml"
433 template=
434 "http://example.com/?q={searchTerms}&pw={startPage?}&format=atom"/>
435 <Url
436 rel="results"
437 type="application/rss+xml"
438 template=
439 "http://example.com/?q={searchTerms}&pw={startPage?}&format=rss"/>
440 <Url
441 rel="results"
442 type="text/html"
443 template="http://example.com/?q={searchTerms}&pw={startPage?}"/>
444 <LongName>Example.com Web Search</LongName>
445 <Image height="64" width="64"
446 type="image/png">http://example.com/websearch.png</Image>
447 <Image height="16" width="16"
448 type="image/vnd.microsoft.icon">http://example.com/websearch.ico</Image>
449 <Query role="example" searchTerms="cat" />
450 <Developer>Example.com Development Team</Developer>
451 <Attribution>
452 Search data Copyright 2005, Example.com, Inc., All Rights Reserved
453 </Attribution>
454 <SyndicationRight>open</SyndicationRight>
455 <AdultContent>>false</AdultContent>
456 <Language>en-us</Language>
457 <OutputEncoding>UTF-8</OutputEncoding>
458 <InputEncoding>UTF-8</InputEncoding>
459 </OpenSearchDescription>

```

## 460 5.3 Extensibility

461 OpenSearch description documents can be extended provided that all foreign elements and attributes are  
462 associated with an explicit XML namespace. Clients that encounter unrecognized foreign elements  
463 should ignore them and continue to process the document as if these elements did not appear.

## 464 5.4 Autodiscovery

465 An OpenSearch description documents may include a reference to other OpenSearch description  
466 documents by including "link" elements on search results, with the following attributes/values:

- 467 • type = "application/OpenSearchdescription+xml".
- 468 • rel="search".
- 469 • href= [URI of an OpenSearch description document].
- 470 • title= [human-readable plain text string describing the search engine].

471 And in addition, for HTML and XHTML documents:

- 472 • The HTML <head/> element should include the attribute/value pair:  
473 profile="http://a9.com/-/spec/OpenSearch/1.1/".

## 474 Autodiscovery Examples

475 **Example 1: Atom-based search results with an OpenSearch autodiscovery link element**

476

```
477 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
478 <feed xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom"
479       xmlns:OpenSearch="http://a9.com/-/spec/OpenSearch/1.1/">
480   .....
481   <link rel="search"
482         href="http://example.com/OpenSearchdescription.xml"
483         type="application/OpenSearchdescription+xml"
484         title="Content Search" />
485   .....
486 </feed>
```

487

488

489 **Example 2: RSS-based search results with an OpenSearch autodiscovery link element**

490

```
491 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
492 <rss version="2.0"
493     xmlns:atom="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom">
494   <channel>
495     .....
496     <atom:link rel="search"
497               href="http://example.com/OpenSearchdescription.xml"
498               type="application/OpenSearchdescription+xml"
499               title="Content Search" />
500     .....
501   </channel>
502 </rss>
```

503

504

505 **Example 3: An HTML document that includes OpenSearch autodiscovery link elements**

506

```
507 <!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01//EN"
508 "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/strict.dtd">
509 <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xml:lang="en" lang="en" dir="ltr">
510   <head profile="http://a9.com/-/spec/OpenSearch/1.1/">
511     <!-- ... -->
512     <link rel="search"
513           type="application/OpenSearchdescription+xml"
514           href="http://example.com/content-search.xml"
515           title="Content search" />
516     <link rel="search"
517           type="application/OpenSearchdescription+xml"
518           href="http://example.com/comment-search.xml"
519           title="Comments search" />
520     <!-- ... -->
521   </head>
522   <body>
523     <!-- ... -->
524   </body>
525 </html>
```

526

---

## 527 6 Conformance

### 528 6.1 Client Conformance

529 An OpenSearch client conforms to this specification if:

530 Having retrieved an OpenSearch description document, it MUST be able to extract the <Url> element and  
531 interpret its attributes.

- 532 • In particular, from the 'type' attributes it MUST be able to determine which response formats it  
533 supports; and for each:
- 534 • From the template attribute it MUST be able to replace each instance of a template parameter,  
535 with a value (which may be empty) for that parameter, and formulate a request.

536 This conformance clause does not specify any particular format that a client must support, but it MUST  
537 support at least one.

### 538 6.2 Server Conformance

539 An OpenSearch server conforms to this specification if there exists a discoverable and accessible

540 OpenSearch description document of type application/opensearchdescription+xml. It must be an XML

541 document with:

- 542 • Root element <OpenSearchDescription>.
- 543 • Namespace <http://a9.com/-/spec/opensearch/1.1/>
- 544 • Elements:
  - 545 ○ <ShortName> occurring exactly once.
  - 546 ○ <Description>" occurring exactly once.
  - 547 ○ <Url> occurring one or more times, and each occurrence including the attributes:
    - 548 ▪ 'template', conforming to the [template syntax](#).
    - 549 ▪ 'type' – a valid MIME type.

550

551

---

552 **Appendix A. Acknowledgements**

553 Acknowledgements are supplied in the Overview document:

554 *searchRetrieve: Part 0. Overview Version 1.0*

555 [http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/csd01/part0-overview/searchRetrieve-](http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/csd01/part0-overview/searchRetrieve-v1.0-csd01-part0-overview.doc)

556 [v1.0-csd01-part0-overview.doc](http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/csd01/part0-overview/searchRetrieve-v1.0-csd01-part0-overview.doc)

557