The relationship between information about a (meta)data service described as metadata and its validation by external third parties.

**Transparency & Standards**
Information about a (meta)data service and its resources should be provided transparently following open technical standards and community recommendations in both human and machine readable forms. RDA outputs will help to make consistent how digital objects, (meta)data services, certification authorities & registries interoperate and to foster harmonisation.

**Evidence & Assessment**
(Meta)data services providing information about their functions and activities should include evidence and links to authoritative third parties, such as CoreTrustSeal or FAIR assessment services, enabling validation and assessment by human and automated processes, thus increasing trustworthiness.

**Linking & Aggregation**
As information varies in terms of level of detail, contexts, and time, it should be linked across different services and data providers to foster discovery and aggregation by registries, assessment tools etc. to provide additional value and insights to users.

Initial recommendations:
- (meta)data services must be in control of their own information
- maximise consistency and machine-actionability
- exposure of any particular metadata must not be enforced or mandated
- multiple evaluation tools should be used that support both machine and human-friendly implementation
- providing annotated test datasets for calibration and verification
- badges should make tools and metrics used recognisable to humans
- assessments should be machine readable, making use of existing standards, and include a minimum set of metadata

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