



Federated Content Search for Lexical Resources (LexFCS) *Specification*

Erik Körner, Thomas Eckart, Axel Herold, Frank Wiegand, Frank Michaelis,
Matthias Bremm, Louis Cotgrove, Thorsten Trippel, Felix Rau

Version 0.1, 2023-05-04

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
1.1. Terminology	1
1.2. Glossary	1
1.3. Normative References	2
1.4. Non-Normative References	3
1.5. Typographic and XML Namespace conventions	3
2. LexCQL	5
2.1. Queryable fields / indexes	5
2.1.1. Form and sense definition	5
2.1.2. Grammatical properties (WIP)	5
2.1.3. Semantic relations / Cross-references (WIP)	5
2.1.4. Senses, Entities, Synsets (WIP)	6
2.1.5. Operators (WIP)	6
3. LexFCS Data Views	7
3.1. Extension of the Hits Data View for LexFCS	7
A. Normative Appendix	8
A.1. CQL ContextSet specification	8
A.1.1. Indexes	8
A.1.2. Relations	8
A.1.2.1. Implicit Relations	8
A.1.2.2. Defined Relations	8
A.1.3. Booleans	9
A.1.4. Relation Modifiers / Relation Qualifiers	9
A.1.5. Boolean Modifiers	9
A.1.6. Examples	9

Chapter 1. Introduction

The *Lexical Search for Federated Content Search (LexFCS)* specification is an extension of the *CLARIN Federated Content Search (CLARIN-FCS) - Core 2.0* specification that allows search and retrieval of *lexical resources* including dictionaries, encyclopedias, normative data, terminological databases, ontologies etc.

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 in [RFC2119](#).

1.2. Glossary

NOTE | Based on *Glossary* in [FCS Core 2.0](#) specification.

Aggregator

A module or service to dispatch queries to repositories and collect results.

CLARIN-FCS, FCS

CLARIN federated content search, an interface specification to allow searching within resource content of repositories.

Client

A software component, which implements the interface specification to query Endpoints, i.e. an aggregator or a user-interface.

CQL

Contextual Query Language, previously known as Common Query Language, is a domain specific language for representing queries to information retrieval systems such as search engines, bibliographic catalogs and museum collection information.

Data View

A Data View is a mechanism to support different representations of search results, e.g. a "hits with highlights" view, an image or a geolocation.

Endpoint

A software component, which implements the CLARIN-FCS interface specification and translates between CLARIN-FCS and a search engine.

Hit

A piece of data returned by a Search Engine that matches the search criterion. What is considered a Hit highly depends on Search Engine.

Interface Specification

Common harmonized interface and suite of protocols that repositories need to implement.

PID

A Persistent identifier is a long-lasting reference to a digital object.

Repository Registry

A separate service that allows registering Repositories and their Endpoints and provides information about these to other components, e.g. an Aggregator. The [CLARIN Center Registry](#) is an implementation of such a repository registry.

Resource

A searchable and addressable entity at an Endpoint, such as a text corpus or a multi-modal corpus.

Resource Fragment

A smaller unit in a Resource, e.g. a sentence in a text corpus or a time interval in an audio transcription.

Result Set

An (ordered) set of hits that match a search criterion produced by a search engine as the result of processing a query.

Search Engine

A software component within a repository that allows for searching within the repository contents.

SRU

[Search and Retrieve via URL](#) is a protocol for Internet search queries. Originally introduced by Library of Congress [LOC-SRU12](#), later standardization process moved to OASIS [OASIS-SRU12](#), [OASIS-SRU20](#).

1.3. Normative References

NOTE | Based on *Normative References* in [FCS Core 2.0](#) specification.

RFC2119

Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels, IETF RFC 2119, March 1997, <https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.html>

XML-Namespaces

Namespaces in XML 1.0 (Third Edition), W3C, 8 December 2009, <http://www.w3.org/TR/2009/REC-xml-names-20091208/>

OASIS-SRU-Overview

searchRetrieve: Part 0. Overview Version 1.0, OASIS, January 2013, <http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/os/part0-overview/searchRetrieve-v1.0-os-part0-overview.html> (DOC), (PDF)

OASIS-SRU12

searchRetrieve: Part 2. SRU searchRetrieve Operation: APD Binding for SRU 1.2 Version 1.0, OASIS, January 2013, <http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/os/part2-sru1.2/searchRetrieve-v1.0-os-part2-sru1.2.html> (DOC), (PDF)

OASIS-SRU20

searchRetrieve: Part 3. SRU searchRetrieve Operation: APD Binding for SRU 2.0 Version 1.0, OASIS, January 2013, <http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/os/part3-sru2.0/searchRetrieve-v1.0-os-part3-sru2.0.html> (DOC), (PDF)

OASIS-CQL

searchRetrieve: Part 5. CQL: The Contextual Query Language version 1.0, OASIS, January 2013, <http://docs.oasis-open.org/search-ws/searchRetrieve/v1.0/os/part5-cql/searchRetrieve-v1.0-os-part5-cql.html> (DOC), (PDF)

LOC-SRU12

SRU Version 1.2: SRU Search/Retrieve Operation, Library of Congress, <http://www.loc.gov/standards/sru/sru-1-2.html>

LOC-CQL

The *Contextual Query Language*, Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/standards/sru/cql/>, see also [OASIS-CQL](#)

LOC-CQLCS

The *CQL Context Set*, Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/standards/sru/cql/contextSets/theCqlContextSet.html>

CLARIN-FCS20Core

CLARIN Federated Content Search (CLARIN-FCS) - Core 2.0 specification, SCCTC FCS Task-Force, <https://office.clarin.eu/v/CE-2017-1046-FCS-Specification-v89.pdf>

1.4. Non-Normative References

UD-POS

Universal Dependencies, Universal POS tags v2.0, <https://universaldependencies.org/u/pos/>

1.5. Typographic and XML Namespace conventions

Sections that are still in discussion and not yet finalized are marked with **(WIP)** and may optionally have some *NOTE* admonition blocks. Details and specifications **MUST NOT** be considered stable.

The following typographic conventions for XML fragments will be used throughout this specification:

- `<prefix:Element>`

An XML element with the Generic Identifier *Element* that is bound to an XML namespace denoted by the prefix *prefix*.

- **@attr**

An XML attribute with the name *attr*.

- **string**

The literal *string* must be used either as element content or attribute value.

Endpoints and Clients **MUST** adhere to the [XML-Namespaces](#) specification. The CLARIN-FCS interface specification generally does not dictate whether XML elements should be serialized in their prefixed or non-prefixed syntax, but Endpoints **MUST** ensure that the correct XML namespace is used for elements and that XML namespaces are declared correctly. Clients **MUST** be agnostic regarding syntax for serializing the XML elements, i.e. if the prefixed or un-prefixed variant was used, and **SHOULD** operate solely on *expanded names*, i.e. pairs of *namespace name* and *local name*.

For a list of common XML namespace names and prefixes see the table "XML Namespaces and prefixes" in section 1.5 of the [FCS Core 2.0 Specification](#).

[1] **SHOULD** be used as default query field

Chapter 2. LexCQL

The LexCQL makes use of the [Contextual Query Language \(CQL\)](#) for queries on lexical resources in the context of the FCS. This has the benefit of using an existing, well-known and standardized query language with an established ecosystem, including libraries, parsers and extensive documentation. The proposed Context Set can be found in section [CQL ContextSet specification](#).

LexCQL queries should offer the greatest possible compatibility and flexibility to users, i.e. it **SHOULD** allow the retrieval of lexical records which are available in different spelling or normalisation variants (upper/lower case; diacritics/umlauts; other forms of normalization) with a simple query. It therefore should make it easier to formulate meaningful queries, reduce frustration caused by missing or incomplete results and also enable fuzzy search functionality. Endpoints **SHOULD** support this flexible, user-oriented handling, but are always free to rank more suitable results higher.

However, users **SHOULD** also be given the option of "*sharpening*" search queries using optional operators or modifiers, to refine queries and the associated result sets.

2.1. Queryable fields / indexes

Every LexCQL Endpoint **MUST** support queries for field **Lemma** (at least implicitly as default field) and **SHOULD** support as many queryable fields as feasible.

2.1.1. Form and sense definition

- **lemma**: Lemma, main form, article name ^[1]
- **def**: Definition

2.1.2. Grammatical properties (WIP)

NOTE Analogous to [TEI Lex-0 types](#) .

- **pos**: Part of speech ^[1 - Introduction]

NOTE *Open question*: all TEI Lex-0 vocabulary (like case, gender, etc.)?

2.1.3. Semantic relations / Cross-references (WIP)

NOTE Analogous to [TEI Lex-0 types](#) with **xr** Context Set.

- **xr\$synonymy**: Synonym
- **xr\$hyponymy**: Hyponym
- **xr\$hypernymy**: Hyperonym
- **xr\$meronymy**: Meronym
- **xr\$antonymy**: Antonym

NOTE | *Open question: how exactly do search scenarios look like here?*

Examples

- `pos = "NOUN" AND xr$synonymy = "house"`

Searching for nouns that are synonyms to "house".

2.1.4. Senses, Entities, Synsets (WIP)

- `senseRef`: References to external sense definitions (like Princeton WordNet, GermaNet, Interlingual Index, authority files)

Examples

- `senseRef = "https://d-nb.info/gnd/118571249"`

Searching for all references of the entity <https://d-nb.info/gnd/118571249> (person "Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz").

- `senseRef = "wordnet:study%2:31:02::"`

Searching for sense "study" (`study%2:31:02::`, *analyze, analyse, study, examine, canvass*).

NOTE

Some inventory of authorities or lookups should be defined and agreed on. Otherwise, it is up to the Endpoint to interpret the senses correctly.

Open questions:

- Standard way of referencing Princeton WordNet senses?

2.1.5. Operators (WIP)

- Partial or full match of an *index*
 - = for full match?

NOTE

Very generic definition in [CQL Context Set](#) specification.

Open questions:

- Taking into account lower/uppercase normalisation of Umlauts?
- CQL operators for partial matches or usage of `/approx?`
- Regular expressions?
- Combination with `AND / OR` and parentheses (...)

NOTE

Leave full support to the endpoints!

[0] Potential use of the [Universal Dependencies POS tags](#)

Chapter 3. LexFCS Data Views

Data formats for result representation.

3.1. Extension of the Hits Data View for LexFCS

Based on:

- [FCS Core 2.0 specification](#) (section "Basic Search", §2.2.3.2)
- Hits XML schema "[DataView-Hits.xsd](#)"

Example of basic Hits Data View

```
<!-- potential @pid and @ref attributes omitted -->
<fcs:DataView type="application/x-clarin-fcs-hits+xml">
  <hits:Result xmlns:hits="http://clarin.eu/fcs/dataview/hits">The quick brown
  <hits:Hit>fox</hits:Hit> jumps over the lazy<hits:Hit>dog</hits:Hit>.</hits:Result>
</fcs:DataView>
```

Reuse of the `<hits:Hit>` element, with the extension of content hinting by using an optional attribute `@kind` with the following allowed values:

- `lex-lemma`: Lemma,
- `lex-pos`: Part of speech,
- `lex-def`: Definition.

Textual content outside of `<hits:Hit>` are displayed unchanged.

Example of extended Hits Data View with additional @kind attributes

```
<fcs:DataView type="application/x-textplus-fcs-hits+xml">
  <hits:Result xmlns:hits="http://textplus.org/fcs/dataview/hits"><hits:Hit kind="lex-
  lemma">Apple</hits:Hit>: <hits:Hit kind="lex-pos">NOUN</hits:Hit>. <hits:Hit
  kind="lex-def">An apple is an edible fruit produced by an apple
  tree.</hits:Hit></hits:Result>
</fcs:DataView>
```

Endpoints **MUST** generate responses that are valid according to the XML schema "[DataView-LexHits.xsd](#)".

A. Normative Appendix

A.1. CQL ContextSet specification

Used identifier: <http://text-plus.org/cql/lexres/1.0/> (draft)

Recommended prefix: **lexres**

TIP

For more examples of CQL ContextSets, see the [list of Context Sets](#) at the Library of Congress (LoC).

A.1.1. Indexes

TIP

For more information about CQL indexes, see [The CQL Context Set, section "INDEXES"](#).

Index title	Description	Details/Open questions
lemma	Lemma name	Support of multiword expressions?
pos	Part of Speech	Use of Universal POS tags . Allow custom tag sets?
def	Definition	
xr\$synonymy, ...	Semantic relations, analogous to types in TEI Lex0	Only <i>Synonym</i> , <i>Hyponym</i> , <i>Hyperonym</i> , <i>Meronym</i> , <i>Antonym</i> , or additional relations?
senseRef	Sense, Entity, ... - URI/ID pointint to unique identifier, e.g. for disambiguation	Any URI allowed? Defined subsets (using prefixes)? Subdivision by type (e.g. synset/sense or entity, ...)?

A.1.2. Relations

TIP

More information about CQL relations can be found [The CQL Context Set, section "RELATIONS"](#).

A.1.2.1. Implicit Relations

• =

Different functions based on index. Suggested use:

- Full match for **lemma** and **def**,
- for other indexes (like **pos**) use as "contained in" (Endpoint-dependent behaviour).

A.1.2.2. Defined Relations

(potential definition of full/partial match in the future)

A.1.3. Booleans

TIP

For more information about Booleans in CQL, see [The CQL Context Set, section "BOOLEANS"](#).

- **AND**
- **OR**
- **NOT** (*might be unnecessary*)
- **PROX** (*might be obsolete*)

A.1.4. Relation Modifiers / Relation Qualifiers

TIP

For more information about relation modifiers/qualifiers, see [The CQL Context Set, section "RELATION MODIFIERS"](#).

none

- = with `/contains`, `/startswith`, `/endswith`, `/fullmatch`, `/partialmatch` modifiers

A.1.5. Boolean Modifiers

TIP

More information about Boolean modifiers can be found [The CQL Context Set, section "BOOLEAN MODIFIERS"](#).

none

A.1.6. Examples

1. `cat, "cat", "United Nations"`
Searching in the default index; `cql.word` or `lemma`
2. `pos = ADJ`
Search for adjectives
3. `def = "cat"`
Search for records whose definition contains the term "cat".
TODO: Stemming, Lower/Uppercase, Subword-Matches
4. `pos = NOUN AND (NOT lion) AND def = carnivore`
Search for nouns with "carnivore" in definition; exclusion of records with "lion"