

What is ADL?

Archetype Definition Language, or ADL, is a formal language for expressing archetypes, and can be categorised as a **knowledge description language**. It provides a formal, abstract syntax for describing constraints on any domain entity whose data is described by an information model (e.g. expressed in UML/OCL). The syntax is congruent with Frame Logic ([PDF¹](#) of original paper by Michael Kifer) queries. It is primarily useful when very generic information models are used for representing all data in a system, for example, where the logical concepts Patient, Doctor and Hospital might all be represented using the class Party, Address, and related generic classes. Archetypes are then used to constrain the *valid structures* of instances of these generic classes to represent the desired domain concepts. In this way *future-proof* information systems can be built - relatively simple information models and database schemas can be defined, and archetypes supply the specific modelling, completely outside the software.

The **official specification** of ADL 1.4 is available [here²](#) (640k PDF). The **ADL 2.0** specification is [here³](#). See the [specification project⁴](#) for later releases.

Fields

Name	Value
FAQCategory	Archetypes

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1. <ftp://ftp.cs.sunysb.edu/pub/TechReports/kifer/flogic.pdf>
 2. <http://www.openehr.org/releases/1.0.1/architecture/am/adl.pdf>
 3. <http://www.openehr.org/releases/1.0.1/architecture/am/adl2.pdf>
 4. http://www.openehr.org/specifications/spec_strategy.html