

Introduction to the PDS4 Document Set October 30, 2011

The following nine ‘documents’ describe the Planetary Data System version 4 (PDS4). They are listed roughly from general to specific — probably the same order in which you should read them.

1. **Introduction** – This document — a guide to get you started.
2. **Concepts Document** – Introduction to PDS4 key concepts — the view from 10000 feet, avoiding gory details.
3. **Glossary** – A concise set of definitions for key PDS4 terms. Although primarily intended as a quick reference, the *Glossary* is organized functionally, presenting terms in the approximate order in which you are likely to encounter them.
4. **Jumpstart Guide** – A brief introduction to PDS4 in terms of analogous PDS3 vocabulary. Experienced PDS3 users should read it once, noting both the parallels and the differences; then set it aside. People not familiar with PDS3 should skip it; concentrate on the *Concepts Document*.
5. **Data Dictionary Tutorial** – An introduction to the terms, structure and organization of the PDS4 *Data Dictionary*.
6. **Data Preparer’s Handbook** – A cookbook to guide data providers step-by-step through the process of developing an archive.

The remaining three are reference documents — don’t try to read them cover to cover.

7. **Standards Reference** – One of the two fundamental reference documents for PDS4. You will need this as you work your way through the *Data Provider’s Handbook* and as you prepare an archive.
8. **Data Dictionary** – The other fundamental reference for PDS4. It comes in two versions, abridged and unabridged. Use the abridged version unless you encounter a specific instance in which the information in the more detailed unabridged version is required. The abridged version has been abstracted from the unabridged version with the needs of data providers and data end users in mind. It contains full definitions but not all the fine detail or repetition necessary to support the underlying *Information Model*.
9. **Examples** – A set of products, collections, bundles, and packages that illustrates design concepts and goals. Frequently referenced by [6] and to be used in conjunction with [6-8] when constructing an archive.