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# NSMetadataItem Class Reference

[Cocoa](#) > [File Management](#)



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# NSMetadataItem Class Reference

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<b>Inherits from</b>	NSObject
<b>Conforms to</b>	NSObject (NSObject)
<b>Framework</b>	/System/Library/Frameworks/Foundation.framework
<b>Availability</b>	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.
<b>Declared in</b>	NSMetadata.h
<b>Companion guides</b>	Spotlight Query Programming Guide Spotlight Metadata Attributes Reference
<b>Related sample code</b>	CoreRecipes iSpend PredicateEditorSample

## Overview

The `NSMetadataItem` class represents the metadata associated with a file, providing a simple interface to retrieve the available attribute names and values.

## Adopted Protocols

NSCopying  
`copyWithZone:`

## Tasks

### Getting Item Attributes

- `attributes` (page 6)  
Returns an array containing the attribute names of the receiver's values.
- `valueForAttribute:` (page 6)  
Returns the receiver's metadata attribute name specified by a given key.

- [valuesForAttributes:](#) (page 6)

Returns a dictionary containing the key-value pairs for the attribute names specified by a given array of keys.

## Instance Methods

### attributes

Returns an array containing the attribute names of the receiver's values.

- (NSArray \*)attributes

#### Return Value

An array containing the attribute names of the receiver's values.

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

#### Declared In

NSMetadata.h

### valueForAttribute:

Returns the receiver's metadata attribute name specified by a given key.

- (id)valueForAttribute:(NSString \*)key

#### Parameters

*key*

The name of a metadata attribute.

#### Return Value

The receiver's metadata attribute name specified by *key*.

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

#### Related Sample Code

CoreRecipes

PredicateEditorSample

#### Declared In

NSMetadata.h

### valuesForAttributes:

Returns a dictionary containing the key-value pairs for the attribute names specified by a given array of keys.

- (NSDictionary \*)valuesForAttributes:(NSArray \*)keys

**Parameters**

*keys*

An array containing `NSString` objects that specify the names of a metadata attributes.

**Return Value**

A dictionary containing the key-value pairs for the attribute names specified by *keys*.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

**Declared In**

`NSMetadata.h`



# Document Revision History

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This table describes the changes to *NSMetadataItem Class Reference*.

Date	Notes
2006-05-23	First publication of this content as a separate document.

## REVISION HISTORY

### Document Revision History

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## V

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