

**CIFLIB  
C Language  
Application Program Interface  
Reference Guide**

**CIFLIB Version 1.12**

**Based on Dictionary Description Language v. 2.1  
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## **CIFLIB - C Language Application Program Interface**

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# Contents

|          |  |           |
|----------|--|-----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Introduction</b>                            | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>2</b> | <b>C Language Interface Description</b>        | <b>10</b> |
| 2.1      | CIFLIB Terminology . . . . .                   | 11        |
| 2.2      | CIFLIB File Access Functions . . . . .         | 13        |
| 2.2.1    | cifInit . . . . .                              | 14        |
| 2.2.2    | cifFree . . . . .                              | 16        |
| 2.2.3    | cifReadFile . . . . .                          | 17        |
| 2.2.4    | cifSaveFile . . . . .                          | 19        |
| 2.2.5    | cifCloseFile . . . . .                         | 20        |
| 2.2.6    | cifWriteFile . . . . .                         | 21        |
| 2.2.7    | cifWriteDataBlock . . . . .                    | 23        |
| 2.3      | CIFLIB Schema Construction Functions . . . . . | 25        |
| 2.3.1    | cifConstructSchema . . . . .                   | 26        |
| 2.3.2    | cifConstructSchemaByAlias . . . . .            | 27        |
| 2.3.3    | cifConstructSchemas . . . . .                  | 28        |
| 2.3.4    | cifConstructSchemasByAlias . . . . .           | 29        |
| 2.3.5    | cifFreeSchema . . . . .                        | 30        |
| 2.3.6    | cifFreeSchemas . . . . .                       | 31        |
| 2.3.7    | cifPrintSchema . . . . .                       | 32        |
| 2.3.8    | cifPrintSchemas . . . . .                      | 33        |
| 2.4      | CIFLIB Data Block Access Functions . . . . .   | 34        |
| 2.4.1    | cifCountDataBlocks . . . . .                   | 35        |
| 2.4.2    | cifGetDataBlockName . . . . .                  | 36        |
| 2.4.3    | cifGetDataBlockNames . . . . .                 | 37        |
| 2.4.4    | cifGetDataBlockIndex . . . . .                 | 38        |
| 2.4.5    | cifGetDataBlockDictionaryIndex . . . . .       | 39        |
| 2.4.6    | cifGetDataBlockFileName . . . . .              | 40        |
| 2.4.7    | cifGetDataBlockFileNameByIndex . . . . .       | 41        |

|        |  |    |
|--------|--|----|
| 2.4.8  | cifGetDataBlockFileOffset . . . . .              | 42 |
| 2.4.9  | cifGetDataBlockFileOffsetByIndex . . . . .       | 43 |
| 2.4.10 | cifDeleteDataBlock . . . . .                     | 44 |
| 2.4.11 | cifDeleteDataBlockByIndex . . . . .              | 45 |
| 2.5    | CIFLIB Category Access Functions . . . . .       | 46 |
| 2.5.1  | cifCountCategories . . . . .                     | 47 |
| 2.5.2  | cifCountCategoriesByIndex . . . . .              | 48 |
| 2.5.3  | cifGetCategoryName . . . . .                     | 49 |
| 2.5.4  | cifGetCategoryNames . . . . .                    | 50 |
| 2.5.5  | cifGetCategoryNameByIndex . . . . .              | 51 |
| 2.5.6  | cifGetCategoryNamesByIndex . . . . .             | 52 |
| 2.5.7  | cifGetCategoryIndex . . . . .                    | 53 |
| 2.5.8  | cifGetCategoryKeys . . . . .                     | 54 |
| 2.5.9  | cifGetCategoryKeysByIndex . . . . .              | 55 |
| 2.5.10 | cifCountRows . . . . .                           | 56 |
| 2.5.11 | cifCountRowsByIndex . . . . .                    | 57 |
| 2.5.12 | cifCountColumns . . . . .                        | 58 |
| 2.5.13 | cifCountColumnsByIndex . . . . .                 | 59 |
| 2.6    | CIFLIB Category Group Access Functions . . . . . | 60 |
| 2.6.1  | cifGetCategoryGroups . . . . .                   | 61 |
| 2.6.2  | cifGetCategoryGroupsByIndex . . . . .            | 62 |
| 2.6.3  | cifGetCategoriesInCategoryGroup . . . . .        | 63 |
| 2.7    | CIFLIB Subcategory Access Functions . . . . .    | 64 |
| 2.7.1  | cifGetSubcategories . . . . .                    | 65 |
| 2.7.2  | cifGetItemNamesInSubcategory . . . . .           | 66 |
| 2.7.3  | cifGetItemKeywordsInSubcategory . . . . .        | 67 |
| 2.8    | CIFLIB Item Access Functions . . . . .           | 68 |
| 2.8.1  | cifGetItemKeyword . . . . .                      | 69 |
| 2.8.2  | cifGetItemKeywordByIndex . . . . .               | 70 |
| 2.8.3  | cifGetItemKeywords . . . . .                     | 71 |

|        |  |     |
|--------|--|-----|
| 2.8.4  | cifGetItemKeywordsByIndex . . . . .          | 72  |
| 2.8.5  | cifGetItemName . . . . .                     | 73  |
| 2.8.6  | cifGetItemNameByIndex . . . . .              | 74  |
| 2.8.7  | cifGetItemNames . . . . .                    | 75  |
| 2.8.8  | cifGetItemNamesByIndex . . . . .             | 76  |
| 2.8.9  | cifGetItemAliasName . . . . .                | 77  |
| 2.8.10 | cifGetItemAliasNameByIndex . . . . .         | 78  |
| 2.8.11 | cifGetItemAliasNames . . . . .               | 79  |
| 2.8.12 | cifGetItemAliasNamesByIndex . . . . .        | 80  |
| 2.9    | CIFLIB Item Value Access Functions . . . . . | 81  |
| 2.9.1  | cifGetItemValue . . . . .                    | 82  |
| 2.9.2  | cifGetItemValueByIndex . . . . .             | 84  |
| 2.9.3  | cifGetItemValueByAlias . . . . .             | 86  |
| 2.9.4  | cifGetRow . . . . .                          | 88  |
| 2.9.5  | cifGetRowByIndex . . . . .                   | 90  |
| 2.9.6  | cifGetColumn . . . . .                       | 92  |
| 2.9.7  | cifGetColumnByIndex . . . . .                | 94  |
| 2.10   | CIFLIB Item Value Update Functions . . . . . | 96  |
| 2.10.1 | cifUpdateItemValue . . . . .                 | 97  |
| 2.10.2 | cifUpdateItemValueByIndex . . . . .          | 99  |
| 2.10.3 | cifUpdateItemValueByAlias . . . . .          | 101 |
| 2.10.4 | cifAddRow . . . . .                          | 102 |
| 2.10.5 | cifAddRowByIndex . . . . .                   | 103 |
| 2.11   | CIFLIB Item Convenience Functions . . . . .  | 104 |
| 2.11.1 | cifGetItemFileOffset . . . . .               | 105 |
| 2.11.2 | cifGetItemCaseSensitivity . . . . .          | 106 |
| 2.11.3 | cifGetItemCaseSensitivityByIndex . . . . .   | 107 |
| 2.11.4 | cifGetItemDefaultValue . . . . .             | 108 |
| 2.11.5 | cifGetItemDefaultValueByIndex . . . . .      | 109 |
| 2.11.6 | cifGetItemPrimitiveCode . . . . .            | 110 |

|         |   |     |
|---------|---|-----|
| 2.11.7  | <code>cifGetItemPrimitiveCodeByIndex</code>   | 111 |
| 2.12    | CIFLIB Parent/Child Access Functions          | 112 |
| 2.12.1  | <code>cifGetParentItemNames</code>            | 113 |
| 2.12.2  | <code>cifGetChildItemNames</code>             | 114 |
| 2.12.3  | <code>cifGetParentIndexList</code>            | 115 |
| 2.12.4  | <code>cifGetChildIndexList</code>             | 117 |
| 2.13    | CIFLIB Schema Extension Functions             | 119 |
| 2.13.1  | <code>cifAddDataBlock</code>                  | 120 |
| 2.13.2  | <code>cifAddCategory</code>                   | 121 |
| 2.13.3  | <code>cifAddItem</code>                       | 122 |
| 2.14    | CIFLIB Error Handling and Print Functions     | 123 |
| 2.14.1  | <code>cifErrorMessage</code>                  | 124 |
| 2.14.2  | <code>cifCountDataBlockErrors</code>          | 125 |
| 2.14.3  | <code>cifCountDataBlockErrorsByIndex</code>   | 126 |
| 2.14.4  | <code>cifCountDataBlockWarnings</code>        | 127 |
| 2.14.5  | <code>cifCountDataBlockWarningsByIndex</code> | 128 |
| 2.14.6  | <code>cifGetDataBlockErrors</code>            | 129 |
| 2.14.7  | <code>cifGetDataBlockErrorsByIndex</code>     | 130 |
| 2.14.8  | <code>cifGetDataBlockWarnings</code>          | 131 |
| 2.14.9  | <code>cifGetDataBlockWarningsByIndex</code>   | 132 |
| 2.14.10 | <code>cifGetDataBlockError</code>             | 133 |
| 2.14.11 | <code>cifGetDataBlockErrorByIndex</code>      | 134 |
| 2.14.12 | <code>cifGetDataBlockWarning</code>           | 135 |
| 2.14.13 | <code>cifGetDataBlockWarningByIndex</code>    | 136 |
| 2.14.14 | <code>cifFreeDataBlockError</code>            | 137 |
| 2.14.15 | <code>cifFreeDataBlockErrorByIndex</code>     | 138 |
| 2.14.16 | <code>cifFreeDataBlockWarning</code>          | 139 |
| 2.14.17 | <code>cifFreeDataBlockWarningByIndex</code>   | 140 |
| 2.14.18 | <code>cifFreeDataBlockErrors</code>           | 141 |
| 2.14.19 | <code>cifFreeDataBlockErrorsByIndex</code>    | 142 |

|         |   |     |
|---------|---|-----|
| 2.14.20 | cifFreeDataBlockWarnings . . . . .                | 143 |
| 2.14.21 | cifFreeDataBlockWarningsByIndex . . . . .         | 144 |
| 2.14.22 | cifPrintDataBlock . . . . .                       | 145 |
| 2.14.23 | cifPrintDataBlockByIndex . . . . .                | 146 |
| 2.15    | Missing Functionality and Documentation . . . . . | 147 |

# 1 Introduction

CIFLIB [1] is a class library that was developed by the Nucleic Acid Database (NDB) Project [2] to provide an application interface to Crystallographic Information File (CIF) [3, 4, 5, 6] data. CIFLIB is designed to completely encapsulate all I/O operations and integrity checking on CIF dictionaries and data files from a calling application. CIFLIB performs the following functions:

- reads and writes CIF format data files and dictionaries.
- provides read and write access for individual data items.
- performs detailed integrity checks on CIF data and dictionaries as defined by the Dictionary Description Language (DDL) 2.1 [7, 8, 9, 10].
- provides utility methods for navigating a CIF schema
- provides a stable callable interface in C, C++ and FORTRAN.

Figure 1 illustrates how this software library facilitates using CIF as an interchange format in the automated data processing scheme used by the NDB. As the figure illustrates, CIFLIB provides complete access to the DDL, CIF dictionaries and CIF data files. This library can be used to build wrappers and filters around existing applications which need to access CIF data. Because CIFLIB provides complete access to the dictionary schema, the library can be conveniently used as an in-memory database or as a loader for an external database.

This is the first in a series of documents that will present the features of CIFLIB. In this document, the C language application interface [11] for CIFLIB is described.



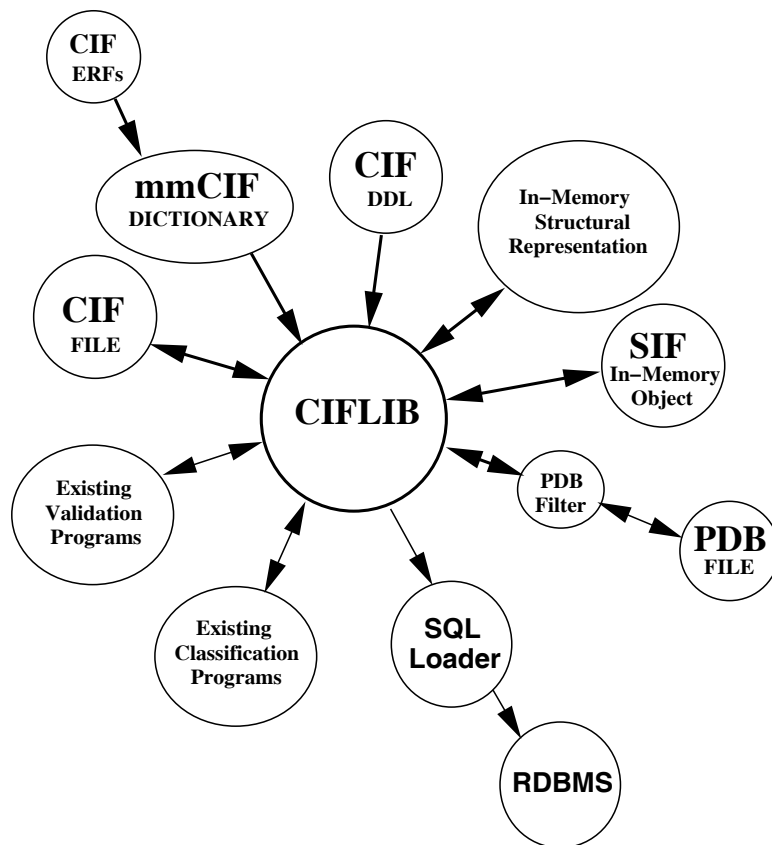


Figure 1: Functional diagram of CIFLIB

## 2 C Language Interface Description

This section describes the C language application program interface to CIFLIB. The description of this interface has been divided into the following subsections:

- Terminology
- Functions which construct and access CIF schema
- Functions which perform file operations, initialization, and housekeeping
- Functions which operate on or provide information about data blocks
- Functions which operate on or provide information about categories
- Functions which operate on or provide information about category groups
- Functions which operate on or provide information about subcategories
- Functions which operate on or provide information about data items
- Functions which return data item values
- Functions which update data item values
- Various item convenience functions
- Functions which return parent/child relationship information
- Functions which return parent/child values
- Functions which manage error handling and printing
- Missing functionality

## 2.1 CIFLIB Terminology

In order to ensure uniformity in the description and identification of variables and functions in the CIFLIB C language interface, an attempt has been made to use the following terminology in a consistent manner.

**file** physical or persistent instance of a collection of data blocks in the I/O subsystem of an operating system.

**path** the location of a file or directory in the I/O subsystem of an operating system.

**data block** a named container for CIF definitions and declarations. A data block defines a unit of scope in a CIF dictionary of data file.

**definition** a named collection of data item declarations encapsulated in a `save_` block.

**declaration** the instance of a CIF item.

**dictionary** a CIF data block containing a collection of definitions.

**item** the basic unit of CIF information composed of a keyword and value pair.

**item name** the full identifier of CIF item which is the concatenation of the category name, a dot, and the keyword name.

**keyword** the name of a CIF item within a CIF category.

**value** the data associated with a CIF item.

**category** a table of item values with a well defined basis. Key item values define the basis for the category and uniquely identify each tuple of item values in the category.

**subcategory** a named collection of items within a CIF category.

**category group** a named collection of CIF categories.

The following terminology has been used when referring to categories and category components:

**row** a tuple of item values.

**column** a list of item values.

**row index** a zero based index identifying the row order.

**column index** a zero based index identifying the column order.

## 2.2 CIFLIB File Access Functions

Accessing data in a CIF format using CIFLIB is a multistep process. CIFLIB first reads a DDL file. Although much of CIFLIB is hardwired for DDL 2.1, many DDL attributes act simply as placeholders for information and can be extended without modification to the library. The DDL is also checked against itself using internally coded rules based on DDL 2.1.

Once the DDL is read, a CIF dictionary based on this DDL can be read and checked. This process can be quite time consuming for large dictionaries, so a provision has been made to retain the state of any file which has been checked in an auxiliary file. This auxiliary file will be used in preference to the original file in subsequent file accesses if its modification date is more recent.

Finally, CIF data files are read with respect to a CIF dictionary. In any file access, CIFLIB provides complete access to the data blocks containing the DDL, the CIF dictionary, and any number of blocks containing user data.

The following sections present the set of functions which provide access to files containing CIF DDL, dictionaries, and data files. Initialization and housekeeping functions are also presented.

## 2.2.1 `cifInit`

### NAME

*cifInit*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifInit(const char *ddlFilename,
            const int  verify,
            const int  verbose)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifInit* performs all initialization functions for CIFLIB. This function must be called before any other CIFLIB functions. *cifInit* reads the named DDL file and optionally performs data integrity checks on this file with respect to the DDL 2.1 vocabulary. Normally, *cifInit* is called to read the DDL and to build the schema into which a dictionary can be loaded. A CIF dictionary is then read using *cifReadFile* and specifying the DDL as the validation dictionary. Data files are then read using *cifReadFile* and specifying the CIF dictionary as the validation dictionary. The value of the `verify` argument determines if integrity processing is performed in all subsequent read operations. If the `verbose` argument is selected then CIFLIB will generate informational messages describing its internal operations.

### RECEIVES

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <code>ddlFileName</code> | path name of DDL file   |
| <code>verify</code>      | a non-zero value activates integrity checking   |
| <code>verbose</code>     | a non-zero value activates verbose output of diagnostic and informational messages from all library functions |

## RETURN VALUE

Returns 1 if the function could successfully parse the input DDL file, or 0 if an unrecoverable parsing error occurs. Even if the file is successfully parsed, warning and error messages may exist which can be examined using the routines described in Section 2.14. *cifInit* returns the following additional codes:

|                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| CIF_ALLOCATION_FAILURE          | memory allocation error |
| CIF_NOT_EXIST                   | missing DDL file        |
| CIF_OPERATION_DISALLOWED        | miscellaneous error     |
| CIF_OPERATION_PERMISSION_DENIED | file permission error   |

## REMARKS

See also:            `cifFree`  
                      `cifReadFile`

## 2.2.2 `cifFree`

### NAME

*cifFree*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void cifFree()
```

### PURPOSE

*cifFree* gracefully deallocates all internal CIFLIB data structures. This is the preferred way to close the interaction of a program with CIFLIB.

### RECEIVES

No arguments

### RETURN VALUE

None

### REMARKS

See also: `ciflnit`



### 2.2.3 `cifReadFile`

#### NAME

*cifReadFile*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int  cifReadFile(const char *fileName,
                 const char *dicDataBlockName)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifReadFile* reads the named file and optionally performs data integrity checks on this file with respect to the named validation dictionary. Normally, *cifInit* is called to read the DDL and build the schema into which a dictionary can be loaded. A CIF dictionary is then read using *cifReadFile* and specifying the DDL as the validation dictionary. Data files are then read using *cifReadFile* specifying as an argument the CIF dictionary to be used for integrity processing. After integrity processing has been performed, the internal representation of the input file is saved in an auxiliary file. Auxiliary files are stored in a concealed directory `.ciflib` within the directory containing the input file. The auxiliary file will be used by CIFLIB in all future accesses of the input file if its modification date is more recent than the input file.

## RECEIVES

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <code>fileName</code>         | path name of input file                                     |
| <code>dicDataBlockName</code> | name of the data block containing the validation dictionary |

## RETURN VALUE

Returns 1 if the function could successfully parse the input file, or 0 if an unrecoverable parsing error occurs. Even if the file is successfully parsed, warning and error messages may exist which can be examined using the routines described in Section 2.14. *cifInit* returns the following additional codes:

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| <code>CIF_ALLOCATION_FAILURE</code>          | memory allocation error |
| <code>CIF_NOT_EXIST</code>                   | missing DDL file        |
| <code>CIF_OPERATION_DISALLOWED</code>        | miscellaneous error     |
| <code>CIF_OPERATION_PERMISSION_DENIED</code> | file permission error   |

## REMARKS

See also:

- cifInit*
- cifSaveFile*
- cifCloseFile*
- cifWriteFile*
- cifWriteDataBlock*

## 2.2.4 cifSaveFile

### NAME

*cifSaveFile*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void cifSaveFile(const char *fileName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifSaveFile* saves the CIFLIB internal representation of the contents of the input file into an auxiliary file. The auxiliary file is stored in a concealed directory (*.ciflib*) in the directory containing the original input file. The auxiliary file will be used in preference to the original file in all future CIFLIB file accesses if its modification date is more recent than the original file. Auxiliary files can be loaded with much less overhead than CIF files and dictionaries, so there is a substantial performance benefit to using these file when possible.

### RECEIVES

*fileName*                      path name of the source file read with *cifReadFile()*

### RETURN VALUE

None

### REMARKS

See also:                      *cifReadFile*  
                                 *cifCloseFile*  
                                 *cifWriteFile*  
                                 *cifWriteDataBlock*

## 2.2.5 cifCloseFile

### NAME

*cifCloseFile*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int  cifCloseFile(const char *fileName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifCloseFile* deletes all of the data blocks that were read from the named file. This effectively deallocates all internal CIFLIB storage associated with reading the named file.

### RECEIVES

fileName                    path name of the source file

### RETURN VALUE

Returns 1 for success or 0 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifSaveFile*  
                  *cifReadFile*  
                  *cifWriteFile*  
                  *cifWriteDataBlock*

## 2.2.6 cifWriteFile

### NAME

*cifWriteFile*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int  cifWriteFile(const char *inputFileName,
                  const char *outputFileName,
                  const char  mode,
                  const int   templateFlag,
                  const int   esdFlag,
                  const char  *dictionaryName,
                  const char  *version)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifWriteFile* writes all of the data blocks which were read from the named input file to the named output file. The `mode` flag determines if the write operation either overwrites or appends the output file. Setting the `templateFlag` causes the descriptions and examples of each data item to be inserted into the output file as comments. This option can be used to create the CIF template files that are used by the NDB project. Setting the `esdFlag` to zero causes precision estimates to be appended to data items that have the DDL attribute *\_item\_conditions.code* of *esd*; otherwise, the precision estimates are included in the appropriate data items. This choice of possible alias translations is controlled by specifying the name and version of the dictionary in which the desired names are defined.

## RECEIVES

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| inputFileName  | path name of the source file                        |
| outputFileName | path name of the output file                        |
| mode           | output mode; 'w' overwrites and 'a' appends.        |
| templateFlag   | a non-zero value requests output in template format |
| esdFlag        | a zero value requests appended esd's                |
| dictionaryName | name of the dictionary for alias translation        |
| version        | dictionary version for alias translation            |

## RETURN VALUE

Returns 1 for success or 0 for failure.

## REMARKS

See also: *cifSaveFile*  
*cifReadFile*  
*cifCloseFile*  
*cifWriteDataBlock*

## 2.2.7 cifWriteDataBlock

### NAME

*cifWriteDataBlock*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int  cifWriteDataBlock(const char *outputFileName,
                      const char  mode,
                      const char  *dataBlockName,
                      const int   templateFlag,
                      const int   esdFlag,
                      const char  *dictionaryName,
                      const char  *version)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifWriteDataBlock* writes the named data block to the named output file. The `mode` flag determines if the write operation either overwrites or appends the output file. Setting the `templateFlag` causes the descriptions and examples of each data item to be inserted into the output file as comments. This option can be used to create the CIF template files that are used by the NDB project. Setting the `esdFlag` to zero causes precision estimates to be appended to data items that have the DDL attribute *\_item\_conditions.code* of *esd*; otherwise, the precision estimates are included in the appropriate data items. The choice of possible alias translations is controlled by specifying the name and version of the dictionary in which the desired names are defined.

## RECEIVES

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockName</code>  | name of the source data block                       |
| <code>outputFileName</code> | path name of the output file                        |
| <code>mode</code>           | output mode; 'w' overwrites and 'a' appends.        |
| <code>templateFlag</code>   | a non-zero value requests output in template format |
| <code>esdFlag</code>        | a zero value requests appended esd's                |
| <code>dictionaryName</code> | name of the dictionary for alias translation        |
| <code>version</code>        | dictionary version for alias translation            |

## RETURN VALUE

Returns 1 for success or 0 for failure.

## REMARKS

See also: *cifSaveFile*  
*cifReadFile*  
*cifCloseFile*  
*cifWriteFile*



## 2.3 CIFLIB Schema Construction Functions

This section includes the set of functions that build and destroy *CifSchema* structures. This structure contains the tabular representation of the data structure within a data block. It contains the names of the categories declared within each data block and the items declared within each category. This structure defines the indices used to identify data blocks, categories, and items in all CIFLIB functions.

The *CifSchema* structure has the following form:

```
#define "ciflib.h"

typedef struct _CifSchema {
    int numCategory;
    CategorySchema *categories;
    char dataBlockName[CIF_MAXSTRLEN];
} CifSchema;

typedef struct _CategorySchema {
    char *category;
    int numItem;
    ItemSchema *items;
} CategorySchema;

typedef struct _ItemSchema{
    char *item;
    int presentationOrder;
} ItemSchema;
```

### 2.3.1 `cifConstructSchema`

#### NAME

*cifConstructSchema*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

CifSchema *cifConstructSchema(const int dataBlockIndex)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifConstructSchema* builds the schema for the data block specified by the input argument.

#### RECEIVES

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | zero-based index of a data block within the current file |
|-----------------------------|--|

#### RETURN VALUE

A pointer to *CifSchema* is returned if the operation is successful, or NULL for failure.

#### REMARKS

See also:

- cifConstructSchemaByAlias*
- cifFreeSchema*
- cifPrintSchema*
- cifConstructSchemas*
- cifConstructSchemasByAlias*
- cifFreeSchemas*
- cifPrintSchemas*

### 2.3.2 cifConstructSchemaByAlias

#### NAME

*cifConstructSchemaByAlias*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

CifSchema *cifConstructSchemaByAlias(const int dataBlockIndex)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifConstructSchemaByAlias* builds the schema for the data block specified by the input argument. The schema structure returned by this function will contain any alias names used in the target data block.

#### RECEIVES

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | zero-based index of a data block within the current file |
|-----------------------------|--|

#### RETURN VALUE

A pointer to *CifSchema* is returned if the operation is successful, or NULL for failure.

#### REMARKS

See also:

- cifConstructSchema*
- cifFreeSchema*
- cifPrintSchema*
- cifConstructSchemas*
- cifConstructSchemasByAlias*
- cifFreeSchemas*
- cifPrintSchemas*

### 2.3.3 cifConstructSchemas

#### NAME

*cifConstructSchemas*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

CifSchema **cifConstructSchemas(int *numDataBlock)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifConstructSchemas* builds an array of schemas for each data block in the current active file.

#### RECEIVES

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <code>numDataBlock</code> | An integer pointer to hold the number of data blocks in the current file |
|---------------------------|--|

#### RETURN VALUE

A pointer to an array of *CifSchema* is returned if the operation is successful, or NULL failure. The number of data blocks found by the operation is returned in `numDataBlock`.

#### REMARKS

See also:

- cifConstructSchema*
- cifConstructSchemaByAlias*
- cifFreeSchema*
- cifPrintSchema*
- cifConstructSchemasByAlias*
- cifFreeSchemas*
- cifPrintSchemas*

### 2.3.4 cifConstructSchemasByAlias

#### NAME

*cifConstructSchemasByAlias*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

CifSchema **cifConstructSchemasByAlias(int *numDataBlock)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifConstructSchemasByAlias* builds an array of schemas for each data block in the current active file. Each schema structure returned by this function will contain any alias names used in the target data block.

#### RECEIVES

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <code>numDataBlock</code> | An integer pointer to hold the number of data blocks in the current file |
|---------------------------|--|

#### RETURN VALUE

A pointer to an array of *CifSchema* is returned if the operation is successful, or NULL for failure. The number of data blocks found by the operation is returned in `numDataBlock`.

#### REMARKS

See also:

- cifConstructSchema*
- cifConstructSchemaByAlias*
- cifFreeSchema*
- cifPrintSchema*
- cifConstructSchemas*
- cifFreeSchemas*
- cifPrintSchemas*

### 2.3.5 cifFreeSchema

#### NAME

*cifFreeSchema*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void cifFreeSchema(CifSchema *schema)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifFreeSchema* frees the memory allocated to a *CifSchema* structure.

#### RECEIVES

schema                      a pointer to a CifSchema structure

#### RETURN VALUE

None

#### REMARKS

See also:                      *cifConstructSchema*  
                                 *cifConstructSchemaByAlias*  
                                 *cifPrintSchema*  
                                 *cifConstructSchemas*  
                                 *cifConstructSchemasByAlias*  
                                 *cifFreeSchemas*  
                                 *cifPrintSchemas*

### 2.3.6 cifFreeSchemas

#### NAME

*cifFreeSchemas*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void cifFreeSchemas(CifSchema **schema,
                    const int   numDataBlock)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifFreeSchemas* frees the array of *CifSchema* passed as an input argument.

#### RECEIVES

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| schema       | A pointer to an array of <i>CifSchema</i>                                |
| numDataBlock | An integer which specifies the number of data blocks in the current file |

#### RETURN VALUE

None

#### REMARKS

See also:

- cifConstructSchema*
- cifConstructSchemaByAlias*
- cifFreeSchema*
- cifPrintSchema*
- cifConstructSchemas*
- cifConstructSchemasByAlias*
- cifPrintSchemas*

### 2.3.7 cifPrintSchema

#### NAME

*cifPrintSchema*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void cifPrintSchema(const CifSchema *schema)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifPrintSchema* prints the contents of a *CifSchema* structure to the standard output stream (stdout).

#### RECEIVES

schema                      A pointer to a CifSchema structure.

#### RETURN VALUE

None

#### REMARKS

See also:                    *cifConstructSchema*  
                              *cifConstructSchemaByAlias*  
                              *cifFreeSchema*  
                              *cifConstructSchemas*  
                              *cifConstructSchemasByAlias*  
                              *cifFreeSchemas*  
                              *cifPrintSchemas*



### 2.3.8 cifPrintSchemas

#### NAME

*cifPrintSchemas*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void cifPrintSchemas(CifSchema **schema,
                    const int  numDataBlock)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifPrintSchemas* prints the contents of the array of *CifSchema* on the standard output stream (stdout).

#### RECEIVES

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| schema       | A pointer to an array of <i>CifSchema</i>                                |
| numDataBlock | An integer which specifies the number of data blocks in the current file |

#### RETURN VALUE

None

#### REMARKS

See also: *cifConstructSchema*  
*cifConstructSchemaByAlias*  
*cifFreeSchema*  
*cifPrintSchema*  
*cifConstructSchemas*  
*cifConstructSchemasByAlias*  
*cifFreeSchemas*

## **2.4 CIFLIB Data Block Access Functions**

CIF files are divided into sections called data blocks. CIFLIB treats each data block as an independent database loaded into the schema of its associated dictionary. The CIF DDL is at the top of the chain and provides the schema for a CIF dictionary. The CIF dictionary in turn provides the schema for CIF data files. This section presents the collection of access and manipulation functions for data blocks.

## 2.4.1 cifCountDataBlocks

### NAME

*cifCountDataBlocks*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int    cifCountDataBlocks()
```

### PURPOSE

*cifCountDataBlocks* counts the current number of data blocks.

### RECEIVES

No Arguments

### RETURN VALUE

The current number of data blocks.

### REMARKS

None

## 2.4.2 `cifGetDataBlockName`

### NAME

*cifGetDataBlockName*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetDataBlockName(const int dataBlockIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetDataBlockName* gets the name of the data block with the specified index.

### RECEIVES

`dataBlockIndex`            zero-based index of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

The name of the target data block or a NULL value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifGetDataBlockNames*  
                      *cifGetDataBlockIndex*

### 2.4.3 `cifGetDataBlockNames`

#### NAME

*cifGetDataBlockNames*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetDataBlockNames(int *numDataBlock)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifGetDataBlockNames* gets an array of data block names and the current number of data blocks.

#### RECEIVES

`numDataBlock`                    integer pointer to hold the number of data blocks

#### RETURN VALUE

An array of data block names and the number of data blocks or a `NULL` value for failure.

#### REMARKS

See also:                    *cifGetDataBlockName*  
                              *cifGetDataBlockIndex*

## 2.4.4 cifGetDataBlockIndex

### NAME

*cifGetDataBlockIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int    cifGetDataBlockIndex(const char *dataBlockName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetDataBlockIndex* retrieves the index of the named data block.

### RECEIVES

dataBlockName            name of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

The index of the named data block or the value -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifGetDataBlockNames*  
                      *cifGetDataBlockName*

## 2.4.5 cifGetDataBlockDictionaryIndex

### NAME

*cifGetDataBlockDictionaryIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int    cifGetDataBlockDictionaryIndex(const char *dataBlockName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetDataBlockDictionaryIndex* gets the index of the data block containing the dictionary with which the target data block is associated.

### RECEIVES

dataBlockName            name of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

The zero-based index of the dictionary associated with the target data block or the value -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

None

## 2.4.6 `cifGetDataBlockFileName`

### NAME

*cifGetDataBlockFileName*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetDataBlockFileName(const char *dataBlockName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetDataBlockFileName* gets the source file name containing the target data block.

### RECEIVES

`dataBlockName`            name of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

The source file name containing the target data block or a `NULL` value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifGetDataBlockFileNameByIndex*



## 2.4.7 `cifGetDataBlockFileNameByIndex`

### NAME

*cifGetDataBlockFileNameByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetDataBlockFileNameByIndex(const int dataBlockIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetDataBlockFileNameByIndex* gets the source file name containing the target data block.

### RECEIVES

`dataBlockIndex`            zero-based index of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

The source file name containing the target data block or a `NULL` value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifGetDataBlockFileName*

## 2.4.8 `cifGetDataBlockFileOffset`

### NAME

*cifGetDataBlockFileOffset*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

long  cifGetDataBlockFileOffset(const char *dataBlockName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetDataBlockFileOffset* retrieves the offset into the source file in which the target data block begins.

### RECEIVES

`dataBlockName`            name of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

Source file offset or the value -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifGetDataBlockFileOffsetByIndex*

## 2.4.9 `cifGetDataBlockFileOffsetByIndex`

### NAME

*cifGetDataBlockFileOffsetByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

long  cifGetDataBlockFileOffsetByIndex(const int dataBlockIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetDataBlockFileOffsetByIndex* retrieves the offset into the source file in which the target data block begins.

### RECEIVES

`dataBlockIndex`            zero-based index of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

Source file offset or the value -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifGetDataBlockFileOffset*

## 2.4.10 `cifDeleteDataBlock`

### NAME

*cifDeleteDataBlock*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void  cifDeleteDataBlock(const char *dataBlockName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifDeleteDataBlock* deletes the target data block.

### RECEIVES

`dataBlockName`            name of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

None

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifDeleteDataBlockByIndex*

## 2.4.11 `cifDeleteDataBlockByIndex`

### NAME

*cifDeleteDataBlockByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void  cifDeleteDataBlockByIndex(const int dataBlockIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifDeleteDataBlock* deletes the target data block.

### RECEIVES

`dataBlockIndex`            zero-based index of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

None

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifDeleteDataBlock*

## **2.5 CIFLIB Category Access Functions**

The following sections present the set of functions which provide detailed information about CIF categories.

## 2.5.1 cifCountCategories

### NAME

*cifCountCategories*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifCountCategories(const char *dataBlockName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifCountCategories* returns the number of categories in the named data block.

### RECEIVES

dataBlockName            the target data block name

### RETURN VALUE

Returns the number of categories or a value of -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifCountCategoriesByIndex*

## 2.5.2 cifCountCategoriesByIndex

### NAME

*cifCountCategoriesByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifCountCategoriesByIndex(const int dataBlockIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifCountCategoriesByIndex* returns the number categories in the data block identified by index.

### RECEIVES

`dataBlockIndex`            zero-based index of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

Returns the number of categories or a value of -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifCountCategories*



### 2.5.3 cifGetCategoryName

#### NAME

*cifGetCategoryName*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetCategoryName(const char *dataBlockName,
                        const int categoryIndex)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifGetCategoryName* returns the name of the category identified by its index within the named data block.

#### RECEIVES

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | the name of the target data block           |
| <code>categoryIndex</code> | the zero-based index of the target category |

#### RETURN VALUE

Returns a category name or a NULL value for failure.

#### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetCategoryNames*  
*cifGetCategoryNameByIndex*  
*cifGetCategoryNamesByIndex*  
*cifGetCategoryIndex*

## 2.5.4 cifGetCategoryNames

### NAME

*cifGetCategoryNames*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetCategoryNames(const char *dataBlockName,
                           int *numCategory)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetCategoryNames* returns an array of category names within the named data block and the number categories.

### RECEIVES

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | the name of the target data block                |
| <code>numCategory</code>   | integer pointer to hold the number of categories |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of category names or a NULL value for failure. If the operation is successful the number of categories is returned in `numCategory`.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetCategoryName*  
*cifGetCategoryNameByIndex*  
*cifGetCategoryNamesByIndex*  
*cifGetCategoryIndex*

## 2.5.5 `cifGetCategoryNameByIndex`

### NAME

*cifGetCategoryNameByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetCategoryName(const int dataBlockIndex,
                        const int categoryIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetCategoryNameByIndex* returns the name of the category identified by its index within the data block identified by its index.

### RECEIVES

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | zero-based index of the target data block   |
| <code>categoryIndex</code>  | the zero-based index of the target category |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns a category name or a NULL value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetCategoryName*  
*cifGetCategoryNames*  
*cifGetCategoryNamesByIndex*  
*cifGetCategoryIndex*

## 2.5.6 cifGetCategoryNamesByIndex

### NAME

*cifGetCategoryNamesByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetCategoryNamesByIndex(const int  dataBlockIndex,
                                   int  *numCategory)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetCategoryNamesByIndex* returns an array of category names and the number categories within the data block identified by its index.

### RECEIVES

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | zero-based index of the target data block        |
| <code>numCategory</code>    | integer pointer to hold the number of categories |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of category names or a NULL value for failure. If the operation is successful the number of categories is returned in `numCategory`.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetCategoryName*  
*cifGetCategoryNames*  
*cifGetCategoryNameByIndex*  
*cifGetCategoryIndex*

## 2.5.7 cifGetCategoryIndex

### NAME

*cifGetCategoryIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifGetCategoryIndex(const char *datablockName,
                       const char *categoryName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetCategoryIndex* returns the category index of the target category within the target datablock. Both the category and data block are identified by name.

### RECEIVES

|                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <code>datablockName</code> | name of the target data block |
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the target category   |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns a category index or a value of -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

None

## 2.5.8 cifGetCategoryKeys

### NAME

*cifGetCategoryKeys*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetCategoryKeys(const char *dataBlockName,
                          const char *categoryName,
                          int *numKey)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetCategoryKeys* returns an array of key item names and the number of keys for the named category within the named data block.

### RECEIVES

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                 |
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the target category                   |
| <code>numKey</code>        | an integer pointer to hold the number of keys |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of key item names or a NULL value for failure. If the operation is successful the number of keys is returned in `numKey`.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetCategoryKeysByIndex*

## 2.5.9 cifGetCategoryKeysByIndex

### NAME

*cifGetCategoryKeysByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetCategoryKeysByIndex(const int  dataBlockIndex,
                                const int  categoryIndex,
                                int  *numKey)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetCategoryKeys* returns an array of key item names and the number of keys for the target category within the target data block. Both category and data block are identified by their indices.

### RECEIVES

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | zero-based index of the target data block     |
| <code>categoryIndex</code>  | zero-based index of the target category       |
| <code>numKey</code>         | an integer pointer to hold the number of keys |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of key item names or a NULL value for failure. If the operation is successful the number of keys is returned in `numKey`.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetCategoryKeys*

## 2.5.10 `cifCountRows`

### NAME

*cifCountRows*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifCountRows(const char *dataBlockName,
                 const char *categoryName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifCountRows* returns the number of rows in the target category within the target data block. Both the category and the data block are identified by name.

### RECEIVES

|                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block |
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the target category   |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns the number of rows or a value of -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifCountRowsByIndex*



## 2.5.11 cifCountRowsByIndex

### NAME

*cifCountRowsByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifCountRowsByIndex(const int dataBlockIndex,
                       const int categoryIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifCountRows* returns the number of rows in the target category within the target data block. Both the category and the data block are identified by index.

### RECEIVES

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | zero-based index of the target data block |
| <code>categoryIndex</code>  | zero-based index of the target category   |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns the number of rows or a value of -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifCountRows*

## 2.5.12 cifCountColumns

### NAME

*cifCountColumns*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifCountColumns(const char *dataBlockName,
                   const char *categoryName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifCountColumns* returns the of number columns in the target category within the target data block. Both the category and the data block are identified by name.

### RECEIVES

|                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block |
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the target category   |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns the number of columns or a value of -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifCountColumnsByIndex*

### 2.5.13 `cifCountColumnsByIndex`

#### NAME

*cifCountColumnsByIndex*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifCountColumnsByIndex(const int dataBlockIndex,
                           const int categoryIndex)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifCountColumns* returns the number of columns in the target category within the target data block. Both the category and data block are identified by index.

#### RECEIVES

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | zero-based index of the target data block |
| <code>categoryIndex</code>  | zero-based index of the target category   |

#### RETURN VALUE

Returns the number of columns or a value of -1 for failure.

#### REMARKS

See also: *cifCountColumns*

## **2.6 CIFLIB Category Group Access Functions**

The following sections present the set of functions that provide detailed information about CIF category groups.

## 2.6.1 cifGetCategoryGroups

### NAME

*cifGetCategoryGroups*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetCategoryGroups(const char *dataBlockName,
                             int *numGroup)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetCategoryGroups* returns an array of category group names and the number groups within the named data block.

### RECEIVES

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                         |
| <code>numGroup</code>      | integer pointer to hold the number of category groups |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of category group names or a NULL value for failure. If the operation is successful the number of groups is returned in `numGroup`.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetCategoryGroupsByIndex*

## 2.6.2 cifGetCategoryGroupsByIndex

### NAME

*cifGetCategoryGroupsByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetCategoryGroupsByIndex(const int  dataBlockIndex,
                                   int  *numGroup)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetCategoryGroups* returns an array of category group names and the number of groups within the data block identified by its index.

### RECEIVES

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | zero-based index of the target data block             |
| <code>numGroup</code>       | integer pointer to hold the number of category groups |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of category group names or a NULL value for failure. If the operation is successful the number of groups is returned in `numGroup`.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetCategoryGroups*

### 2.6.3 cifGetCategoriesInCategoryGroup

#### NAME

*cifGetCategoriesInCategoryGroup*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetCategoriesInCategoryGroup(const char *dataBlockName,
                                       const char *groupName,
                                       int *numCategory)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifGetCategoriesInCategoryGroup* returns an array of category names and the number of categories contained in the target category group within the target data block. Both the data block and category group are identified by name.

#### RECEIVES

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                             |
| <code>groupName</code>     | name of the target category group                         |
| <code>numCategory</code>   | integer pointer to hold the returned number of categories |

#### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of category names or `NULL` for failure. If the operation is successful then the number of categories is returned in `numCategory`.

#### REMARKS

None

## **2.7 CIFLIB Subcategory Access Functions**

The following sections present the set of functions which provide detailed information about CIF subcategories.



## 2.7.1 cifGetSubcategories

### NAME

*cifGetSubcategories*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetSubcategories(const char *dataBlockName,
                           const char *categoryName,
                           int *numSubcategory)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetSubcategories* returns an array of subcategory names and the number of subcategories in the target category within the target data block. The category and data block are identified by name. This function will always return at least one subcategory which is named after the category and contains all of the category items.

### RECEIVES

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockName</code>  | name of the target data block                                |
| <code>categoryName</code>   | name of the target category                                  |
| <code>numSubcategory</code> | integer pointer to hold the returned number of subcategories |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of subcategory names or a `NULL` value for failure. If the operation is successful then the number of subcategories is returned in `numSubcategory`

### REMARKS

None

## 2.7.2 cifGetItemNamesInSubcategory

### NAME

*cifGetItemNamesInSubcategory*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetItemNamesInSubcategory(const char *dataBlockName,
                                     const char *categoryName,
                                     const char *subcategoryName,
                                     int *numItemName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemNamesInSubcategory* returns an array of item names and the number of items contained within the target subcategory, category, and data block. The subcategory, category, and data block are identified by name.

### RECEIVES

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockName</code>   | name of target data block                            |
| <code>categoryName</code>    | name of target category                              |
| <code>subcategoryName</code> | name of target subcategory                           |
| <code>numItemName</code>     | integer pointer to hold the returned number of items |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of item names or a `NULL` value for failure. If the operation is successful then the number of items is returned in `numItemName`.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemNamesInSubcategoryByIndex*

### 2.7.3 cifGetItemKeywordsInSubcategory

#### NAME

*cifGetItemKeywordsInSubcategory*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetItemKeywordsInSubcategory(const char *dataBlockName,
                                       const char *categoryName,
                                       const char *subcategoryName,
                                       int *numKeyword)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemKeywordsInSubcategory* returns an array of item keywords and the number of item keywords contained within the target subcategory, category and data block. The subcategory, category, and data block are identified by name.

#### RECEIVES

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockName</code>   | name of target data block                                |
| <code>categoryName</code>    | name of target category                                  |
| <code>subcategoryName</code> | name of target subcategory                               |
| <code>numKeyword</code>      | integer pointer to hold returned number of item keywords |

#### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of item keywords or a `NULL` value for failure. If the operation is successful then the number of keywords is returned in `numKeyword`.

#### REMARKS

None

## **2.8 CIFLIB Item Access Functions**

The following sections present the set of functions which provide detailed information about CIF item names and item alias names.

## 2.8.1 `cifGetItemKeyword`

### NAME

*cifGetItemKeyword*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetItemKeyword(const char *dataBlockName,
                        const char *categoryName,
                        const int  itemKeywordIndex);
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemKeyword* returns the item keyword identified by its index within the target category within the target datablock. The category and data block are identified by name.

### RECEIVES

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockName</code>    | name of the target data block                   |
| <code>categoryName</code>     | name of the target category                     |
| <code>itemKeywordIndex</code> | index of the keyword within the target category |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an item keyword or a `NULL` value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemKeywordByIndex*

## 2.8.2 cifGetItemKeywordByIndex

### NAME

*cifGetItemKeywordByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetItemKeywordByIndex(const int  dataBlockIndex,
                               const int  categoryIndex,
                               const int  itemKeywordIndex);
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemKeywordByIndex* returns the item keyword identified by its index within the target category within the target data block. The category and data block are identified by their indices.

### RECEIVES

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code>   | zero-based index of the target data block       |
| <code>categoryIndex</code>    | zero-based index of the target category         |
| <code>itemKeywordIndex</code> | index of the keyword within the target category |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an item keyword or a NULL value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemKeyword*

### 2.8.3 `cifGetItemKeywords`

#### NAME

*cifGetItemKeywords*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetItemKeywords(const char *dataBlockName,
                          const char *categoryName,
                          int *numKeyword);
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemKeywords* returns an array of item keywords within the target category within the target data block. The category and data block are identified by name.

#### RECEIVES

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                       |
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the target category                         |
| <code>numKeyword</code>    | integer pointer to hold returned number of keywords |

#### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of item keywords or a `NULL` value for failure. If the operation is successful, the number of keywords is returned in `numKeyword`.

#### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemKeywordsByIndex*

## 2.8.4 `cifGetItemKeywordsByIndex`

### NAME

*cifGetItemKeywordsByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetItemKeywordsByIndex(const int  dataBlockIndex,
                                const int  categoryIndex,
                                int  *numKeyword);
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemKeywordsByIndex* returns an array of item keywords within the target category within the target data block. The category and data block are identified by their indices.

### RECEIVES

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | zero-based index of the target data block           |
| <code>categoryIndex</code>  | zero-based index of the target category             |
| <code>numKeyword</code>     | integer pointer to hold returned number of keywords |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of item keywords or a `NULL` value for failure. If the operation is successful the number of keywords is returned in `numKeyword`.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemKeywords*



## 2.8.5 cifGetItemName

### NAME

*cifGetItemName*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetItemName(const char *dataBlockName,
                    const char *categoryName,
                    const int  itemIndex);
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemName* returns the item name identified by its index within the target category within the target data block.

### RECEIVES

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                           |
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the target category                             |
| <code>itemIndex</code>     | zero-based index of the item within the target category |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an item keyword or a NULL value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemNameByIndex*

## 2.8.6 `cifGetItemNameByIndex`

### NAME

*cifGetItemNameByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetItemNameByIndex(const int dataBlockIndex,
                             const int categoryIndex,
                             const int itemIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemNameByIndex* returns the item name identified by its index within the target category within the target data block. The category and data block are identified by their indices.

### RECEIVES

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | zero-based index of the target data block               |
| <code>categoryIndex</code>  | zero-based index of the target category                 |
| <code>itemIndex</code>      | zero-based index of the item within the target category |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an item keyword or a `NULL` value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemName*

## 2.8.7 cifGetItemNames

### NAME

*cifGetItemNames*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetItemNames(const char *dataBlockName,
                      const char *categoryName,
                      int *numItem);
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemNames* returns an array of item names within the target category and within the target data block. The category and the data block are identified by name.

### RECEIVES

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                    |
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the target category                      |
| <code>numItem</code>       | integer pointer to hold returned number of items |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of item names or a `NULL` value for failure. If the operation is successful the number of keywords is returned in `numKeyword`.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemNamesByIndex*

## 2.8.8 `cifGetItemNamesByIndex`

### NAME

*cifGetItemNamesByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetItemNamesByIndex(const int  dataBlockIndex,
                              const int  categoryIndex,
                              int *numItem);
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemNamesByIndex* returns an array of item names within the target category and within the target data block. The category and the data block are identified by their indices.

### RECEIVES

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | zero-based index of the target data block        |
| <code>categoryIndex</code>  | zero-based index of the target category          |
| <code>numItem</code>        | integer pointer to hold returned number of items |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of item names or a `NULL` value for failure. If the operation is successful the number of keywords is returned in `numKeyword`.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemNames*

## 2.8.9 cifGetItemAliasName

### NAME

*cifGetItemAliasName*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetItemAliasName(const char *dataBlockName,
                          const char *categoryName,
                          const char *itemKeyword);
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemAliasName* returns the alias name used to declare the item which is identified by its keyword name within the target category and within the target data block.

### RECEIVES

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                         |
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the target category                           |
| <code>itemKeyword</code>   | name of the target keyword in the the target category |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an alias name or a NULL value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemAliasNameByIndex*

## 2.8.10 `cifGetItemAliasNameByIndex`

### NAME

*cifGetItemAliasNameByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetItemAliasNameByIndex(const int dataBlockIndex,
                                const int categoryIndex,
                                const int itemKeywordIndex);
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemAliasNameByIndex* returns the alias name used to declare the item which is identified by its index within the target category within the target data block. The category and data block are identified by their indices.

### RECEIVES

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code>   | zero-based index of the target data block               |
| <code>categoryIndex</code>    | zero-based index of the target category                 |
| <code>itemKeywordIndex</code> | zero-based index of the item within the target category |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an alias name or a NULL value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemAliasName*

## 2.8.11 cifGetItemAliasNames

### NAME

*cifGetItemAliasNames*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetItemAliasNames(const char *dataBlockName,
                           const char *categoryName,
                           int *numItem);
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemAliasNames* returns an array of item names within the target category within the target data block. If an item has been declared using a valid alias name, then that alias name is returned by this function. This behavior differs from *cifGetItemNames* which always returns item names defined in the current dictionary even if those items have been declared using alias names. The category and data block are identified by name.

### RECEIVES

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                         |
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the target category                           |
| <code>numItem</code>       | integer pointer to hold returned number of item names |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of item names or a NULL value for failure. If the operation is successful the number of item names is returned in `numItem`.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemAliasNamesByIndex*

## 2.8.12 `cifGetItemAliasNamesByIndex`

### NAME

*cifGetItemAliasNamesByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetItemAliasNamesByIndex(const int  dataBlockIndex,
                                   const int  categoryIndex,
                                   int  *numItem);
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemAliasNamesByIndex* returns an array of item alias names within the target category within the target data block. If an item has been declared using a valid alias name, then that alias name is returned by this function. This behavior differs from *cifGetItemNamesByIndex* which always returns item names defined in the current dictionary even if those items have been declared using alias names. The category and data block are identified by their indices.

### RECEIVES

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | zero-based index of the target data block             |
| <code>categoryIndex</code>  | zero-based index of the target category               |
| <code>numItem</code>        | integer pointer to hold returned number of item names |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of item alias names or a NULL value for failure. If the operation is successful the number of item names is returned in `numItem`.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemAliasNames*



## **2.9 CIFLIB Item Value Access Functions**

The following sections present the set of functions which provide read access to the the values of individual CIF items. These functions also check the integrity of item values with respect the their dictionary definitions.

## 2.9.1 cifGetItemValue

### NAME

*cifGetItemValue*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifGetItemValue(    char **value,
                       const char *dataBlockName,
                       const char *categoryName,
                       const char *itemKeyword,
                       const int  rowIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemValue* gets the address of the string representing the value of an item. The target item is identified by the name of the keyword, category, and data block in which it is defined. The row index is provided to select a particular item value when multiple values exist within the category. This function checks the integrity of the target item value with respect to the item's dictionary definition.

### RECEIVES

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| value         | address of the string representing the value of the item |
| dataBlockName | name of the target data block                            |
| categoryName  | name of the target category                              |
| itemKeyword   | name of the target item within the target category       |
| rowIndex      | zero-based index of the target row                       |

## RETURN VALUE

Returns an integer CIFLIB error code. If the code `CIF_DATA_IS_VALID` is returned, then the value returned as a string is compliant with its dictionary definition.

## REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemValueByIndex*  
*cifGetItemValueByAlias*

## 2.9.2 cifGetItemValueByIndex

### NAME

*cifGetItemValueByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifGetItemValueByIndex(    char **value,
                              const int  dataBlockIndex,
                              const int  categoryIndex,
                              const int  itemIndex,
                              const int  rowIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemValue* gets the address of the string representing the value of an item. The target item is identified by the index of the keyword, category, and data block in which it is defined. The row index is provided to select a particular item value when multiple values exist within the category. This function checks the integrity of the target item value with respect to the item's dictionary definition.

### RECEIVES

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| value          | address of the string representing the value of the item       |
| dataBlockIndex | zero-based index of the target data block                      |
| categoryIndex  | zero-based index of the target category                        |
| itemIndex      | zero-based index of the target item within the target category |
| rowIndex       | zero-based index of the target row                             |

## RETURN VALUE

Returns an integer CIFLIB error code. If the code `CIF_DATA_IS_VALID` is returned, then the value returned as a string is compliant with its dictionary definition.

## REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemValue*  
*cifGetItemValueByAlias*

### 2.9.3 cifGetItemValueByAlias

#### NAME

*cifGetItemValueByAlias*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifGetItemValue(    char **value,
                       const int  dataBlockIndex,
                       const char *aliasName,
                       const int  rowIndex)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemValueByAlias* gets the address of the string representing the value of an item. The target item is identified by an item alias name and the index of the data block in which it is defined. The row index is provided to select a particular item value when multiple values exist within the category. This function checks the integrity of the target item value with respect to the item's dictionary definition.

#### RECEIVES

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| value          | address of the string representing the value of the item |
| dataBlockIndex | zero-based index of the target data block                |
| aliasName      | name of the target item within the target category       |
| rowIndex       | zero-based index of the target row                       |

## RETURN VALUE

Returns an integer CIFLIB error code. If the code `CIF_DATA_IS_VALID` is returned, then the value returned as a string is compliant with its dictionary definition.

## REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemValue*  
*cifGetItemValueByIndex*

## 2.9.4 cifGetRow

### NAME

*cifGetRow*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int *cifGetRow(      char ***value,
                    const char *dataBlockName,
                    const char *categoryName,
                    const int   rowIndex,
                    int   *numItem)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetRow* gets the address of an array of strings representing the values of each item in the target row of the target table. The table is identified by the name of the category, and by the data block in which it is defined. This function checks the integrity of each item value with respect to the item's dictionary definition.

### RECEIVES

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| value         | address of an array of strings representing the values of each item |
| dataBlockName | name of the target data block                                       |
| categoryName  | name of the target category   |
| rowIndex      | zero-based index of the target row                                  |
| numItem       | address of the integer to hold the number of items in the row       |



## RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of integer CIFLIB error codes. If a code `CIF_DATA_IS_VALID` is returned, then the associated value returned as a string is compliant with its dictionary definition.

## REMARKS

See also: *`cifGetRowByIndex`*

## 2.9.5 cifGetRowByIndex

### NAME

*cifGetRowByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int *cifGetRowByIndex(    char ***value,
                        const int   dataBlockIndex,
                        const int   categoryIndex,
                        const int   rowIndex
                        int   *numItem)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetRowByIndex* gets the address of an array of strings representing the values of each item in the target row of the target table. The table is identified by the index of the category, and by the data block in which it is defined. This function checks the integrity of each item value with respect to the item's dictionary definition.

### RECEIVES

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| value          | address of an array of strings representing the values of each item |
| dataBlockIndex | zero-based index of the target data block                           |
| categoryIndex  | zero-based index of the target category                             |
| rowIndex       | zero-based index of the target row                                  |
| numItem        | address of the integer to hold the number of items in the row       |

## **RETURN VALUE**

Returns an array of integer CIFLIB error codes. If a code `CIF_DATA_IS_VALID` is returned, then the associated value returned as a string is compliant with its dictionary definition.

## **REMARKS**

See also: *`cifGetRowByIndex`*

## 2.9.6 cifGetColumn

### NAME

*cifGetColumn*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int *cifGetColumn(      char ***value,
                      const char *dataBlockName,
                      const char *categoryName,
                      const char *itemKeyword,
                      int *numValues)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetColumn* gets the address of an array of strings representing the values of each item in the target column of the target table. The table is identified by the name of the category, and by the data block in which it is defined. This function checks the integrity of each item value with respect to the item's dictionary definition.

### RECEIVES

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| value         | address of an array of strings representing the values of each item |
| dataBlockName | name of the target data block                                       |
| categoryName  | name of the target category   |
| itemKeyword   | name of the target item within the target category                  |
| numValues     | address of the integer to hold the number of values in the column   |

## RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of integer CIFLIB error codes. If a code `CIF_DATA_IS_VALID` is returned, then the associated value returned as a string is compliant with its dictionary definition.

## REMARKS

See also: *`cifGetColumnByIndex`*

## 2.9.7 cifGetColumnByIndex

### NAME

*cifGetColumnByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int *cifGetColumnByIndex(    char ***value,
                             const int   dataBlockIndex,
                             const int   categoryIndex,
                             const int   itemIndex
                             int         *numValues)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetColumnByIndex* gets the address of an array of strings representing the values of each item in the target column of the target table. The table is identified by the index of the category, and by the data block in which it is defined. This function checks the integrity of each item value with respect to the item's dictionary definition.

### RECEIVES

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| value          | address of an array of strings representing the values of each item |
| dataBlockIndex | zero-based index of the target data block                           |
| categoryIndex  | zero-based index of the target category                             |
| itemIndex      | zero-based index of the target item within the target category      |
| numValues      | address of the integer to hold the number of values in the column   |

## RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of integer CIFLIB error codes. If a code `CIF_DATA_IS_VALID` is returned, then the associated value returned as a string is compliant with its dictionary definition.

## REMARKS

See also: *`cifGetColumnByIndex`*

## **2.10 CIFLIB Item Value Update Functions**

The following sections present the set of functions which provide write access to the the values of individual CIF items. These functions also check the integrity of item values with respect the their dictionary definitions.



## 2.10.1 cifUpdateItemValue

### NAME

*cifUpdateItemValue*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifUpdateItemValue(    char *itemValue,
                          const char *dataBlockName,
                          const char *categoryName,
                          const char *itemKeyword,
                          const int  rowIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifUpdateItemValue* updates an item value using the source string representing the value of the item. The target item is identified by the name of the keyword, category, and data block in which the item is defined. The row index selects an existing row in the table. This function checks the integrity of the source item value with respect to the item's dictionary definition.

### RECEIVES

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| value         | string representing the value of the item          |
| dataBlockName | name of the target data block                      |
| categoryName  | name of the target category                        |
| itemKeyword   | name of the target item within the target category |
| rowIndex      | zero-based index of the target row                 |

## RETURN VALUE

Returns an integer CIFLIB error code. If the code `CIF_DATA_IS_VALID` is returned, then the source string representing the item value is compliant with the dictionary definition.

## REMARKS

See also:

*cifUpdateItemValueByIndex*

*cifUpdateItemValueByAlias*

*cifAddRow*

*cifAddRowByIndex*

## 2.10.2 cifUpdateItemValueByIndex

### NAME

*cifUpdateItemValueByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int  cifUpdateItemValueByIndex(    char *itemValue,
                                   const int  dataBlockIndex,
                                   const int  categoryIndex,
                                   const int  itemIndex,
                                   const int  rowIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifUpdateItemValueByIndex* updates an item value using the source string representing the value of the item. The target item is identified by the index of the keyword, category, and data block in which the item is defined. The row index selects an existing row in the table. This function checks the integrity of the source item value with respect to the item's dictionary definition.

### RECEIVES

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| value          | string representing the value of the item                      |
| dataBlockIndex | zero-based index of the target data block                      |
| categoryIndex  | zero-based index of the target category                        |
| itemIndex      | zero-based index of the target item within the target category |
| rowIndex       | zero-based index of the target row                             |

## RETURN VALUE

Returns an integer CIFLIB error code. If the code `CIF_DATA_IS_VALID` is returned, then the source string representing the item value is compliant with the dictionary definition.

## REMARKS

See also: *cifUpdateItemValue*  
*cifUpdateItemValueByAlias*  
*cifAddRow*  
*cifAddRowByIndex*

### 2.10.3 cifUpdateItemValueByAlias

#### NAME

*cifUpdateItemValueByAlias*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifUpdateItemValueByAlias(    char *itemValue,
                                const int  dataBlockIndex,
                                const char *aliasName,
                                const int  rowIndex)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifUpdateItemValueByAlias* updates an item value using the source string representing the value of the item. The target item is identified by the item alias name and the data block in which the item is defined. The row index selects an existing row in the table. This function checks the integrity of the source item value with respect to the item's dictionary definition.

#### RECEIVES

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| value          | string representing the value of the item |
| dataBlockIndex | zero-based index of the target data block |
| aliasName      | alias name of the target item             |
| rowIndex       | zero-based index of the target row        |

#### RETURN VALUE

Returns an integer CIFLIB error code. If the code `CIF_DATA_IS_VALID` is returned, then the source string representing the item value is compliant with the dictionary definition.

#### REMARKS

See also: *cifUpdateItemValue*  
*cifUpdateItemValueByIndex*  
*cifAddRow*  
*cifAddRowByIndex*

## 2.10.4 cifAddRow

### NAME

*cifAddRow*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int  cifAddRow(const char *dataBlockName,
              const char *categoryName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifAddRow* appends a row to the target category within the target data block. The data block and category are both identified by name. Once a new row has been created, other CIFLIB update functions can be used to load item values into the row.

### RECEIVES

|                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block |
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the target category   |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns the index for the new row or the value -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifUpdateItemValue*  
*cifUpdateItemValueByIndex*  
*cifUpdateItemValueByAlias*  
*cifAddRowByIndex*

## 2.10.5 cifAddRowByIndex

### NAME

*cifAddRowByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int  cifAddRowByIndex(const int dataBlockName,
                    const int categoryName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifAddRowByIndex* appends a row to the target category within the target data block. The data block and category are both identified by index. Once a new row has been created, other CIFLIB update functions can be used to load item values into the row.

### RECEIVES

|                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | index of the target data block |
| <code>categoryIndex</code>  | index of the target category   |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns the index for the new row or the value -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifUpdateItemValue*  
*cifUpdateItemValueByIndex*  
*cifUpdateItemValueByAlias*  
*cifAddRow*

## **2.11 CIFLIB Item Convenience Functions**

The following sections present the set of functions which provide convenient access to CIF item attributes.



### 2.11.1 `cifGetItemFileOffset`

#### NAME

*cifGetItemFileOffset*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

long cifGetItemFileOffset(const int   dicDataBlockIndex,
                          const char *itemName)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemFileOffset* returns the byte offset into the dictionary file at which the target item is defined in the target data block. The the data block is identified by index and the item is identified by name.

#### RECEIVES

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <code>dicDataBlockIndex</code> | zero-based index of the target data block |
| <code>itemName</code>          | name of the target item                   |

#### RETURN VALUE

Returns an integer byte offset or the value -1 for failure.

#### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetDataBlockFileOffset*  
*cifGetDataBlockFileOffsetByIndex*

## 2.11.2 cifGetItemCaseSensitivity

### NAME

*cifGetItemCaseSensitivity*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifGetItemCaseSensitivity(const char *dataBlockName,
                             const char *categoryName,
                             const char *itemKeyword)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemCaseSensitivity* returns the case sensitivity of the target item. The target item is identified by the keyword name and the name of the category and data block in which it is defined.

### RECEIVES

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                     |
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the target category                       |
| <code>itemKeyword</code>   | name of the target keyword in the target category |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns a value of 1 if the item is case sensitive or a value of zero if the item is case insensitive. The functions returns the value -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemCaseSensitivityByIndex*

### 2.11.3 cifGetItemCaseSensitivityByIndex

#### NAME

*cifGetItemCaseSensitivityByIndex*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifGetItemCaseSensitivityByIndex(const int  dataBlockIndex,
                                     const int  categoryIndex,
                                     const int  itemIndex)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemCaseSensitivityByIndex* returns the case sensitivity of the target item. The target item is identified by its item index and the indices of the category and data block in which it is defined.

#### RECEIVES

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | zero-based index of the target data block                     |
| <code>categoryIndex</code>  | zero-based index of the target category                       |
| <code>itemIndex</code>      | zero-based index of the target keyword in the target category |

#### RETURN VALUE

Returns a value of 1 if the item is case sensitive or a value of zero if the item is case insensitive. The functions returns the value -1 for failure.

#### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemCaseSensitivity*

## 2.11.4 cifGetItemDefaultValue

### NAME

*cifGetItemDefaultValue*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetItemDefaultValue(const char *dataBlockName,
                             const char *categoryName,
                             const char *itemKeyword)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemDefaultValue* returns a character string representing the default value of the target item. The target item is identified by the keyword name and the name of the category and data block in which it is defined.

### RECEIVES

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                     |
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the target category                       |
| <code>itemKeyword</code>   | name of the target keyword in the target category |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns a character string representing the default value or a NULL value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemDefaultValueByIndex*

## 2.11.5 `cifGetItemDefaultValueByIndex`

### NAME

*cifGetItemDefaultValueByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetItemDefaultValueByIndex(const int  dataBlockIndex,
                                   const int  categoryIndex,
                                   const int  itemIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemDefaultValueByIndex* returns a character string representing the default value of the target item. The target item is identified by its item index and the indices of the category and data block in which it is defined.

### RECEIVES

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | zero-based index of the target data block                     |
| <code>categoryIndex</code>  | zero-based index of the target category                       |
| <code>itemIndex</code>      | zero-based index of the target keyword in the target category |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns a character string representing the default value or a NULL value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemDefaultValue*

## 2.11.6 cifGetItemPrimitiveCode

### NAME

*cifGetItemPrimitiveCode*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifGetItemPrimitiveCode(const char *dataBlockName,
                           const char *categoryName,
                           const char *itemKeyword)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemPrimitiveCode* returns an integer code describing the primitive data type of the target item. The target item is identified by the keyword name and the name of the category and data block in which it is defined.

### RECEIVES

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                     |
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the target category                       |
| <code>itemKeyword</code>   | name of the target keyword in the target category |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns `CIF_STRING_VALUE`, `CIF_INTEGER_VALUE`, `CIF_DOUBLE_VALUE`, or the value -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemPrimitiveCodeByIndex*

## 2.11.7 `cifGetItemPrimitiveCodeByIndex`

### NAME

*cifGetItemPrimitiveCodeByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifGetItemPrimitiveCodeByIndex(const int  dataBlockIndex,
                                   const int  categoryIndex,
                                   const int  itemIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetItemPrimitiveCodeByIndex* returns an integer code describing the primitive data type of the target item. The target item is identified by its item index and the indices of the category and data block in which it is defined.

### RECEIVES

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | zero-based index of the target data block                     |
| <code>categoryIndex</code>  | zero-based index of the target category                       |
| <code>itemIndex</code>      | zero-based index of the target keyword in the target category |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns `CIF_STRING_VALUE`, `CIF_INTEGER_VALUE`, `CIF_DOUBLE_VALUE`, or the value -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetItemPrimitiveCode*

## **2.12 CIFLIB Parent/Child Access Functions**

The following sections present the set of functions which provide information about parent/child relationships, and provide access to the parent and child item values. The parent and child relationships returned by the functions in this section span a single generation.



## 2.12.1 cifGetParentItemNames

### NAME

*cifGetParentItemNames*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetParentItemNames(const char *dataBlockName,
                             const char *categoryName,
                             const char *itemKeyword,
                             int *numParents)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetParentItemNames* returns an array of parent item names for the target item. The target item is identified by its keyword and the name of the category and data block in which it is defined.

### RECEIVES

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                             |
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the target category                               |
| <code>itemKeyword</code>   | name of the target item within the target category        |
| <code>numParents</code>    | address of the integer to hold the number of parent items |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of parent item names or a NULL value. The number of parent items is returned in `numParents`.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetParentIndexList*

## 2.12.2 cifGetChildItemNames

### NAME

*cifGetChildItemNames*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetChildItemNames(const char *dataBlockName,
                             const char *categoryName,
                             const char *itemKeyword,
                             int *numChildren)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetChildItemNames* returns an array of child item names for the target item. The target item is identified by its keyword and the name of the category and data block in which it is defined.

### RECEIVES

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                            |
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the target category                              |
| <code>itemKeyword</code>   | name of the target item within the target category       |
| <code>numChildren</code>   | address of the integer to hold the number of child items |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of child item names or a NULL value. The number of child items is returned in `numChildren`.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetChildIndexList*

### 2.12.3 cifGetParentIndexList

#### NAME

*cifGetParentIndexList*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifGetParentIndexList(const char *dataBlockName,
                        const char *categoryName,
                        const char *itemKeyword,
                        int **parentCategoryIndex,
                        int **parentItemIndex,
                        int *numParents)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifGetParentIndexList* retrieves arrays of category and item indices for the the parents of the target item. The target item is identified by its keyword and the name of the category and data block in which it is defined.

#### RECEIVES

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockName</code>       | name of the target data block                                |
| <code>categoryName</code>        | name of the target category                                  |
| <code>itemKeyword</code>         | name of the target item within the target category           |
| <code>parentCategoryIndex</code> | address of the integer array to hold parent category indices |
| <code>parentItemIndex</code>     | address of the integer array to hold parent item indices     |
| <code>numParents</code>          | address of the integer to hold the number of parent items    |

**RETURN VALUE**

Returns a value of 1 if the operation was successful or a value of 0 for failure. If the operation is successful then the index arrays and number of parents are also returned.

**REMARKS**

See also: *cifGetParentItemNames*

## 2.12.4 cifGetChildIndexList

### NAME

*cifGetChildIndexList*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifGetChildIndexList(const char *dataBlockName,
                        const char *categoryName,
                        const char *itemKeyword,
                        int **childCategoryIndex,
                        int **childItemIndex,
                        int *numChildren)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetChildIndexList* retrieves arrays of category and item indices for the the children of the target item. The target item is identified by its keyword and the name of the category and data block in which it is defined.

### RECEIVES

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <code>dataBlockName</code>      | name of the target data block                               |
| <code>categoryName</code>       | name of the target category                                 |
| <code>itemKeyword</code>        | name of the target item within the target category          |
| <code>childCategoryIndex</code> | address of the integer array to hold child category indices |
| <code>childItemIndex</code>     | address of the integer array to hold child item indices     |
| <code>numChildren</code>        | address of the integer to hold the number of child items    |

**RETURN VALUE**

Returns a value of 1 if the operation was successful or a value of 0 for failure. If the operation is successful then the index arrays and number of children are also returned.

**REMARKS**

See also: *cifGetChildItemNames*

## 2.13 CIFLIB Schema Extension Functions

This section includes the set of functions that add new elements to a CIF schema. Functions are provided to add data blocks, to add categories to data blocks, and to add items to categories. These functions simply add a placeholder for the respective schema element. Once a new schema element has been created, other CIFLIB functions can be used to load values into the element.

### 2.13.1 `cifAddDataBlock`

#### NAME

*cifAddDataBlock*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifAddDataBlock(const char *dataBlockName,
                   const char *dicDataBlockName)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifAddDataBlock* creates a new data block and assigns a validation dictionary to the new block. The data block and the dictionary data block are identified by name.

#### RECEIVES

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockName</code>    | name of the new data block                               |
| <code>dicDataBlockName</code> | name of the data block holding the validation dictionary |

#### RETURN VALUE

Returns the index of the new block or a value of -1 for failure.

#### REMARKS

See also: *cifAddCategory*  
*cifAddItem*



## 2.13.2 `cifAddCategory`

### NAME

*cifAddCategory*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifAddCategory(const char *categoryName,
                  const char *dataBlockName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifAddCategory* creates a new category in a data block. The data block and new category are both identified by name.

### RECEIVES

|                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the new category      |
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns the index of the new category or a value of -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifAddDataBlock*  
*cifAddItem*

### 2.13.3 cifAddItem

#### NAME

*cifAddItem*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifAddItem(const char *itemKeyword,
              const char *categoryName,
              const char *dataBlockName)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifAddItem* creates a new data item in a category. The target data block and category are both identified by name.

#### RECEIVES

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <code>itemKeyword</code>   | name of the new item within the target category |
| <code>categoryName</code>  | name of the target category                     |
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                   |

#### RETURN VALUE

Returns the index of the new item in the target category or a value of -1 for failure.

#### REMARKS

See also: *cifAddDataBlock*  
*cifAddCategory*

## 2.14 CIFLIB Error Handling and Print Functions

The following sections present the set of functions which provide access to the error codes generated by those CIFLIB functions which perform integrity checking.

The CIFLIB functions which access and update individual item values return only a single error code. Functions providing read access only return the first error encountered in checking the target item. Similarly, functions providing update access only return the first error encountered in the checking process; however, other problems that may be detected are appended to the warning or error lists maintained for each datablock. Higher level functions, like *cifReadFile*, also append their diagnostic codes to internal error and warning lists. A set of functions has been provided to access and refresh these lists. Functions are also provided to translate individual error codes and to print the contents of an entire data block.

### 2.14.1 `cifErrorMessage`

#### NAME

*cifErrorMessage*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifErrorMessage(const int errorCode)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifErrorMessage* returns the error message character string associated with a CIFLIB error code.

#### RECEIVES

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <code>errorCode</code> | integer error code returned by CIFLIB function |
|------------------------|--|

#### RETURN VALUE

Returns a character string holding the error message or a `NULL` value for failure.

#### REMARKS

None

## 2.14.2 cifCountDataBlockErrors

### NAME

*cifCountDataBlockErrors*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifCountDataBlockErrors(const char *dataBlockName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifCountDataBlockErrors* returns the number of errors in the list of errors for the target data block. The data block is identified by name.

### RECEIVES

dataBlockName            name of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

Returns the number of errors or the value of -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifCountDataBlockErrorsByIndex*  
                      *cifCountDataBlockWarnings*  
                      *cifCountDataBlockWarningsByIndex*

### 2.14.3 `cifCountDataBlockErrorsByIndex`

#### NAME

*cifCountDataBlockErrorsByIndex*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifCountDataBlockErrorsByIndex(const int dataBlockIndex)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifCountDataBlockErrorsByIndex* returns the number of errors in the list of errors for the target data block. The data block is identified by index.

#### RECEIVES

`dataBlockIndex`            index of the target data block

#### RETURN VALUE

Returns the number of errors or the value of -1 for failure.

#### REMARKS

See also:            *cifCountDataBlockErrorsBy*  
                      *cifCountDataBlockWarnings*  
                      *cifCountDataBlockWarningsByIndex*

## 2.14.4 cifCountDataBlockWarnings

### NAME

*cifCountDataBlockWarnings*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifCountDataBlockWarnings(const char *dataBlockName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifCountDataBlockWarnings* returns the number of warnings in the list of warnings for the target data block. The data block is identified by name.

### RECEIVES

`dataBlockName`            name of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

Returns the number of warnings or the value of -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifCountDataBlockWarningsByIndex*  
                      *cifCountDataBlockErrors*  
                      *cifCountDataBlockErrorsByIndex*

## 2.14.5 cifCountDataBlockWarningsByIndex

### NAME

*cifCountDataBlockWarningsByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

int cifCountDataBlockWarningsByIndex(const int dataBlockIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifCountDataBlockWarningsByIndex* returns the number of warnings in the list of warnings for the target data block. The data block is identified by index.

### RECEIVES

dataBlockIndex            index of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

Returns the number of warnings or the value of -1 for failure.

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifCountDataBlockWarnings*  
                      *cifCountDataBlockErrors*  
                      *cifCountDataBlockErrorsByIndex*



## 2.14.6 cifGetDataBlockErrors

### NAME

*cifGetDataBlockErrors*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetDataBlockErrors(const char *dataBlockName,
                             int *numErrors)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetDataBlockErrors* returns the list of errors and the number of errors for the target data block. The data block is identified by name.

### RECEIVES

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block  |
| <code>numErrors</code>     | address of the integer to hold the number of errors in the target data block |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of error messages or a NULL value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetDataBlockErrorsByIndex*  
*cifGetDataBlockWarnings*  
*cifGetDataBlockWarningsByIndex*

## 2.14.7 `cifGetDataBlockErrorsByIndex`

### NAME

*cifGetDataBlockErrorsByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetDataBlockErrorsByIndex(const int  dataBlockIndex,
                                     int  *numErrors)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetDataBlockErrorsByIndex* returns the list of errors and the number of errors for the target data block. The data block is identified by index.

### RECEIVES

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | index of the target data block   |
| <code>numErrors</code>      | address of the integer to hold the number of errors in the target data block |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of error messages or a NULL value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetDataBlockErrors*  
*cifGetDataBlockWarnings*  
*cifGetDataBlockWarningsByIndex*

## 2.14.8 cifGetDataBlockWarnings

### NAME

*cifGetDataBlockWarnings*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetDataBlockWarnings(const char *dataBlockName,
                               int *numWarnings)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetDataBlockWarnings* returns the list of warnings and the number of warnings for the target data block. The data block is identified by name.

### RECEIVES

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block  |
| <code>numWarnings</code>   | address of the integer to hold the number of warnings in the target data block |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of warning messages or a NULL value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetDataBlockWarningsByIndex*  
*cifGetDataBlockErrors*  
*cifGetDataBlockErrorsByIndex*

## 2.14.9 cifGetDataBlockWarningsByIndex

### NAME

*cifGetDataBlockWarningsByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char **cifGetDataBlockWarningsByIndex(const int  dataBlockIndex,
                                       int  *numWarnings)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetDataBlockWarningsByIndex* returns the list of warnings and the number of warnings for the target data block. The data block is identified by index.

### RECEIVES

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | index of the target data block   |
| <code>numWarnings</code>    | address of the integer to hold the number of warnings in the target data block |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an array of warning messages or a NULL value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetDataBlockWarnings*  
*cifGetDataBlockErrors*  
*cifGetDataBlockErrorsByIndex*

## 2.14.10 cifGetDataBlockError

### NAME

*cifGetDataBlockError*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetDataBlockError(const char *dataBlockName,
                           const int  errorIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetDataBlockError* returns the error message for the error identified by its index in the target data block. The data block is identified by name.

### RECEIVES

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                      |
| <code>errorIndex</code>    | index of the target error in the target data block |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an error message or a NULL value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetDataBlockErrorByIndex*  
*cifGetDataBlockWarning*  
*cifGetDataBlockWarningByIndex*

## 2.14.11 `cifGetDataBlockErrorByIndex`

### NAME

*cifGetDataBlockErrorByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetDataBlockErrorByIndex(const int  dataBlockIndex,
                                   const int  errorIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetDataBlockErrorByIndex* returns the error message for the error identified by its index in the target data block. The data block is identified by index.

### RECEIVES

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | index of the target data block                     |
| <code>errorIndex</code>     | index of the target error in the target data block |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an error message or a NULL value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetDataBlockError*  
*cifGetDataBlockWarning*  
*cifGetDataBlockWarningByIndex*

## 2.14.12 cifGetDataBlockWarning

### NAME

*cifGetDataBlockWarning*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetDataBlockWarning(const char *dataBlockName,
                             const int  warningIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifGetDataBlockWarning* returns the warning message for the warning identified by its index in the target data block. The data block is identified by name.

### RECEIVES

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                        |
| <code>warningIndex</code>  | index of the target warning in the target data block |

### RETURN VALUE

Returns an warning message or a NULL value for failure.

### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetDataBlockWarningByIndex*  
*cifGetDataBlockError*  
*cifGetDataBlockErrorByIndex*

### 2.14.13 `cifGetDataBlockWarningByIndex`

#### NAME

*cifGetDataBlockWarningByIndex*

#### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifGetDataBlockWarningByIndex(const int dataBlockIndex,
                                     const int warningIndex)
```

#### PURPOSE

*cifGetDataBlockWarningByIndex* returns the warning message for the warning identified by its index in the target data block. The data block is identified by index.

#### RECEIVES

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | index of the target data block                       |
| <code>warningIndex</code>   | index of the target warning in the target data block |

#### RETURN VALUE

Returns an warning message or a `NULL` value for failure.

#### REMARKS

See also: *cifGetDataBlockWarning*  
*cifGetDataBlockError*  
*cifGetDataBlockErrorByIndex*



## 2.14.14 `cifFreeDataBlockError`

### NAME

*cifFreeDataBlockError*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void  cifFreeDataBlockError(const char *dataBlockName,
                           const int  errorIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifFreeDataBlockError* frees/removes the error message for the error identified by its index in the target data block. The data block is identified by name.

### RECEIVES

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                      |
| <code>errorIndex</code>    | index of the target error in the target data block |

### RETURN VALUE

None

### REMARKS

See also: *cifFreeDataBlockErrorByIndex*  
*cifFreeDataBlockWarning*  
*cifFreeDataBlockWarningByIndex*

## 2.14.15 `cifFreeDataBlockErrorByIndex`

### NAME

*cifFreeDataBlockErrorByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void cifFreeDataBlockErrorByIndex(const int  dataBlockIndex,
                                 const int  errorIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifFreeDataBlockErrorByIndex* frees/removes the error message for the error identified by its index in the target data block. The data block is identified by index.

### RECEIVES

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | index of the target data block                     |
| <code>errorIndex</code>     | index of the target error in the target data block |

### RETURN VALUE

None

### REMARKS

See also: *cifFreeDataBlockError*  
*cifFreeDataBlockWarning*  
*cifFreeDataBlockWarningByIndex*

## 2.14.16 `cifFreeDataBlockWarning`

### NAME

*cifFreeDataBlockWarning*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void cifFreeDataBlockWarning(const char *dataBlockName,
                             const int  warningIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifFreeDataBlockWarning* frees/removes the warning message for the warning identified by its index in the target data block. The data block is identified by name.

### RECEIVES

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block                        |
| <code>warningIndex</code>  | index of the target warning in the target data block |

### RETURN VALUE

None

### REMARKS

See also: *cifFreeDataBlockWarningByIndex*  
*cifFreeDataBlockError*  
*cifFreeDataBlockErrorByIndex*

## 2.14.17 `cifFreeDataBlockWarningByIndex`

### NAME

*cifFreeDataBlockWarningByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

char *cifFreeDataBlockWarningByIndex(const int dataBlockIndex,
                                     const int warningIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifFreeDataBlockWarningByIndex* frees/removes the warning message for the warning identified by its index in the target data block. The data block is identified by index.

### RECEIVES

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | index of the target data block                       |
| <code>warningIndex</code>   | index of the target warning in the target data block |

### RETURN VALUE

None

### REMARKS

See also: *cifFreeDataBlockWarning*  
*cifFreeDataBlockError*  
*cifFreeDataBlockErrorByIndex*

## 2.14.18 `cifFreeDataBlockErrors`

### NAME

*cifFreeDataBlockErrors*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void cifFreeDataBlockErrors(const char *dataBlockName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifFreeDataBlockErrors* frees/removes the list of errors for the target data block. The data block is identified by name.

### RECEIVES

`dataBlockName`            name of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

None

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifFreeDataBlockErrorsByIndex*  
                      *cifFreeDataBlockWarnings*  
                      *cifFreeDataBlockWarningsByIndex*

## 2.14.19 `cifFreeDataBlockErrorsByIndex`

### NAME

*cifFreeDataBlockErrorsByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void cifFreeDataBlockErrorsByIndex(const int  dataBlockIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifFreeDataBlockErrorsByIndex* frees/removes the list of errors for the target data block. The data block is identified by index.

### RECEIVES

`dataBlockIndex`            index of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

None

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifFreeDataBlockErrors*  
                      *cifFreeDataBlockWarnings*  
                      *cifFreeDataBlockWarningsByIndex*

## 2.14.20 `cifFreeDataBlockWarnings`

### NAME

*cifFreeDataBlockWarnings*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void cifFreeDataBlockWarnings(const char *dataBlockName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifFreeDataBlockWarnings* frees/removes the list of warnings for the target data block. The data block is identified by name.

### RECEIVES

`dataBlockName`            name of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

None

### REMARKS

See also:            *cifFreeDataBlockWarningsByIndex*  
                      *cifFreeDataBlockErrors*  
                      *cifFreeDataBlockErrorsByIndex*

## 2.14.21 `cifFreeDataBlockWarningsByIndex`

### NAME

*cifFreeDataBlockWarningsByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void cifFreeDataBlockWarningsByIndex(const int  dataBlockIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifFreeDataBlockWarningsByIndex* frees/removes the list of warnings for the target data block. The data block is identified by index.

### RECEIVES

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <code>dataBlockIndex</code> | index of the target data block   |
| <code>numWarnings</code>    | address of the integer to hold the number of warnings in the target data block |

### RETURN VALUE

None

### REMARKS

See also: *cifFreeDataBlockWarnings*  
*cifFreeDataBlockErrors*  
*cifFreeDataBlockErrorsByIndex*



## 2.14.22 `cifPrintDataBlock`

### NAME

*cifPrintDataBlock*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void cifPrintDataBlock(const char *dataBlockName)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifPrintDataBlock* prints the contents of a data block to the output stream (stdout). This function is provided primarily for debugging purposes.

### RECEIVES

|                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <code>dataBlockName</code> | name of the target data block |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|

### RETURN VALUE

None

### REMARKS

None

## 2.14.23 `cifPrintDataBlockByIndex`

### NAME

*cifPrintDataBlockByIndex*

### PROTOTYPE

```
#include "ciflib.h"

void cifPrintDataBlockByIndex(const int dataBlockIndex)
```

### PURPOSE

*cifPrintDataBlockByIndex* prints the contents of a data block to the output stream (stdout). This function is provided primarily for debugging purposes.

### RECEIVES

`dataBlockIndex`          index of the target data block

### RETURN VALUE

None

### REMARKS

None

## 2.15 Missing Functionality and Documentation

There are a number of issues that have not been included in this version of the interface description. These known omissions, which will be incorporated in future releases of the documentation, include:

- a detailed description of the parsing rules used by CIFLIB
- a complete description of the CIFLIB error codes and the CIFLIB integrity checking process.
- a systematic treatment of the propagation of updates through a CIF schema.
- merge functions
- query functions

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