

RDA vocabulary encoding scheme for Manifestation: type of binding

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Introduction

The element Manifestation: type of binding was added to the RDA element set during the 3R Project, with the definition “A method used to bind a published or unpublished manifestation”.

The element is intended for recording a standard method of binding of a manifestation with a value of Manifestation: carrier type of “volume”; defined as “A carrier type that consists of one or more sheets bound or fastened together to form a single unit”.

The main use case for this element is to distinguish descriptions of manifestations that differ only in how they are bound. This most commonly occurs with published manifestations exemplified by many items. Unpublished manifestations tend to have low numbers of items, and tend not to use more than one type of binding. The element supports the user task “select” in cases where the method of binding impacts on the portability or accessibility of a manifestation.

Although the element may be important for conservation processes, this use case is at the edge of RDA's scope; use cases for item shelving and circulation are out of scope.

If more detail than the general type of binding is required, it can be recorded as a Manifestation: note on manifestation or described as a related work using Manifestation: binding of manifestation.

The element is not intended to apply to a binding applied to an item after its publication or production.

An item “bound with” another item is recorded as a new manifestation with a single exemplar, in accordance with the IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM). Items “bound” together are recorded using the relationship element Item: bound with. The new manifestation is treated as an unpublished manifestation which may not have the carrier type “volume” and therefore no value for the type of binding.

The application of a binding by an owner of a manifestation that is issued as unbound sheets is recorded as a modification of the specific item using Item: modification of item, again in accordance with the LRM. The application of a re-binding by a collector or conservator is also recorded as a modification of the specific item.

The binding of a manifestation exemplified by only one item is described as a characteristic of the manifestation of the item because it applies to all exemplars of the manifestation.

The binding of a specific item is described as a related work using Item: binding of item. This accommodates detailed description of materials, artistic content, binder agents, and other aspects of the binding.

The element has an associated RDA vocabulary encoding scheme (VES). This is based on references to types of binding in the content of the old RDA Toolkit, including examples, and relevant

information from the ONIX for Books codelists¹. The VES is incomplete: there are no definitions or scope notes for the terms, and the terms do not cover all of the standard methods for binding or attaching sheets to form a volume.

The MARC/RDA Working Group submitted MARC Discussion Paper No. 2020-DP17 (Recording the Type of Binding for Manifestations in the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format)² to the MARC Advisory Committee in May 2020.

Discussion

Large-scale publishers may include a statement of the type of binding in a manifestation. The statement is often used to qualify a Manifestation: manifestation identifier statement in cases where a manifestation gives multiple identifiers such as ISBNs for different ‘binding editions’ of the same content that are published simultaneously.

The statement may be abbreviated, for example “pb” or “pbk” for “paperback” (in English).

The statement may use different terms for what is basically the same method of binding. For example, a “library binding” is similar to the “hardback” type of binding.

Small-scale publishers and producers do not usually state what binding is used, although it may be easy to determine by an agent who creates the metadata.

This suggests that it would be helpful to use a VES as a source of values for a structured description, identifier, or IRI recording method for the element.

There does not appear to be an external VES that is suitable to support the user task “select”. For example, the ONIX codelists are aimed at publishers and distributors. The Wikipedia coverage of binding methods is focussed on publishers and the contexts of library conservation and circulation. Nonetheless, there are many websites offering terms and definitions associated with bindings and their manufacture, although the terminology varies.

The basic approaches for the new RDA Toolkit are to remove the partial RDA VES and leave the instructions to use any suitable VES, or to complete the RDA VES with definitions, scope notes, and additional terms.

Recommendation 1: Resolve the incomplete VES.

Option 1A: Remove the incomplete RDA VES and adjust the instructions for the element accordingly.

Option 1B: Develop the incomplete RDA VES to add definitions and appropriate scope notes, and terms for basic methods of binding that are missing.

A proposal for a complete RDA VES is given in the Appendix.

Manifestation entity boundary

The new instructions for the entity boundary of a manifestation do not yet specify which elements may be used to determine if a new instance of a manifestation should be described.

¹ Available at: https://www.editeur.org/files/ONIX%20for%20books%20-%20code%20lists/ONIX_BookProduct_Codelists_Current.html

² Available at: <https://www.loc.gov/marc/mac/2020/2020-dp17.html>

The LRM indicates that changes in the physical form of a manifestation, including “changes in the container” are evidence of a new manifestation, but type of binding is not specifically mentioned as an example.

Discussion about the MARC/RDA Working Group paper for type of binding indicates that some communities do not wish to distinguish between bindings of manifestations that are published simultaneously and not treated as reprints or reproductions.

However, other communities have historically treated manifestations with different types of binding as distinct manifestations in the context of national bibliographies and bibliographic history, and to support the selection of an appropriate binding for portability and accessibility by end-users.

This suggests that Manifestation: type of binding should be added as a relative boundary for Manifestation, allowing the distinction to be optional.

Recommendation 2: Include Manifestation: type of binding in the options for a relative boundary of the Manifestation entity.

Impact

This development of RDA will resolve the inconsistent and incomplete use of the vocabulary encoding scheme and improve the clarity of instructions for recording type of binding.

Recommendations and options

Recommendation 1: Resolve the incomplete VES.

Option 1A: Remove the incomplete RDA VES and adjust the instructions for the element accordingly.

Option 1B: Develop the incomplete RDA VES to add definitions and appropriate scope notes, and terms for basic methods of binding that are missing.

Recommendation 2: Include Manifestation: type of binding in the options for a relative boundary of the Manifestation entity

Appendix: Proposed completion of RDA Type of binding vocabulary encoding scheme

Term	Definition	Scope note	Synonyms
board book binding	A type of binding for sheets of thick paperboard with covers that are folded and bound to form a spine	The binding is durable and often used for children's books. Outer covers are of the same thickness of paperboard as the sheets.	
closed ring binding	A type of binding that uses two or more rings of metal or plastic that are threaded through holes along the edge of each sheet.	The rings are widely spaced and require a spine to maintain the spacing. Outer covers may be attached directly to the spine, or threaded by the rings.	
comb binding	A type of binding that uses multiple closely-spaced curved flaps of metal or plastic that are threaded through holes along the edge of each sheet.	The binding flaps usually form a curved spine. Outer covers are threaded by the flaps.	
hardback	A type of binding that sews folded sheets into sections that are glued together to form a flat spine and attached to endpapers which are in turn attached to a stiff outer casing.	The outer casing of the volume is usually made of board, wood, plastic, or some other rigid material.	case binding library binding
open ring binding	A type of binding that uses two or more rings of metal or plastic that are threaded through holes along the edge of each sheet, and that can be opened to allow the removal or insertion of any sheet.	The rings are widely spaced and require a spine to maintain the spacing. Outer covers may be attached directly to the spine or threaded by the rings.	lever arch binding
paperback	A type of binding that glues sheets together and to a flexible outer casing to form a spine.	The outer casing of the volume is usually made of thin card,	perfect binding softcover thermal binding

		plastic, or some other flexible material.	
saddle stitch binding	A type of binding that folds sheets and staples them along the fold to form a spine.	The staples may be made of metal, plastic, or textile. Outer covers made of a flexible material are also folded and stapled to the sheets.	
slide binding	A type of binding that uses a single length of metal or plastic bent into a C cross-section which slides over the edge of each sheet to hold it in place.	Outer covers of the volume may be made of a thin flexible material that can be inserted as a sheet into the binding strip.	
spiral binding	A type of binding that uses a continuous wire or plastic coil that is threaded through holes along the edge of each sheet.	Outer covers of the volume may be made of a rigid or flexible material, and attached directly to the coil or threaded by the coil.	coil binding
springback binding	A type of binding that clamps the edge of each sheet in a metal spring that is directly attached to a spine and outer covers, and that can be opened to allow the removal or insertion of any sheet.		