

Expression excerpts

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Abstract

This paper discusses the issues in recording extracts of expressions and how they can be resolved in RDA Toolkit. The recommendations in the paper are based on a set of assumptions that are listed as propositions. Detailed proposals for additions to RDA guidance and instructions are dependent on agreement with the propositions and recommendations and are not included in this paper.

Background

The development of instructions for compilations of works and expressions embodied as aggregates raises the issue of excerpts from expressions.

An expression excerpt is usually embodied as a component of an aggregate. There are two categories of use case:

- The plan of the aggregating work is to compile expression excerpts with a common characteristic. The result is a **collection aggregate**. Examples are compilations of opening lines of poems, quotations, excerpts from musical recordings, etc.
- The expression excerpt augments, or is augmented in, an aggregate. The result is an **augmentation aggregate**. Examples are a critical study on a monologue from a play, a monologue from a play used to illustrate a text on contemporary drama conventions, etc.

The LRM does not discuss expression excerpts. FRBRoo has a sub-class for Expression Fragment, but this is being deprecated in LRMoo.

Expression parts

The whole-part relationship for works, expressions, and manifestations is defined in the Library Reference Model (LRM); it “holds for all the expressions and manifestations of the larger work and of its component works, whether the expression or manifestation comprises the full larger work or just one or more (but not all) of the component works”. The relationship is also “an inherent aspect of the *works*” (emphasis in the original).

This means that the relationship is part of the characteristics of a work, and all expressions and manifestations of a whole-part work follow the same structural relationship. That is, a work that has two parts is realized by an expression that has two parts, and is embodied by a manifestation that has two (logical) parts. An expression or manifestation does not have to realize or embody all of the parts, but it cannot have more parts than the work.

The LRM also states “An aggregate should not be confused with *works* which were created with parts, such as multipart novels”. Again, the emphasis is on the work as the entity that governs the whole-part relationship.

The evidence of a whole-part work in a manifestation may be:

- A manifestation statement that contains information that there is a whole-part work; e.g. “The fourth part of the trilogy”.
- A manifestation statement that indicates that it embodies a part; e.g. “Part 2”; “II”.

- A manifestation statement that indicates that there is a broader work; e.g. a statement of series; a common title such as ‘The chronicles of a daily life’.

On this basis, the whole-part relationship can be extended to any part that has a designation:

- An enumeration.
- A distinct title.

That is, a chapter that is numbered or titled is a part of a textual work. For example, “Section 1” is a part of the current RDA Toolkit, and “3”, “Describing carriers”, and “3 DESCRIBING CARRIERS” are titles of one part of “Section 1”. In principle, this can be taken to the finest designated level of granularity: “11.2.2.8”, “Initial articles”, and “11.2.2.8 Initial Articles” are titles for a part of the current Toolkit.

However, “EXAMPLE” does not indicate a part of “11.2.2.8” because the rest of the content of 11.2.2.8 does not have a separate designation.

A further condition for a whole-part relationship is:

- All of the parts of a whole must have a designation.

Proposition 1: The enumeration or title designation of all of its parts is an inherent aspect of a whole-part work.

Generally, such enumerations and titles are ignored as significant aspects of the content of an expression. An expression that omits chapter headings and titles does not cross the new work boundary.

Conversely, an expression that adds such enumerations or titles does not cross the boundary from a single-part to multi-part work.

This suggests that the whole-part characteristic of a work is determined by a representative expression that is the first realization of the work.

Proposition 2: A whole-part work is identified by the enumeration or titles present in a representative expression of the work, which is usually the expression embodied by the first manifestation of the work.

Expression excerpts

An expression excerpt is not designated as a part in a representative expression of a whole-part work. It is therefore not evidence of a whole-part work in any expression or manifestation of the work. In particular, a whole-part manifestation may have physical parts that are not evidence of a whole-part work.

Proposition 3: An expression excerpt is not an expression part.

An expression excerpt does not have a corresponding work “excerpt”.

An expression excerpt may be embodied in a distinct manifestation that is not an aggregate. In that case, the new work boundary is crossed if the excerpt is not a significant portion of the full expression. The excerpt becomes a ‘whole’ expression of the new work. The new work has a derivation relationship with the original work (“based on work”/“derivative work”).

There is a similarity with the abridgement relationship. An abridged expression can cross the new work boundary to become a realization of a new work.

Proposition 4: An expression excerpt is a distinct expression that realizes the original work or a derived work.

As a distinct expression, an expression excerpt is usually embodied by an aggregate manifestation.

Excerpt relationship

There is utility in relating an expression to an expression excerpt or vice-versa.

Recommendation 1: Add a new relationship element for Expression: [has] excerpt, with an inverse of Expression: [is] excerpt of.

Toolkit label: excerpt

Toolkit definition: An expression that is an extract from another expression of the same work.

Domain: Expression

Range: Expression

This is a sub-type of **Expression: derivate expression**.

Toolkit label: excerpt of

Toolkit definition: An expression from which an expression is extracted.

Domain: Expression

Range: Expression

This is a sub-type of **Expression: based on expression**.

Expression access point qualifier

An excerpt of an expression typically has no intrinsic title or identifier, so an access point may be derived from an access point for the original expression.

This may be achieved by applying a string encoding scheme that qualifies the scheme used for the original expression. The qualifier component simply indicates that the expression is an excerpt, and does not need to differentiate between different excerpts of the same original expression. The standard approach in RDA is to specify a fixed-text qualifier, such as “Works” or “Saint”, that can be a component of a string encoding scheme.

This approach results in the collocation of excerpt expressions and the original expression.

Recommendation 2: Add ‘Excerpt’ as a qualifier in the RDA instructions for Expression: access point for expression.

Example:

Original **Expression: access point for expression**: “Austen, Jane | Emma | English | Text”

Excerpt **Expression: access point for expression**: “Austen, Jane | Emma | English | Text | Excerpt”

Note: The qualifier and relationship element are the same word, differentiated by the case of the first letter. This does not result in a duplicate entry in the Toolkit Glossary because entries are not included for qualifiers

Category reference

An excerpt expression is a kind of Expression. It is RSC policy to avoid creating an entity sub-type or sub-class, and to not specify a VES for LRM “category” elements such as **Work: category of work** or **Expression: category of expression**.

The preferred approach is to use a “soft” category, such as “musical work” or “collection aggregate”, that is defined in RDA Terms.

There is a requirement to add a soft category for excerpt expressions, for use in guidance, instructions, and conditions.

Recommendation 3: Add “expression excerpt” to RDA Terms.

Preferred label: “expression excerpt”

Definition: “An extract from an expression.”

Instruction condition

The qualifier is only applicable to an expression that is an excerpt. This is indicated in the Toolkit by adding a condition to the options for using the qualifier.

The condition will apply to optional instructions in **Expression: access point for expression** and to string encoding schemes specified in the Toolkit. The condition should be boilerplate for ease of re-use and translation.

Recommendation 4: Add boilerplate for the condition “An expression is an excerpt expression.”

Compilations of excerpts

Several expression excerpts may be incorporated in a collection aggregate.

A compilation of expression excerpts is covered by the instructions for other kinds of compilation, such as works or expressions created by one agent or of a specific “form” such as poems. In all cases, what is aggregated are expressions, irrespective of how the aggregate describes itself.

The specific cases to accommodate are:

- a) Excerpts from expressions created by one agent.
- b) Excerpts from expressions of a single category (or content type) created by one agent.
- c) Excerpts from all of the expressions created by one agent, or at least one expression of every work created by one agent.
- d) Excerpts from all of the expressions of a single category created by one agent, or at least one expression of every work of a single category created by one agent.
- e) Excerpts (non-contiguous) from a single expression.

Conventional collective title

An access point for an aggregating work that is embodied by a collection aggregate uses one or more fixed-text components to indicate the scope of the plan for aggregation relative to an agent who creates the expressions that are aggregated.

“Works” indicates that the scope matches case c).

“Selections” indicates that the scope matches case a)

Another conventional collective title, such as “plays”, indicates that the scope matches cases b) and d).

Case e) is not accommodated by the existing conventional collective titles.

Recommendation 5: Use the conventional collective title “excerpts” for compilations of expression excerpts.

Examples:

“Austen, Jane | Works | Excerpts”

“Austen, Jane | Selections | Excerpts”

“Shakespeare, William | Plays | Selections | Excerpts”

Next steps

The detail of additional guidance and instructions is dependent on the outcomes of discussion.

Recommendation 6: Add guidance and instructions for describing expression excerpts to RDA Toolkit, using the elements, boilerplate, condition, kinds of compilation, and conventional collective title described in other recommendations.

This will require additions to instructions for:

- **Expression: access point for expression**
- **Work: access point for work**

The specific elements that will be augmented are dependent on the outcome of discussion of how the Toolkit should accommodate specific string encoding schemes.

There is no requirement to amend existing beta Toolkit content.

Recommendations

Proposition 1: The enumeration or title designation of all of its parts is an inherent aspect of a whole-part work.

Proposition 2: A whole-part work is identified by the enumeration or titles present in a representative expression of the work, which is usually the expression embodied by the first manifestation of the work.

Proposition 3: An expression excerpt is not an expression part.

Proposition 4: An expression excerpt is a distinct expression that realizes the original work or a derived work.

Recommendation 1: Add a new relationship element for Expression: [has] excerpt, with an inverse of Expression: [is] excerpt of.

Recommendation 2: Add ‘Excerpt’ as a qualifier in the RDA instructions for Expression: access point for expression.

Recommendation 3: Add “expression excerpt” to RDA Terms.

Recommendation 4: Add boilerplate for the condition “An expression is an excerpt expression.”.

Recommendation 5: Use the conventional collective title “excerpts” for compilations of expression excerpts.

Recommendation 6: Add guidance and instructions for describing expression excerpts to RDA Toolkit, using the elements, boilerplate, term, condition, kinds of compilation, and conventional collective title described in other recommendations.