Representative Expression Elements in Authority Records

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Authority Control Interest Group
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Representative expression: RDA glossary definition

representative expression
An expression that is considered a canonical source of data for identifying a work.
Inverse: representative expression of
Representative expression attribute: LRM

• An attribute of the WORK entity
• Definition:

“An attribute which is deemed essential in characterizing the work and whose values are taken from a representative or canonical expression of the work”
Representative expression attribute: LRM

- Strictly speaking, all expressions are equal as realizations for the work.
- Database users, however, often consider certain characteristics of particular expressions as inherent in the work.
- These characteristics may be thought of as best representing the intention of the creator of the work.
- This may be an attribute of a particular expression deemed to best represent the work (more than one can be recorded).
- It is not necessary to identify a particular expression as the “representative expression”
Representative expression attribute

• Some examples
  • Textual works: possible representative expression attributes might be *language* or *content type*
    • Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* (a work) might be thought by most users as an *English-language* work and a *text* (content type). “English” and “text” might be representative expression attributes of *Hamlet*
    • Other expressions are possible—perhaps a spoken word version of *Hamlet* in French—but users likely still think of the work as being an English-language text
  • Musical works: possible representative expression attributes might be *key* or *medium of performance*
    • Mozart’s flute concerto no. 1 in G major (a work) would probably be thought by most users as for “flute” (medium of performance) and in “G major” (key)
    • Other expressions are possible—perhaps an arrangement for clarinet in C major—but users likely still think of the work as being in G major and for flute
  • This sort of expression attribute is what RDA means when it uses the term “canonical”
RDA: Declaring an expression to be “the” representative expression?
RDA Attribute Elements (Official text). Work (Selected)

• Category of work
• Coverage of content
• Dissertation or thesis information
• Extension plan
• Frequency
• History of work
• Nature of content
• Note on metadata work

• Note on work
• Numbering of part
• Recording source
• Scope of validity
• System of organization
RDA Attribute Elements (Official text).
Expression (Selected)

- Aspect ratio
- Award
- Capture information
- Category of expression
- Colour
- Content type
- Designation of version
- Details of ... elements and subelements
- Duration
- Extent of expression
- Form of notation
- Format of notated music
- Intended audience of expression
- Interactivity mode
- **Key of expression**
- Language of expression
- Medium of performance of choreographic content
- **Medium of performance** of musical content
- Note on expression
- Projection of cartographic content
- Scale
- Summarization of content

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The problem

• Entity-relationship principles require strict boundaries between the entities in terms of the attributes that can be used to describe them
  • The new Toolkit is quite clear about what the domain of each element is
    • This means that a given element can only be used to describe an instance of its named domain
  • This is necessitated by requirements of linked data structures
• But people don’t necessarily think of the bibliographical universe in these terms
• In particular, database users—including catalogers—often associate attributes of expression with works
The problem

- Under original RDA it was inappropriate to include *language* or *content type* in a description (a.k.a. authority record) for a work and under the (new) official text it will also be inappropriate to record *intended audience* because none of these is (or will be) an element that can be used to describe a work entity:

  046 ## $k 1865 $2 edtf
  100 1# $a Carroll, Lewis, $d 1832-1898. $t Alice's adventures in Wonderland
  336 ## $a text $2 rdacontent
  377 ## $a eng
  380 ## $a Novels $a Fantasy fiction $a Nonsense fiction $2 lcgft
  385 ## $a Children $2 lcdgt
  400 1# $a Carroll, Lewis, $d 1832-1898. $t Alice in Wonderland
The problem

• Catalogers clearly want to record this type of information in descriptions of works and they’re not wrong to want to, though original RDA didn’t allow it. From the current NAF:

046 ## $k 1967-09 $l 1969-01
130 #0 $a Ballantonian (Bloomington, Ind.)
370 ## $g Bloomington (Ind.) $2 naf
377 ## $a eng
380 ## $a College student newspapers and periodicals $2 lcsh
510 2# $w r $i Sponsoring body: $a Indiana University College
670 ## $a The Ballantonian records, 1967-1969 $b (The Ballantonian; weekly liberal arts review run by Indiana University students and sponsored by the English Department; journal ran from September 1967 to January 1969)
Representative expression elements
Works with textual aspects

• Colour content of representative expression
• Content type of representative expression
• Date of representative expression
• Extent of representative expression
• Intended audience of representative expression
• Language of representative expression
• Script of representative expression
Representative expression elements
Works with notated music aspects

• **Content type** of representative expression
• **Date** of representative expression
• **Duration** of representative expression
• **Extent** of representative expression
• **Intended audience** of representative expression

• **Key** of representative expression
• **Medium of performance of choreographic content** of representative expression
• **Medium of performance of musical content** of representative expression
• **Script** of representative expression
Recommended change:

LC/PCC practice: Cataloger’s judgment to record. Apply the option when needed to break a conflict.
MARC coding

• Representative expression elements are recorded in work-level descriptions (authority records)

• All representative expression elements except Key of representative expression and Medium of performance of musical content of representative expression are recorded in MARC field 387
MARC coding: 387 subfield codes

$\text{a} - \text{Aspect ratio of representative expression (R)}$

$\text{b} - \text{Color content of representative expression (R)}$

$\text{c} - \text{Content type of representative expression (R)}$

$\text{d} - \text{Date of capture of representative expression (R)}$

$\text{e} - \text{Date of representative expression (R)}$

$\text{f} - \text{Duration of representative expression (R)}$

$\text{g} - \text{Intended audience of representative expression (R)}$

$\text{h} - \text{Language of representative expression (R)}$

$\text{i} - \text{Place of capture of representative expression (R)}$

$\text{j} - \text{Projection of cartographic content of representative expression (R)}$

$\text{k} - \text{Scale of representative expression (R)}$

$\text{l} - \text{Script of representative expression (R)}$

$\text{m} - \text{Sound content of representative expression (R)}$

$\text{0} - \text{Authority record control number or standard number (R)}$

$\text{1} - \text{Real World Object URI (R)}$

$\text{2} - \text{Source of term (NR)}$

$\text{3} - \text{Materials specified (NR)}$

$\text{6} - \text{Linkage (NR)}$

$\text{7} - \text{Data provenance (R)}$

$\text{8} - \text{Field link and sequence number (R)}$
MARC coding: key and medium of performance

• Representative expression elements are recorded in work-level descriptions (authority records)

• Key of representative expression is recorded in MARC field 384, first indicator 2, subfield $a.$

• Medium of performance of musical content of representative expression is recorded in MARC field 382, first indicator 2 (for full medium of performance) or 3 (for partial medium of performance). Subfield coding for MARC field 382 has not changed.

• There is no provision (yet) for Medium of performance of choreographic content of representative expression.
MARC coding example: text

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>046</td>
<td>## $k 1865 $2 edtf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
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<td>380</td>
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<tr>
<td>387</td>
<td>## $c text $2 rdacontent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>387</td>
<td>## $g Children $2 lcdgt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>387</td>
<td>## $h eng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>1# $a Carroll, Lewis, $d 1832-1898. $t Alice in Wonderland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MARC coding examples

**Expression**
- 046 ## $k 1907 $2 edtf
- 100 0# $a Homer. $t Odyssey. $l Greek $s (Allen)
- 336 ## $a text $2 rdacontent
- 377 ## $a grc
- 381 ## $a Allen
- 500 1# $w r $i Editor: $a Allen, Thomas W. $q (Thomas William), $d 1862-1950
- 530 #0 $w r $i Related work: $a Scriptorum classicorum bibliotheca Oxoniensis

**Work**
- 046 ## $k -07
- 100 1# $a Homer. $t Odyssey
- 380 ## $a Epic poetry $2 lcgft
- 387 ## $c text $2 rdacontent
- 387 ## $h grc

**Expression**
- 046 ## $k 1504 $2 edtf
- 100 0# $a Homer. $t Odyssey. $l Greek $s (Manuzio)
- 336 ## $a text $2 rdacontent
- 377 ## $a grc
- 381 ## $a Manuzio
- 500 1# $w r $i Editor: $a Manuzio, Aldo, $d 1449 or 1450-1515
### MARC Coding Examples: Key and Medium of Performance

**Key and Medium of Performance Examples:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARC Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>046 ## $k 1913 $2 edtf</td>
<td>1890 $2 edtf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 1# $a Debussy, Claude, $d 1862-1918. $t Syrinx</td>
<td>1913 $2 edtf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>380 ## $a Art music $2 lcgft</td>
<td>Debussy, Claude, $t Syrinx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>382 0# $a flute $n 1 $s 1 $2 lcmpt</td>
<td>$a Art music $2 lcgft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>382 2# $a flute $n 1 $s 1 $2 lcmpt</td>
<td>1913 $2 edtf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MARC Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>046 ## $k 1994 $2 edtf</td>
<td>1890 $2 edtf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 1# $a Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus, $d 1756-1791. $t Concertos, $m violin, orchestra, $n K. 211, $r D major</td>
<td>1994 $2 edtf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>380 ## $a Concertos $2 lcgft</td>
<td>$t Concertos, $m violin, orchestra, $n K. 211, $r D major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>382 0# $b violin $n 1 $a orchestra $e 1 $r 1 $t 1 $2 lcmpt</td>
<td>380 ## $a Concertos $2 lcgft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>382 2# $b violin $n 1 $a orchestra $e 1 $r 1 $t 1 $2 lcmpt</td>
<td>1994 $2 edtf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>383 ## $a no. 2</td>
<td>382 0# $b violin $n 1 $a orchestra $e 1 $r 1 $t 1 $2 lcmpt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>383 ## $c K. 211 $d Köchel6 $2 mlati</td>
<td>383 ## $a no. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>384 0# $a D major</td>
<td>384 0# $a D major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>384 2# $a D# major</td>
<td>383 ## $c K. 211 $d Köchel6 $2 mlati</td>
</tr>
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<td>384 2# $a D major</td>
<td>383 0# $a no. 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Thanks!

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