A Quickstart Guide to RDA Terminology: Element, SES, and VES

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A Quickstart Guide to...

1. Element
2. String encoding scheme
3. Vocabulary encoding scheme
1. Element
The RDA entities

• Limited to the 13 entities listed in the first tab of the beta RDA Toolkit
• “Things” that are of interest to library users
**element**

A specific aspect, characteristic, attribute, or relationship used to describe an RDA entity.
There are more than 3,000 elements in the beta RDA Toolkit!
Each element is unique.
Each element can only describe one entity.

**title proper**

**Definition and Scope**
A title of manifestation that is selected for preference in a specific application or context.

An alternative title is treated as part of a title proper.

**Element Reference**

- **IRI**
  
  http://rdaregistry.info/Elements/m/P30156

- **Domain**
  
  Manifestation

- **Range**
  
  Nomen

- **Alternate labels**
  
  has title proper
  preferred title of manifestation
  earlier title proper
  later title proper

The element “title proper” always describes a manifestation.
Each element has one or more alternate labels.

title proper

Definition and Scope
A title of manifestation that is selected for preference in a specific application or context.

An alternative title is treated as part of a title proper.

Element Reference

IRI
http://rdaregistry.info/Elements/m/P30156

Domain

Manifestation

Range

Nomen

Alternate labels

- has title proper
- preferred title of manifestation
- earlier title proper
- later title proper

Verbalized label
(RDA Registry label)

Alternate labels
Elements are “stored” in the RDA Registry

RDA element sets

RDA Reference element sets
- Classes
- Agent properties
- Expression properties
- Item properties
- Manifestation properties
- Nomen properties
- Place properties
- Timespan properties
- Work properties
- RDA Entity properties

Unconstrained element sets
- Unconstrained properties

https://www.rdaregistry.info/Elements/

RDA Reference element sets include:
- an element set of classes representing the RDA entities:
  - Agent, Collective Agent, Expression, Item, Manifestation, Person, and Work, taken from the IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM).
  - Corporate Body and Family, taken from the previous Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRAD).
- an element set for each of the RDA Work properties, Expression properties, Manifestation properties, Item properties, Place properties, Time-span properties, and Nomen properties, representing the entity attributes and relationships.
- an element set for the RDA Agent properties including the RDA entities Collective Agent, Person, Family, and Corporate Body, representing the entity attributes and relationships.
- an element set for the RDA Entity properties as a super-entity, representing the entity attributes and relationships.

Unconstrained element sets are available for use by non-FRBR applications.

- an element set of unconstrained properties without references to the RDA entities, representing elements for generalized attributes and relationships.

RDA Reference value vocabularies are used in RDA applications, including RDA Toolkit.

The labels, definitions, and scope notes are covered by the Translation Policy for RDA and RDA Toolkit.
relationship element
An element that relates two RDA entities. 
*Use for: relationship designator.*
graduate of

Definition and Scope
An institution or faculty that granted an academic degree to a person.

Relationship elements have a domain and a range

RDA Entity that is described by an element
RDA Entity that is the value of a relationship element

Alternate labels
is graduate of
Definition and Scope

An institution or faculty that granted an academic degree to a person.

The element graduate of relates a

to a

that is

is graduate of
Example with a relationship element

Domain: Person

Ezra Jack Keats

record an element

is graduate of

The verbalized label helps understand the essence of the relationship

Range: Corporate Body

Thomas Jefferson High School

record a value for the element
Definitions

metadata statement
A piece of metadata that assigns a value to an RDA element that describes an individual instance of an RDA entity.

metadata description set
One or more metadata statements that describe and relate an individual instance of one or more entities.
Relationship elements are reciprocal

One way to find the inverse of an element is to scroll to the bottom of the element page.
Body: access point for corporate body.

For general guidance on structured descriptions, see Recording methods. Recording a structured description.

**Recording an identifier**

Record an identifier for a related corporate body as a value of Corporate Body: identifier for corporate body.

For general guidance on identifiers, see Recording methods. Recording an identifier.

**Recording an IRI**

Record an IRI for a related corporate body as a real-world object.

For general guidance on IRIs, see Recording methods. Recording an IRI.

**View in Context Example**

[Example](#)

**Related Elements**

For broader elements, see Person: related corporate body of person.

For the inverse of this element, see Corporate Body: graduate.

Relationship elements are reciprocal.

The inverse of the element graduate of is graduate.
graduate

Definition and Scope
A person who receives an academic degree from a granting institution or faculty.

Relationship elements are reciprocal
The inverse of the element graduate of is graduate.
Example with reciprocal relationship elements

Domain: Person

Ezra Jack Keats

is graduate of

has graduate

Range: Corporate Body

Thomas Jefferson High School

Domain: Corporate Body

Range: Person
Accessing the Relationship Matrix
Warning!

Relationship matrix (under development)

The relationship matrix does not contain current or complete element listings. It may be used in principle to identify relationship elements that associate two entities, understanding that data will be updated and functionality will be further developed.
Item

Entities related to an item

To record an association between this entity and a related entity, use a relationship element that is sufficiently specific to meet the needs of an agent who creates the metadata.

Select an appropriate relationship element from the list for the related entity:

- Item to Agent
- Item to Collective Agent
- Item to Corporate Body
- Item to Expression
- Item to Family
- Item to Item
- Item to Manifestation
- Item to Nomen
- **Item to Person**
- Item to Place
- Item to RDA Entity
- Item to Timespan
- Item to Work
Item to Person

annotator\[^2\]: A person who adds notes and other information to an item by hand. 
*Inverse*: annotator of\[^2\].

autographer\[^2\]: A person whose manuscript signature appears on an item. 
*Inverse*: autographer of\[^2\].

inscriber\[^2\]: A person who makes a statement of dedication or gift on an item. 
*Inverse*: inscriber of\[^2\].

related person of item\[^2\]: A person who is associated with an item. 
*Inverse*: related item of person\[^2\].

elements missing: 
• binder person 
• collector person 
• curator person 
• and more...
attribute element
An element that is an inherent or externally imputed characteristic of an RDA entity.
profession or occupation

Definition and Scope
A vocation or avocation.

Attribute elements have a domain but no range

Element Reference

IRI
http://rdaregistry.info/Elements/a/P50104

Domain
Person

Alternate labels
has profession or occupation

RDA Entity that is described by an element

No Range!
Example with an attribute element

Domain: Person

Ezra Jack Keats

has profession occupation

artist

Range: None
not an RDA entity
Some original RDA Toolkit attributes have become relationship elements

Domain: Manifestation

- has title proper
  - Range: Nomen
    - The snowy day
- has place of publication
  - Range: Place
    - New York, N.Y.
- has date of publication
  - Range: Timespan
    - 1962
Definitions

**element super-type**
A broader category or type of an element.

**element sub-type**
A narrower category or type of an element.
Example of broader and narrower elements

translation of

Related Elements
For broader elements, see Expression: based on expression.
For narrower elements, see Expression: dubbed version of
Many element labels have not changed. Hurrah!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original RDA Toolkit</th>
<th>Beta RDA Toolkit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• title proper</td>
<td>• title proper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• place of publication</td>
<td>• place of publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• content type</td>
<td>• content type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• date of birth</td>
<td>• date of birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• translation</td>
<td>• translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• and many more...</td>
<td>• and many more...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Quickstart Guide to RDA Terminology

January 24, 2020
Yes, some elements have new labels...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original RDA Toolkit</th>
<th>Beta RDA Toolkit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• based on (work)</td>
<td>• based on work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• place of residence, etc.</td>
<td>• place of residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• publisher’s name</td>
<td>• name of publisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• form of work</td>
<td>• category of work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Agent elements have been broken down into separate elements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original RDA Toolkit</th>
<th>Beta RDA Toolkit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• author</td>
<td>• author agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• author collective agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• author corporate body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• author family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• author person</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some elements underwent a more drastic transformation

Original RDA Toolkit

- illustrator

✓ element broken down into separate elements
✓ label modified
✓ relationship moved from expression to manifestation

Beta RDA Toolkit

- contributor agent of still image
- contributor collective agent of still image
- contributor corporate body of still image
- contributor family of still image
- contributor person of still image
And finally, some new elements were created

Original RDA Toolkit

• [no equivalent]

Beta RDA Toolkit

• appellation of person
• transformation by extension plan
• identifier for nomen
• language of representative expression
Did you hear complaints about RDA element labels?

• Baffling and intimidating element labels
  ➢ contributor person of still image
  ➢ contributor agent to amalgamation
  ➢ medium of performance of choreographic content of representative expression
Facts

- Element labels are not intended for “human consumption"
  
  700 1- $a Bull, Charles Livingston, $d 1874-1932, $e contributor person of still image

- Element labels and definitions are grounded in linked data principles.

- Elements are designed to be meaningful to machines.
Good news!

- The RSC has charged the North American RDA Committee to create user-friendly display labels.
- However, it will not be possible to develop a single set of user-friendly labels suitable for every community using RDA.
- The RSC expects communities will develop their own vocabularies.
2. String Encoding Scheme
Definition

**string encoding scheme**
A set of string values and an associated set of rules that describe a mapping between that set of strings and a value of an element.
What is an SES?

• “Rules” that explain how to put together a string, such as an access point for a person.

• Instructions may include:
  ➢ Components of the string
  ➢ The order of the data
  ➢ Punctuation or other delimiters
What is an SES?

• Following different SESs could result in these different access points:
  ➢ Keats, Ezra Jack, 1916-1983
  ➢ Keats, Ezra Jack (1916-1983)
  ➢ Ezra Jack Keats | 11 March 1916 – 6 May 1983
SESs in the beta RDA Toolkit

• Plan to move SES instructions out of element pages

OPTION

Apply a string encoding scheme.
3. Vocabulary Encoding Scheme
Definition

vocabulary encoding scheme
A named structured list of representations of controlled values for elements.
What is a VES?

• A list of controlled terms

• VESs include:

  ➢ RDA lists of terms (ex.: RDA content type)
  ➢ ISO code lists (ex.: ISO 639-2 language code list)
  ➢ Standard terminology (ex.: Terms for medium of performance)
  ➢ Authority control systems (ex.: LCGFT)

• VESs do not include simple keyword indexes
Accessing the list of RDA VESs

Welcome back, Dominique!

Recently Viewed

Guidance: Terminology
2020/01/08 02:09:24 EST

Special: authorized access point for legal work
2020/01/07 09:16:13 EST

Resources:
- Glossary
- Vocabulary Encoding Schemes
- Relationship Matrix
- Abbreviations and symbols
- Additional instructions on names of persons
- Capitalization
- Initial articles
- Terms of rank

Welcome to the RDA Toolkit BETA site

Please explore the site in full with the knowledge that the design and content of the site are still under development. The A Steering Committee has not authorized the beta site for cataloging work.
Vocabulary Encoding Schemes

RDA Reference value vocabularies
RDA Aspect Ratio Designation
RDA Bibliographic Format
RDA Broadcast Standard
RDA Carrier Extent Unit
RDA Carrier Type
RDA Cartographic Data Type
RDA Colour Content
RDA Configuration of Playback Channels
RDA Content Type
RDA Extension Plan
RDA File Type
RDA Font Size
RDA Form of Musical Notation
RDA Form of Notated Movement
RDA Form of Tactile Notation
RDA Format of Notated Music
RDA Frequency
RDA Generation

List of RDA VESs

Click on a link to retrieve the complete list of RDA terms for a given VES
Click on a link to retrieve the complete list of RDA terms for a given VES
Vocabulary Encoding Schemes: RDA Sound Content

**silent**
- Unique label: silent
- Unique IRI: http://rdaregistry.info/termList/soundCont/1002
- Unique identifier: (Notation 1002)
- Unique definition: A sound content indicator for a resource that does not contain sound.

**sound**
- Unique label: sound
- Unique IRI: http://rdaregistry.info/termList/soundCont/1001
- Unique identifier: (Notation 1001)
- Unique definition: A sound content indicator for a resource that contains sound.
Example of options to use VESs for sound content

**Recording a structured description**

**OPTION**

Record a term from the following RDA vocabulary encoding scheme.

For a definition, scope note, and notation of a term, see [RDA Sound Content](#).

**OPTION**

Record a term from another suitable vocabulary encoding scheme.
For more information, consult the guidance chapter on Terminology.
Image credits


Slide 36. Confused by Ben Davis from the Noun Project. https://thenounproject.com/search/?q=confused&i=817476

Exercises
Let’s have fun!