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

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1. Element

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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

ENTITIES

RDA Entity

Work

Expression

Manifestation

Item

Agent

Person

Collective Agent

Corporate Body

Family

Nomen

Place

Timespan

element

A specific aspect, characteristic, attribute, or relationship used to describe an RDA entity.

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There are more than 3,000 elements in the beta RDA Toolkit!

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Each element is unique

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 title proper~~

unique label

unique definition

👁 Element Reference

IRI

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

unique IRI

unique identifier

Domain

Manifestation 🔗

Range

Nomen 🔗

Alternate labels

has title proper

preferred title of manifestation

earlier title proper

later title proper

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 ⧉

The element "title proper" always describes a manifestation

Range

Nomen ⧉

Alternate labels

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

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 Registry   Elements ▾   Values ▾   Data ▾   Tools ▾   Releases ▾   About ▾   FAQ   Guide   Blog   Project   **RDA Toolkit**

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

> **constrained elements**

Unconstrained element sets

- Unconstrained properties

> **unconstrained elements**

- Download **ZIP File**
- Download **TAR Ball**

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.

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relationship element

An element that relates two RDA entities.
Use for: relationship designator.

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graduate of

Definition and Scope

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

👁 Element Reference

IRI

http://rdaregistry.info/Elements/a/P50253

Domain

Person ➦ → RDA Entity that is described by an element

Range

Corporate Body ➦ → RDA Entity that is the value of a relationship element

Alternate labels

is graduate of

Relationship elements have a domain and a range

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The element

graduate of → relates a

Definition and Scope

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

👁 Element Reference

IRI

http://rdaregistry.info/Elements/a/P50253

Domain

Person → to a

Range

Corporate Body → that is

Alternate labels

is graduate of

How to read this information

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Example with a relationship element

Domain: Person

Range: Corporate Body

Ezra Jack Keats

record
an element

is graduate of

The verbalized label helps understand the essence of the relationship

Thomas Jefferson High School

record a value for the element

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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.

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graduate of

Definition and Scope

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

👁 Element Reference

Prerecording

Recording

Record this element as a value of Corporate Body: appellation of corporate body ⤢ or as an IRI.

Recording an unstructured description

Record an unstructured description for a related corporate body as a value of Corporate Body: name of corporate body ⤢.

For general guidance on unstructured descriptions, see Recording methods. Recording an unstructured description ⤢.

Recording a structured description

Record a structured description for a related corporate body as a value of Corporate Body: access point for corporate body ⤢.

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

Relationship elements are reciprocal

One way to find the inverse of an element is to scroll to the bottom of the element page.

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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.

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graduate

Definition and Scope

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

👁 Element Reference

IRI

http://rdaregistry.info/Elements/a/P50252

Domain

Corporate Body ⧉ → RDA Entity that is described by an element

Range

Person ⧉ → RDA Entity that is the value of a relationship element

Alternate labels

has graduate

Relationship elements are reciprocal

The inverse of the element graduate of is graduate.

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Example with reciprocal relationship elements

Domain: Person

Range: Corporate Body

Ezra Jack Keats

is graduate of →

← has graduate

Thomas Jefferson
High School

Range: Person

Domain: Corporate Body

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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.

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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 ⬚: A person who adds notes and other information to an item by hand.
Inverse: **annotator of** ⬚.

autographer ⬚: A person whose manuscript signature appears on an item.
Inverse: **autographer of** ⬚.

inscriber ⬚: A person who writes a statement of dedication or gift on an item.
Inverse: **inscriber of** ⬚.

related person of item ⬚: A person who is associated with an item. *Inverse:*
related item of person ⬚.

Incomplete list

elements missing:
- binder person
- collector person
- curator person
- and more…

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attribute element

An element that is an inherent or externally imputed characteristic of an RDA entity.

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profession or occupation

Definition and Scope

A vocation or avocation.

👁 Element Reference

IRI

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

Domain

Person

→ RDA Entity that is described by an element

No Range!

Alternate labels

has profession or occupation

Attribute elements have a domain but no range

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Example with an attribute element

Domain: Person

Range: None
not an RDA entity

Ezra Jack Keats

has profession
occupation → artist

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Some original RDA Toolkit attributes have become relationship elements

Domain: Manifestation
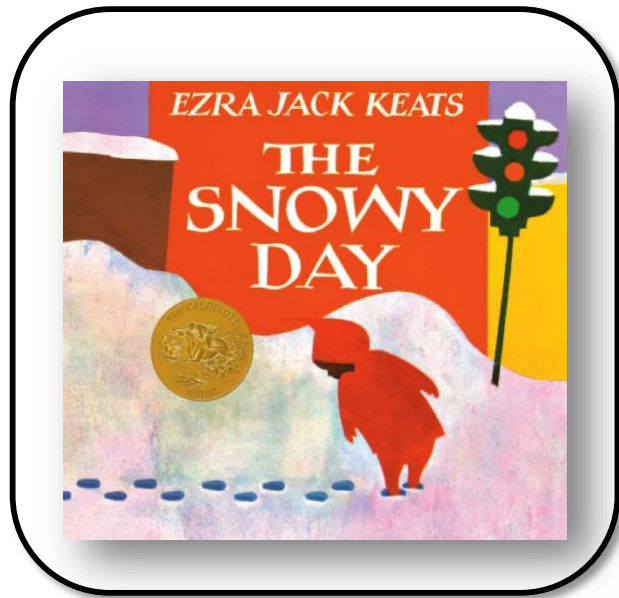
Range: Nomen

has title proper → The snowy day

Range: Place

has place of publication → New York, N.Y.

Range: Timespan

has date of publication → 1962

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Definitions

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

element sub-type
A narrower category or type of an element.

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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**

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Many element labels have not changed. Hurrah!

Original RDA Toolkit

- title proper
- place of publication
- content type
- date of birth
- translation
- and many more…

Beta RDA Toolkit

- title proper
- place of publication
- content type
- date of birth
- translation
- and many more…

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Yes, some elements have new labels...

Original RDA Toolkit

- based on (work)
- place of residence, etc.
- publisher's name
- form of work

Beta RDA Toolkit

- based on work
- place of residence
- name of publisher
- category of work

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Agent elements have been broken down into separate elements

Original RDA Toolkit

- author

Beta RDA Toolkit

- author agent
- author collective agent
- author corporate body
- author family
- author person

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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

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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

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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

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Facts

- Element labels are not intended for "human consumption"

  700 1- $a Bull, Charles Livingston, $d 1874-1932, $e ~~contributor person of still image~~
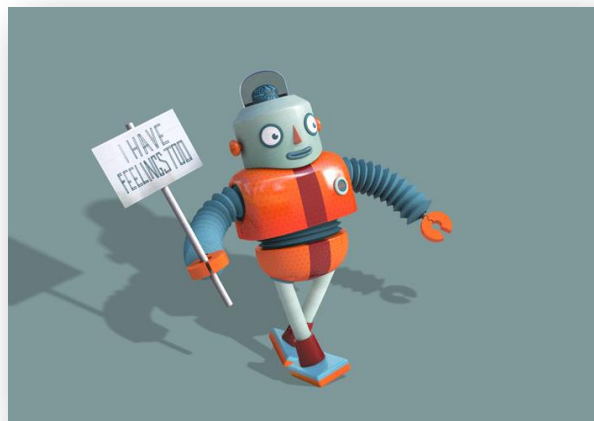
- Element labels and definitions are grounded in linked data principles.

- Elements are designed to be meaningful to machines.

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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.

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2. String Encoding Scheme

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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.

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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

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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

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SESs in the beta RDA Toolkit

- Plan to move SES instructions out of element pages

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3. Vocabulary Encoding Scheme

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vocabulary encoding scheme
A named structured list of representations of controlled values for elements.

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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

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Accessing the list of RDA VESs

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

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RDA Media Type

RDA Mode of Issuance

RDA Polarity

RDA Presentation Format

RDA Production Method

RDA Recording Medium

RDA Recording Sources

RDA Reduction Ratio Designation

RDA Regional Encoding

RDA Scale Designation

RDA Sound Content

RDA Special Playback Characteristic

RDA Status of Identification

RDA Terms

RDA Track Configuration

RDA Type of Binding

RDA Type of Recording

RDA Video Format

List of RDA VESs

Click on a link to retrieve the complete list of RDA terms for a given VES

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Vocabulary Encoding Schemes:
RDA Sound Content

silent

unique label

http://rdaregistry.info/termList/soundCont/1002

unique IRI

(Notation 1002)

unique identifier

A sound content indicator for a resource that does not contain sound.

unique definition

sound

http://rdaregistry.info/termList/soundCont/1001

(Notation 1001)

A sound content indicator for a resource that contains sound.

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Example of options to use VESs for sound content

Recording a structured description

OPTION

Record a term from the following RDA vocabulary encoding scheme.

silent

sound

For a definition, scope note, and notation of a term, see **RDA Sound Content**.

OPTION

Record a term from another suitable vocabulary encoding scheme.

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For more information, consult the guidance chapter on Terminology

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Slide 37. Happy robot. https://gifer.com/en/o6j

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Exercises
Let's have fun!

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