

# Representative Expression Elements in Authority Records

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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?

The screenshot shows the RDA Toolkit web interface. The top navigation bar includes 'R | D | A TOOLKIT', 'Original Toolkit', 'Bookmarks and Notes', 'Documents', 'Views', 'Help', 'English', and 'Submit Feedback'. The user 'Robert Maxwell' is logged in. The main navigation menu has 'ENTITIES', 'GUIDANCE', 'POLICIES', and 'RESOURCES'. A search bar is set to 'Exact Title'. The breadcrumb trail is 'Entities > Work > representative expression'. The page title is 'representative expression' with a 'Select Policy Statement Set (1)' dropdown set to 'LC-PCC PS'. The 'Definition and Scope' section states: 'An expression that is considered a canonical source of data for identifying a work.' A sidebar on the left, titled 'Element Reference', contains the following information: IRI: <http://rdaregistry.info/Elements/w/P10346>; Domain: [Work](#); Range: [Expression](#); Alternate labels: has representative expression; and IFLA LRM.

# 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

# 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

R | D | A TOOLKIT Original Toolkit Bookmarks and Notes Documents Views Help English Submit Feedback

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ENTITIES GUIDANCE POLICIES RESOURCES Exact Title Search

Entities > Work > language of representative expression

## language of representative expression

Select Policy Statement Set (1)  
LC-PCC PS

### Definition and Scope

A language used for the content of a representative expression of a work.

Element Reference

**IRI**  
<http://rdaregistry.info/Elements/w/P10353>

**Domain**  
Work

**Alternate labels**  
has language of representative expression

+ **Dublin Core Terms**

+ **IFLA LRM**

### Prerecording

### Recording

**CONDITION**

**LC-PCC** [Send to Back](#)

LC/PCC practice: Do not record the element. The element will be evaluated for use at a future time.

# LC-PCC Policy

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

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

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

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

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

\$e - Date of representative expression (R)

\$f - Duration of representative expression (R)

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

\$h - Language of representative expression (R)

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

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

\$k - Scale of representative expression (R)

\$l - Script of representative expression (R)

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

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

\$1 - Real World Object URI (R)

\$2 - Source of term (NR)

\$3 - Materials specified (NR)

\$6 - Linkage (NR)

\$7 - Data provenance (R)

\$8 - 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

046 ## \$k 1865 \$2 edtf

100 1# \$a Carroll, Lewis, \$d 1832-1898. \$t Alice's adventures in  
Wonderland

380 ## \$a Novels \$a Fantasy fiction \$a Nonsense fiction \$2 lcgft

**387 ## \$c text \$2 rdacontent**

**387 ## \$g Children \$2 lcdgt**

**387 ## \$h eng**

400 1# \$a Carroll, Lewis, \$d 1832-1898. \$t Alice in Wonderland

# 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 ## \$a 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

046 ## \$k 1913 \$2 edtf  
100 1# \$a Debussy, Claude, \$d 1862-1918. \$t Syrinx  
380 ## \$a Art music \$2 lcgft  
~~382 0# \$a flute \$n 1 \$s 1 \$2 lcmpt~~  
382 2# \$a flute \$n 1 \$s 1 \$2 lcmpt

046 ## \$k 1890 \$2 edtf  
100 1# \$a Glazunov, Aleksandr Konstantinovich, \$d 1865-1936.  
\$t Mechty  
380 ## \$a Chamber music \$2 lcgft  
~~382 0# \$a horn \$n 1 \$a piano \$n 1 \$s 2 \$2 lcmpt~~  
382 2# \$a horn \$n 1 \$a piano \$n 1 \$s 2 \$2 lcmpt  
383 ## \$b op. 24  
~~384 0# \$a D $\flat$  major~~  
384 2# \$a D $\flat$  major

046 ## \$k 1994 \$2 edtf  
100 1# \$a Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus, \$d 1756-1791. \$t  
Concertos, \$m **violin, orchestra**, \$n K. 211, \$r **D  
major**  
380 ## \$a Concertos \$2 lcgft  
~~382 0# \$b violin \$n 1 \$a orchestra \$e 1 \$r 1 \$t 1 \$2 lcmpt~~  
382 2# \$b violin \$n 1 \$a orchestra \$e 1 \$r 1 \$t 1 \$2 lcmpt  
383 ## \$a no. 2  
383 ## \$c K. 211 \$d Köchel6 \$2 mlati  
~~384 0# \$a D major~~  
384 2# \$a D major

# Thanks!

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