

**To:** RDA Steering Committee

**From:** Thomas Brenndorfer, Extent Working Group Chair

**Subject:** Proposal for Manifestation: **extent of manifestation** and Manifestation: **manifestation extent statement**.

## Abstract

This proposal introduces two of the main elements for the redevelopment of recording extent in RDA. With this proposal, the element Manifestation: **extent of manifestation** is recast as a superelement. The values of Manifestation: **extent of manifestation** may be developed from its subelements and constructed according to string encoding schemes.

With this proposal a new manifestation statement element, Manifestation: **manifestation extent statement**, is an option available for all extent elements for recording a value as found on a manifestation.

## Background and justification

The background for this proposal is found in the Discussion Paper [RSC/ExtentWG/2024/1/rev2](#).

*The superelement Manifestation: **extent of manifestation**.*

The proposed revision to Manifestation: **extent of manifestation** seeks to balance two key objectives: preserving backward compatibility with existing values, while introducing greater flexibility to accommodate the recording of values tailored to the needs of specific cataloguing communities.

Many of the current instructions for extent are values derived from string encoding schemes and so should be moved to Community Resources. The organization of the instructions in Community Resources may be adjusted somewhat, but it may be reasonable and feasible to mirror the current arrangement in the element Manifestation: **extent of manifestation** and Manifestation: **dimensions**.

Each of the subelements of Manifestation: **extent of manifestation** is more granular and can be used on its own to record a specific value.

A structured description for a subelement entails quantities rounded up to the nearest whole number and use of the same unit of measurement if multiple measurements appear in a value. These values represent new opportunities to record values that may be amenable to machine processing.

*The manifestation statement Manifestation: **manifestation extent statement**.*

Introducing a manifestation statement for extent creates additional flexibility for recording values. Many existing elements, such as Manifestation: **bibliographic format**, can become subelements (or subtypes of subelements) of Manifestation: **extent of manifestation**. These elements can continue to be independent, supplying values for the superelement Manifestation: **extent of manifestation** while also incorporating the option to apply a manifestation extent statement.

## Impact

As many existing instructions are expected to transition to Community Resources, most current policy statements can remain unchanged by aligning with the corresponding instructions provided there. Additionally, the RDA Steering Committee is expected to form a working group to address string encoding schemes in RDA and determine their appropriate placement within Community Resources.

## Recommendation #1. Manifestation: **extent of manifestation**

**Recommendation 1**: Recast the element Manifestation: **extent of manifestation** as a superelement that is used to record values constructed from values derived from its subelements in accordance with string encoding schemes.

Current definition: A number and type of unit or subunit of a manifestation.

Proposed definition: A quantification of one or more physical characteristics of a manifestation.

For Prerecording, include the following (pending approval of the proposals of each of the subelements):

This element is a *superelement* composed from values of one or more of the following *subelements*:

Manifestation: **dimensions of container**

Manifestation: **extent of aggregated content**

Manifestation: **extent of embodied content**

Manifestation: **designation of number of sound channels**

Manifestation: **dimensions of embodied content**

Manifestation: **duration of embodied content**

Manifestation: **image resolution**

Manifestation: **number of sound channels**

Manifestation: **reduction ratio**

Manifestation: **reduction ratio designation**

Manifestation: **extent of storage space**

Manifestation: **extent of unit**

Manifestation: **bibliographic format**

Manifestation: **dimensions**

Manifestation: **number of recording tracks**

Manifestation: **extent of unitary structure**

Manifestation: **number of containers**

Manifestation: **sequence of units of extent**

For general guidance and instructions on recording a statement from a manifestation that reproduces another manifestation, see Guidance: Manifestation statements.

**Manifestation statements of facsimiles and reproductions.**

**OPTION**

Record an unstructured description within a value of Manifestation: **manifestation extent statement**.

Include the following instructions:

**Recording an unstructured description**

For general guidance on unstructured descriptions, see Guidance: Recording methods.

**Recording an unstructured description.**

**Recording a structured description**

**OPTION**

Record a structured description by applying a *string encoding scheme* to select, sequence, and punctuate values of one or more subelements.

## OPTION

Record a *string encoding scheme* that is used to construct a structured description. For general guidance, see Guidance: Data provenance. **Recording a content standard used for metadata.**

## Recommendation #2. Manifestation: manifestation extent statement

Recommendation 2: Create the element Manifestation: manifestation extent statement, referencing each of the subelements of Manifestation: extent of manifestation as options to record a value. Update the RDA Toolkit guidance chapter for manifestation statements.

Proposed definition: A manifestation statement about the quantification of one or more physical characteristics of a manifestation.

## Summary of recommendations

**Recommendation 1**: Recast the element Manifestation: extent of manifestation as a superelement that is used to record values constructed from values derived from its subelements in accordance with string encoding schemes.

**Recommendation 2**: Create the element Manifestation: manifestation extent statement, referencing each of the subelements of Manifestation: extent of manifestation as options to record a value. Update the RDA Toolkit guidance chapter for manifestation statements.