

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee

CC: Anne Welsh, Secretary, RDA Steering Committee

From: Chris Holden, Technical Team Liaison Officer

Subject: Technical Working Group formal response to RSC/ExtentWG/2025/5: Proposal for Manifestation: **extent of embodied content** and its subtype elements

**Recommendation 1:** Create the element Manifestation: **extent of embodied content**. Associate the new vocabulary encoding scheme **RDA Layout of Embodied Content** with this element.

Approve.

The Technical Working Group thinks the definition should be slightly amended to match Manifestation: **extent of unit** in RSC/ExtentWG/2025/3, and our recommendation for the definition of Manifestation: **extent of manifestation** in RSC/ExtentWG/2025/1.

**extent of embodied content:**

A quantification or measurement of the layout of content that is embodied in a manifestation.

There is some concern that some of the elements identified as subtypes of **extent of embodied content** do not reflect the definition (“layout of content”). In particular, elements concerning sound channels, resolution, and duration don’t reflect “layout” as traditionally understood.

**Recommendation 2.1:** Delete Manifestation: **configuration of playback channels** and replace it with two new elements, Manifestation: **designation of number of sound channels** and Manifestation: **number of sound channels**.

Approve.

We note that “channel” or “sound channel” merits a definition in the Glossary.

**Recommendation 2.2:** Separate from Manifestation: **configuration of playback channels** the element Manifestation: **designation of number of sound channels**, retaining it as a subtype of Manifestation: **sound characteristic**. Associate the vocabulary encoding scheme **RDA Configuration of Playback Channels** with this element, carrying forward the applicable instructions from Manifestation: **configuration of playback channels**. Add Manifestation: **designation of number of sound channels** as a subtype of Manifestation: **extent of embodied content**.

Provisionally approve.

We do not think the boilerplate text for “facsimiles and reproductions” is appropriate for this element.

We do not think the definition should refer to a “recording.” This conflates content with carrier. We also recommend adding “An extent of embodied content” to the beginning of the definition, to be consistent with how the Toolkit handles element subtypes.

**designation of number of sound channels:**

An extent of embodied content that is a general designation of the number of sound channels used to ~~make a recording~~ embody sound content.

As discussed in Recommendation 3 of RSC/ExtentWG/2025/3, while it is technically permitted for RDA elements to be a subtype of two different elements, we do not think it is appropriate for extent elements. We do not think that Manifestation: **designation of number of sound channels** should be retained as a subtype of Manifestation: **sound characteristic** while also acting as a subtype of Manifestation: **extent of embodied content**. If there is a desire to treat Manifestation: **designation of number of sound channels** as an extent element, it should be removed as a subtype of Manifestation: **sound characteristic**, with a statement added to the Prerecording section of Manifestation: **sound characteristic** which reads:

For instructions on recording the general designation of number of sound channels , see  
Manifestation: designation of number of sound channels

**Recommendation 2.3:** Separate from Manifestation: **configuration of playback channels** the element Manifestation: number of sound channels, retaining it as a subtype of Manifestation: sound characteristic. Add Manifestation: number of sound channels as a subtype of Manifestation: extent of embodied content.

Provisionally approve.

We do not think the definition should refer to a “recording.” This conflates content with carrier. We also recommend adding “An extent of embodied content” to the beginning of the definition to be consistent with how the Toolkit handles element subtypes.

**number of sound channels:**

An extent of embodied content that is a number of channels used to ~~make a recording~~ embody sound content

As discussed in Recommendation 3 of RSC/ExtentWG/2025/3, while it is technically permitted for RDA elements to be a subtype of two different elements, we do not think it is appropriate for extent elements. We do not think that Manifestation: **number of sound channels** should be retained as a subtype of Manifestation: **sound characteristic** while also acting as a subtype of Manifestation: **extent of embodied content**. If there is a desire to treat Manifestation: **number of sound channels** as an extent element, it should be removed as a subtype of Manifestation: **sound characteristic**, with a statement added to the Prerecording section of Manifestation: **sound characteristic** which reads:

For instructions on recording the number of sound channels, see Manifestation: **number of sound channels**

**Recommendation 3:** For the current element Manifestation: **resolution** replace the element reference label “resolution” with “image resolution”. Add Manifestation: **image resolution** as a subtype of Manifestation: **extent of embodied content**.

Approve.

We recommend updating the definition to reflect its status as an element subtype of Manifestation: **extent of embodied content**, as well as eliminating the abbreviation “etc.” as recommended by the RDA Editorial Guide, and widening the coverage of the element beyond digital carriers:

**image resolution:**

An extent of embodied content that is a clarity or fineness of detail in an digital image, expressed by the a measurement of the image in pixels, etc. or other units used to embody image content

**Clean copy:**

**image resolution:**

An extent of embodied content that is a clarity or fineness of detail in an image, expressed by a measurement in pixels or other units used to embody image content

**Recommendation 4:** Add Manifestation: **reduction ratio** as a subtype of Manifestation: **extent of embodied content**.

Approve.

Consider updating the definition to reflect the element’s status as an element subtype:

**reduction ratio:**

An extent of embodied content that is a numerical ratio of the size of a micro-image in relation to the original from which it was produced

**Recommendation 5:** Add Manifestation: **reduction ratio designation** as a subtype of Manifestation: **extent of embodied content**

Approve.

Consider updating the definition to reflect the element’s status as an element subtype:

**reduction ratio designation:**

An extent of embodied content that is a general designation of the size of a micro-image in relation to the original from which it was produced

**Recommendation 6:** Create the new element Manifestation: **dimensions of embodied content**.

Add Manifestation: **dimensions of embodied content** as a subtype of Manifestation: **extent of embodied content**.

Approve.

Consider updating the definition to reflect the element's status as an element subtype:

**dimensions of embodied content:**

An extent of embodied content that is a measurement of the size of the layout of content that is embodied in a manifestation

**Recommendation 7:** Create a new vocabulary encoding scheme **RDA Layout Unit of Embodied Content**. From the current RDA VES **Carrier Extent Unit**, move the terms *column* and *page*, and update their definitions to reflect the new context. Add the term *frame* and *line*. The term *line* is a common layout unit of extent in the Jewish scribal and manuscript communities. This vocabulary encoding scheme will have incomplete coverage of scope, and additional values may be included in the future.

Approve.

The discussion paper [RSC/ExtentWG/2024/1](#) indicated that it might be useful to add *tête-bêche* to the **RDA Layout** VES, and some members of the Technical Working Group inquired as to its absence here. On the other hand, ISBDM includes *tête-bêche* in its ISBDM Layout of Embodied Content VES, along with *columns*, *frames* and *pages*.

For reference, the ISBDM defines *tête-bêche* as: “A layout of embodied content that is two sets of content embodied in a volume where the sets are rotated 180° relative to each other so that one set is accessed from the front of the binding and the other from the back.”