To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Gordon Dunsire, Chair, JSC RDA/ONIX Framework Working Group

Subject: Guidelines for proposing new carrier and content categories and terms in RDA

Related documents

6JSC/ROFWG/3/Categories

Abstract

The paper presents guidelines to be used when proposing new terms for carrier types, content types, and media types in RDA, together with background information, a procedural checklist, and examples.

Introduction

A task (#4) for the JSC RDA/ONIX Framework Working Group in 2015 is to create guidelines and explanations on proposing new terms in the RDA carrier type, content type, and media type value vocabularies.

The assignment of RDA/ONIX Framework for Resource Categorization attributes to RDA categories is presented in 6JSC/ROFWG/3/Categories. This is presented as a separate document to allow it to be revised independently of the guidelines.

These guidelines have been developed in consultation with the RDA Development Team and the JSC.

Justification

The guidelines will make it easier for JSC members and RDA users to develop and propose additional terms for use with the RDA instructions on recording carrier, content, and media types.

Impact

The guidelines are expected to reduce the time needed to accept new terms, and to maintain consistency between the terms and the underlying RDA/ONIX Framework for Resource Categorization.

Guidelines for proposing new carrier and content categories and terms in RDA

RDA/ONIX Framework

The RDA carrier and content categories of resources are based on the RDA/ONIX Framework for Resource Categorization[1] (ROF).

The framework identifies and defines two distinct sets of attributes: one for the intellectual or artistic content of an information resource, and the other for the means and methods by which such content is carried. Closed sets of primary values are specified for some, but not all, of the attributes.

Carrier attributes

The attribute set for carrier is:

- Storage Medium Format (sheet; strip; roll; disc; sphere; cylinder; chip; file server)
- Housing Format (binding; flipchart; reel; cartridge; cassette; not applicable)
- Base Material (*)
- Applied Material (*)
- Fixation Method (*)
- Fixation Tool (*)
- Encoding Format (*)
- Generation (first; reproduction)
- Intermediation Method (*)
- Intermediation Tool (microform reader; microscope; projector; stereoscope; audio player; audiovisual player; computer; not required)

The parentheses contain the specified primary value sets for each attribute; * indicates that the value set is not specified and may be defined by user communities or by reference to a recognized namespace.

The specified value sets for carrier attributes are comprehensive, but not necessarily exhaustive.

Content attributes

The attribute set for content is:

- Character (language; music; image; other)
- Sensory Mode (sight; hearing; touch; taste; smell; none)
- Image Dimensionality (two-dimensional; three-dimensional; not applicable)
- Image Movement (still; moving; not applicable)

[1] http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/5chair10.pdf

- Interactivity (interactive; non-interactive)
- Capture Method (*)
- Extension Mode (succession; integration; not applicable)
- Extension Termination (determinate; indeterminate; not applicable)
- Extension Requirement (essential; inessential; not applicable)
- Revision Mode (correction; substitution; transformation; not applicable)
- Revision Termination (determinate; indeterminate; not applicable)
- Revision Requirement (essential; inessential; not applicable)
- Purpose (*)
- Subject (*)
- Form/Genre (*)

The parentheses contain the specified primary value sets for each attribute; * indicates that the value set is not specified and may be defined by user communities or by reference to a recognized namespace.

The specified value sets for content attributes are exhaustive. The values cover all possible distinct aspects of the attribute.

Base categories

Basic higher-level content and carrier categories are constructed by taking a single primary value from a specified set of one or more attributes of the content and carrier attribute sets respectively. That is, a base content category is defined by primary values exclusively from the content attribute set, and a base carrier category is similarly defined by primary values from the carrier attribute set.

There is a finite number of unique base categories, reflecting all the possible combinations of primary values specified in the Framework. Not all of these possible categories are useful in practice.

Framework attributes with no specified primary set of values cannot be used to form base categories.

Qualified categories

A qualified category is an extension or refinement of a base category.

A base category can be extended by adding local values from Framework attributes that have no specified primary values. For example, a base content category can be extended by adding local Form/Genre values.

A base category can be refined by adding local sub-values to the primary values of an attribute. For example, a base carrier category can be refined by using sub-values for the Intermediation Tool attribute.

RDA categories

The RDA vocabularies for the elements ***carrier type***, ***content type***, and ***media type*** contain labels, definitions, and scope notes for broad categories of resources.

RDA media type categories

RDA uses only the Framework Intermediation Tool attribute for its media type categories.

RDA media type categories are therefore not RDA base carrier categories.

RDA media type categories exhaust the primary values of the Framework Intermediation Tool attribute. The categories are not intended to be refined, and therefore cannot be augmented.

A list of RDA media type categories with their labels is given in 6JSC/ROFWG/3/Categories.

RDA carrier categories

RDA base and qualified carrier categories are used to formulate terms in the RDA carrier type vocabulary.

A list of RDA carrier categories with their labels is given in 6JSC/ROFWG/3/Categories.

RDA base carrier categories

RDA uses the following set of Framework carrier attributes for its base carrier categories:

- Storage Medium Format
- Housing Format
- Intermediation Tool

These attributes are particularly appropriate for physical resources.

For example, the base carrier category for "audio disc" is specified by:

- Storage Medium Format: "disc"
- Housing Format: "not applicable"
- Intermediation Tool: "audio player"

RDA qualified carrier categories

RDA qualified carrier categories are currently all derived as refinements of RDA base carrier categories.

Refinements have been made to the primary values for Intermediation Tool and Storage Medium Format.

RDA content categories

RDA base and qualified content categories are used to formulate terms in the RDA content type vocabulary.

A list of RDA content categories with their labels is given in 6JSC/ROFWG/3/Categories.

RDA base content categories

RDA uses the following set of Framework content attributes for its base content categories:

- Character

- Sensory Mode
- Image Dimensionality
- Image Movement

For example, the base content category for a moving image is specified by:

- Character (image)
- Sensory Mode (sight)
- Image Dimensionality (two-dimensional)
- Image Movement (moving)

These attributes are particularly appropriate for physical resources.

RDA qualified content categories

RDA qualified content categories are currently all derived as refinements and extensions of RDA base content categories.

Refinements have been made to the primary values for Character.

Extensions have been made by adding local values for Form/Genre.

Adding new categories to RDA

New carrier and content categories can be added to RDA using two methods:

- Extending base categories with Framework attributes that do not have specific primary values.
- Refining base category attribute primary values with local RDA values.

Extending RDA carrier categories

All Framework attributes potentially available to extend RDA base carrier categories are already assigned to separate RDA elements:

- Base Material: RDA base material
- Applied Material: RDA applied material
- Fixation Method: RDA recording medium, etc.
- Fixation Tool: RDA production method, etc.
- Encoding Format: RDA encoding format
- Intermediation Method: assigned to Intermediation Tool

RDA base carrier categories are therefore not extendable within the Framework.

Extending RDA content categories

The following Framework attributes are available to extend RDA base content carriers:

- Capture Method
- Purpose

- Subject
- Form/Genre

RDA base content categories can be extended by adding one or more available attributes with specified local RDA values.

Local RDA values

Local RDA values can be specified as:

- Sub-values of Framework primary values
- Values and sub-values for Framework attributes that do not specify primary values

Local RDA values should conform to RDA standards for vocabulary encoding schemes. Hierarchies of values and sub-values should be clearly indicated.

Checklist

To add a new RDA carrier or content type:

- Assign a primary value for each Framework attribute used in the RDA base category.
    - Assign a value that covers the definition of the new type with respect to each attribute.
- Determine if there is an existing RDA base category with those values. This data can be found in 6JSC/ROFWG/3/Categories and in the RDA Registry as a set of alignments expressed in comma-separated variable format compatible with Excel (http://www.rdaregistry.info/Aligns/index.html#rofrda).
    - If so, determine if there is an existing RDA qualified category with values that cover the remaining part of the definition of the new type.
        - If so, assign the new type as a synonym of the existing RDA type.
        - If not, create a new RDA qualified category for the new type.
    - If not, create a new RDA base category for the new type.
- Add the new type to RDA Toolkit.

To create a new RDA base category:

- Determine the primary value for each Framework attribute used in an RDA base category.
- Assign an RDA label, definition, and scope note for the base category.
- Add the qualified category to the RDA Registry.

To create a new RDA qualified category:

- Decide to extend or refine an existing RDA base category.
- Determine which Framework attributes will require new local RDA values.
- For each attribute, assign the local RDA value, with a definition and scope note.
    - Assign a Framework primary value if a base category is being refined.
    - Assign a local RDA value hierarchy if required.
- Add the local RDA value to the RDA Registry.
    - Add the value to the local RDA value vocabulary for the Framework attribute.
    - Create a new local RDA value vocabulary if necessary.
- Assign an RDA label, definition, and scope note for the qualified category.
- Add the qualified category to the RDA Registry.

Example: Playaway

Wikipedia says "Playaway is the name of a solid-state prerecorded audio player …"[2]

Assign primary values for an RDA base carrier category:

ROF Intermediation Tool	ROF Housing Format	ROF Storage Medium Format
audio player	not applicable	chip

There is no existing RDA category with these values. These values define a new RDA base carrier category.

"Playaway" is not suitable as the label of a new RDA carrier type associated with this new RDA base carrier category, because it is a brand-name. For consistency with existing RDA carrier types:

- Carrier type label: "audio chip"
- Carrier type definition: "A chip on which audio signals are recorded digitally."
- Carrier type scope note: "Includes chips embedded in players, such as Playaway."

ROF Intermediation Tool	ROF Housing Format	ROF Storage Medium Format	RDA Label
audio player	not applicable	chip	audio chip

"Playaway" may be added as a new RDA carrier type by refining this new RDA base carrier category to create a new RDA qualified carrier category.

A local RDA sub-value for "Playaway" may be added to the primary Intermediation Tool value "audio player". This is sufficient to distinguish a qualified category for a new RDA carrier type:

- Carrier type label: "Playaway"
- Carrier type definition: "An audio chip pre-recorded and embedded in a Playaway audio player."

ROF Intermediation Tool	ROF Housing Format	ROF Storage Medium Format	RDA Label
audio player > *Playaway*	not applicable	chip	Playaway

In RDA Toolkit, these carrier types may be accommodated in RDA 3.3.1.3 Recording carrier type:

- Audio carriers
    - …
    - audio cartridge
    - audio chip
        - Playaway
    - audio cylinder

[2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Playaway

- …

Example: photograph

Wikipedia says "A photograph or photo is an image created by light falling on a light-sensitive surface, usually photographic film or an electronic medium such as a CCD or a CMOS chip."[3]

Assign primary values for an RDA base content category:

ROF Character	ROF Sensory Mode	ROF Image Dimensionality	ROF Image Movement
image	sight	two-dimensional	still

There is an existing RDA category with these values, for the RDA content type "still image".

None of the primary Framework attribute values can be refined to cover the definition of "photograph".

The Framework attribute Capture Method is available to extend the existing RDA base content category to create a new RDA qualified content category.

A local RDA value "photography" may be added to a local RDA value vocabulary for Capture Method. This is sufficient to distinguish a qualified content category for a new RDA content type:

- Capture method label: "photography"
- Capture method definition: "A capture method for creating durable images by recording light or other electromagnetic radiation, either electronically by means of an image sensor, or chemically by means of a light-sensitive material such as photographic film."

ROF Character	ROF Sensory Mode	ROF Image Dimensionality	ROF Image Movement	ROF Capture Method
image	sight	two-dimensional	still	*photography*

- Content type label: "photograph"
- Content type definition: "A still image captured by light falling on a light-sensitive surface."

ROF Character	ROF Sensory Mode	ROF Image Dimensionality	ROF Image Movement	ROF Capture Method	RDA Label
image	sight	two-dimensional	still	*photography*	photograph

This example is already accommodated in RDA Toolkit as RDA 3.4.4.2 Recording extent of still images, and shows how content (and carrier) types used in extent statements can be integrated with the Framework.

[3] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photograph