

# Vocabulary Encoding Schemes (VESs)

<b>Overview</b>	1
<b>Changes from Original RDA</b>	2
<b>Implementation with Metadata Examples</b>	3
Topic 1: Using the RDA Vocabulary Encoding Schemes	3
RDA VES, Example 1: RDA Carrier Type	4
RDA VES, Example 2: RDA Scale Designation	5
RDA VES, Example 3: RDA Bibliographic Format	6
Topic 2: Using Other Vocabulary Encoding Schemes	7
Other VES, Example 1: NAF	8
Other VES, Example 2: FAST	8
Other VES, Example 3: RBGENR	10
Topic 3: Not Using a Vocabulary Encoding Scheme	11
Not Using a VES, Example 1: Not in NAF	12
Not Using a VES, Example 2: Not in LCSH	12
Not Using a VES, Example 3: Instructed Not to Use a VES Term	13
Topic 4: Mixed Approaches	14
Mixed Approach, Example 1: No VES + VES (LCSH)	15
Mixed Approach, Example 2: No VES + VES (MARC Authority Code List)	16
Mixed Approach, Example 3: Two VESs (LCSH + LCSHAC)	17
Mixed Approach, Example 4: Two VESs (LCSH + LCDGT)	18
<b>Cataloger’s Judgment Areas</b>	19

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## Overview

This Metadata Guidance Document (MGD) provides an overview of the concept of a “vocabulary encoding scheme” (VES) and summarizes the changes to VES instructions in Original RDA that were introduced by Official RDA. It then addresses the use of RDA VESs (those that are internal to RDA), the use of other VESs (external to RDA), situations when the cataloger may decide not to use a VES, situations when a mixture of approaches might be used, and areas where catalogers may need to rely on judgment.

**Definition:** The RDA Glossary defines a “vocabulary encoding scheme” (VES) as a “**named structured list of representations of controlled values for elements.**” It then lists some of the possible types of VESs, such as “an RDA list of terms or their corresponding value vocabularies in the RDA Registry, an ISO code list, a standard terminology, an authority control

system, etc.” Although the *concept* of a VES predates RDA, the *term* is not necessarily in common use among catalogers, who often prefer other terms (such as “controlled vocabulary”).

When to use a VES: The decision of whether or not to use a VES to record the value of an element (and, if so, which VES to use) will sometimes be determined by RDA instructions, sometimes by LC/PCC documentation (e.g., policy statement, application profile, or metadata guidance document), sometimes by local institutional policy, and sometimes by cataloger judgment.

Recording methods: VESs are potentially applicable to three of the four possible recording methods: 1) structured description, 2) identifier, or 3) IRI. They do not apply to recording an unstructured description.

Element types: VESs may be used to record both attribute and relationship elements. However, some VESs are only appropriate for recording one or the other of these two element types, not both.

Data provenance: If a VES has been used as the source of a term (access point, code, etc.), the cataloger may be instructed to identify the VES from which the term was taken. This is especially true if the term comes from a VES that is external to RDA. The specific method used to identify the VES will vary depending on the metadata system being used to create the description. Recording the VES used as the source of information provides “data provenance” for the value recorded, so that both humans and machines can better interpret the data.

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## Changes from Original RDA

Original RDA	Official RDA
The Original RDA Glossary defined VES as: “A named structured list of representations of controlled values for elements. A vocabulary encoding scheme includes an internal RDA list of terms or their corresponding value vocabularies with assigned URIs in the RDA Registry, an ISO code list, a standard terminology, etc.”	The Official RDA Glossary has slightly revised and expanded the definition of VES, but the concept remains the same: “A named structured list of representations of controlled values for elements. A vocabulary encoding scheme includes an RDA list of terms or their corresponding value vocabularies in the RDA Registry, an ISO code list, a standard terminology, an authority control system, etc. Simple keyword indexes are excluded.”
Internal lists of terms were scattered throughout the RDA instructions. They functioned as RDA VESs but were not explicitly labelled as such.	Internal lists of terms are still scattered throughout the RDA instructions, but the terms are now explicitly labelled as coming from RDA VESs. Formal versions of the RDA VESs have been gathered

	together in one location: Resources: <a href="#">Vocabulary Encoding Schemes</a> . Links are provided from the internal lists of terms to their associated formal RDA VESs.
Terms in internal lists had counterparts in the RDA Registry, but no information from the RDA Registry was provided for the terms in the Original RDA Toolkit.	Each term in the formal version of an RDA VES (under the “Resources” menu) includes its corresponding RDA Registry IRI, its identifier (called a “notation”), its glossary definition, and any scope notes or synonyms.
Guidance on the use of VESs was contained in the following three paragraphs in Original RDA 0.12 (Encoding RDA Data): “RDA has been designed for use with a variety of encoding schemes typically used in library applications. For certain elements, the RDA instructions include a vocabulary encoding scheme that is internal to RDA (i.e., a controlled list of terms defined specifically for use with RDA). For those elements, data may be encoded using a substitute vocabulary encoding scheme, provided the encoding scheme is identified. When RDA instructions specify recording a name or a term in an element, the data may be recorded using any suitable vocabulary encoding scheme (e.g., a country code from ISO 3166 for a place), provided the scheme is identified.”	Guidance on the use of VESs is found under Guidance: Introduction to RDA. Data elements. <a href="#">Data values</a> and has been greatly expanded. The text touches on such topics as: VESs (both RDA and non-RDA) as sources for data values, valid recording methods for VES values, the categorization and selection of VESs, recording data provenance for VESs, and the specification of VESs in application profiles. Additional guidance on the use of VESs can be found under Guidance: <a href="#">Recording methods</a> . Much of the LC-PCC PS for Original RDA 0.12 is now incorporated into the LC-PCC PS for Guidance: Recording methods: <a href="#">Recording a structured description</a> and scattered in PSs throughout the Official RDA Toolkit.

## Implementation with Metadata Examples

### Topic 1: Using the RDA Vocabulary Encoding Schemes

In the RDA Toolkit, a comprehensive list of the VESs that are defined by RDA may be found under Resources: [Vocabulary Encoding Schemes](#). These RDA VESs, sometimes called “RDA Reference value vocabularies,” are actually [maintained](#) by the RDA Steering Committee outside of RDA Toolkit but their content is dynamically generated to appear in Toolkit displays.

There are dozens of RDA VESs available for use in RDA descriptions. Some are quite short (e.g., the *RDA Mode of Issuance* VES has only two entries); others are longer. Each entry in an RDA VES consists of a term, its associated [RDA Registry](#) IRI, its notation, its definition, and any

scope notes and synonyms. The notation is the identifier equivalent for the term. The order of entries within a VES is alphabetical by term.

Sample RDA VES entry (taken from the *RDA Video Format VES*):

<p><b>VHS</b></p> <p><a href="http://rdaregistry.info/termList/videoFormat/1015">http://rdaregistry.info/termList/videoFormat/1015</a></p> <p>(Notation 1015 )</p> <p>A video format for analog tape developed for consumer use by JVC in the 1970s.</p> <p><i>Synonyms</i></p> <p>Video Home System</p>
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The RDA VESs provide values for use in *attribute elements* only. They are not valid for use in relationship elements.

The RDA instructions for a particular element will specify when a particular RDA VES may be used to record a value for that element. They will also indicate whether or not the RDA VES has complete coverage of scope. If the coverage of scope is complete, that means the RDA VES is a closed list. If it is incomplete, that means additional values may be included in the RDA VES in the future.

The LC-PCC PSs for the element will specify whether the RDA VES is to be used in LC/PCC metadata descriptions. If the coverage of scope for that RDA VES is incomplete, but the cataloger does not find a term in the RDA VES that is appropriate or sufficiently specific, the LC-PCC PSs will generally instruct the cataloger to record a suitable uncontrolled term as an unstructured description and notify either the chair of the Standing Committee on Standards (for PCC catalogers) or PTCP (for LC catalogers) of the need for a new term. It is possible that LC/PCC will want to propose the term to the RDA Steering Committee as an addition to the RDA VES.

This Metadata Guidance Document does not attempt to show the use of all the RDA VESs. However, the examples below illustrate the use of a few different RDA VESs in LC/PCC descriptions.

### RDA VES, Example 1: [RDA Carrier Type](#)

- **RDA element being recorded: Manifestation: [carrier type](#)**
  - Situation: The cataloger recorded the RDA element “carrier type” for a resource issued in a bound volume. This element is LC/PCC Core.
  - The cataloger applied the option to record the element as a structured description using a term taken from the *RDA Carrier Type VES*.
  - The cataloger also applied the option to record the element using an identifier (in MARC) and an IRI (in BIBFRAME) to express the VES value (cataloger judgment).
  - The resource represented a textual monograph, so MARC 007 was not required.

- The cataloger identified the VES used as the source of information, using subfield \$2 in MARC and <bf:source> in BIBFRAME (required by metadata system).

Examples	
MARC	<p>Example 1</p> <p>Bibliographic record</p> <p><b>338 ## \$a volume \$b nc \$2 rdacarrier</b></p>
BIBFRAME	<p>Example 1</p> <p>BIBFRAME Entity: Instance</p> <pre>&lt;bf:carrier&gt;   &lt;bf:Carrier rdf:about="http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/carriers/nc"&gt;   &lt;rdfs:label xmlns:rdfs="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf- schema#"&gt;volume&lt;/rdfs:label&gt;   &lt;bf:source&gt;   &lt;bf:Source rdf:about="http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/genreFormSche mes/rdacarrier"/&gt;   &lt;/bf:source&gt; &lt;/bf:Carrier&gt; &lt;/bf:carrier&gt;</pre>

Mapping

Original RDA	Original RDA LC-PCC PS	DCM Z1	Other
3.3	3.3	Not applicable	BSR

**RDA VES, Example 2: [RDA Scale Designation](#)**

- RDA element being recorded: Expression: [scale designation](#)

- Situation: The cataloger recorded the RDA element scale designation for a cartographic resource that is not drawn to scale. The element is not LC/PCC Core, thus it is not required.
- The cataloger applied the option to record the element as a structured description using a term taken from the *RDA Scale Designation* VES.
- The cataloger did not identify the VES used as the source of information (not required by policy or metadata system). However, in BF an IRI was automatically supplied by the system, pointing to the *Scale List* VES at [id.loc.gov](http://id.loc.gov).

Examples	
MARC	<p>Example 2</p> <p>Bibliographic record</p> <p><b>255 ## \$a Not drawn to scale.</b></p>
BIBFRAME	<p>Example 2</p> <p>BIBFRAME Entity: Work</p> <pre>&lt;bf:scale&gt;   &lt;bf:Scale rdf:about="http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/mscale/notdrawn"&gt;   &lt;rdfs:label xmlns:rdfs="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#"&gt;not drawn to scale&lt;/rdfs:label&gt;   &lt;/bf:Scale&gt; &lt;/bf:scale&gt;</pre>

Mapping

Original RDA	Original RDA LC-PCC PS	DCM Z1	Other
7.25.6	Not applicable	Not applicable	BSR

**RDA VES, Example 3: [RDA Bibliographic Format](#)**

- RDA element being recorded: Manifestation: [bibliographic format](#)

- Situation: A PCC cataloger recorded the RDA element bibliographic format for a rare book issued in the quarto format (4to). The element is recommended for PCC descriptions of rare books when it can be determined.
- The cataloger applied the option to record the element as a structured description using a term taken from the *RDA Bibliographic Format* VES.
- The cataloger did not identify the VES used as the source of information (not required by policy or metadata system).

Examples	
MARC	<p>Example 3</p> <p>Bibliographic record</p> <p>300 ## \$a 69, [3] pages ; \$c 20 cm <b>(4to)</b></p>
BIBFRAME	<p>Example 3</p> <p>BIBFRAME Entity: Instance</p> <p>&lt;bf:dimensions&gt;20 cm <b>(4to)</b>&lt;/bf:dimensions&gt;</p>

Mapping

Original RDA	Original RDA LC-PCC PS	DCM Z1	Other
3.12	3.12	Not applicable	BSR

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## Topic 2: Using Other Vocabulary Encoding Schemes

Other VESs (external to RDA) are maintained by a wide variety of organizations and institutions. Terms, access points, codes, etc., from these other VESs may be appropriate for inclusion in RDA descriptions created by LC/PCC catalogers instead of, or in addition to, values taken from RDA VESs. Whether or not a particular VES is appropriate for use depends on the particular element, LC/PCC policy, and any local policies an institution might have established.

A good source for identifying potentially useful VESs is [Source Codes for Vocabularies, Rules, and Schemes](#), maintained by the Library of Congress Network Development & MARC Standards Office. Examples of a few of the many different VESs that may be encountered in

LC/PCC descriptions include: NACO Authority File (NAF), Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), Art & Architecture Thesaurus (AAT), MARC Code List for Geographic Areas, ISO 639-3 Code List for Languages, and Library of Congress Demographic Group Terms (LCDGT).

This Metadata Guidance Document does not attempt to show the use of all possible external VESs. Only a select few are highlighted below as examples.

**Other VES, Example 1: [NAF](#)**

- **RDA element being recorded: Person: [place of birth](#)**
  - Situation: The cataloger recorded the RDA element place of birth for a person. The element is not LC/PCC Core, thus it is not required.
  - The cataloger recorded the element as a structured description using a value of Place: [access point for place](#) taken from the VES called the *NACO Authority File* (NAF), as instructed in DCM Z1 370.
  - The cataloger identified the VES used as the source of information, using \$2 in MARC (required by policy).

Examples	
MARC	Example 4  Authority record  <b>370 ## \$a Montréal (Québec) \$2 naf</b>
BIBFRAME	Not applicable. NARs for persons will continue to be created and maintained in the NAF using MARC 21 coding and syntax.

Mapping

Original RDA	Original RDA LC-PCC PS	DCM Z1	Other
9.8	Not applicable	370	Not applicable

**Other VES, Example 2: [FAST](#)**

- **RDA element being recorded: Work: [subject](#)**
  - Situation: A PCC cataloger recorded the RDA element subject for a textual monograph. The element is LC/PCC Core.

- The cataloger chose to record the element as a structured description using an access point taken from the VES called *Faceted Application of Subject Terminology* (FAST).
- The cataloger identified the VES used as the source of information, using \$2 in MARC (required by policy/metadata system when 651 2nd indicator is "7") and <madsrdf:isMemberOfMADSScheme> in BIBFRAME (required by policy/metadata system).

Examples	
MARC	<p>Example 5</p> <p>Bibliographic record</p> <p><b>651 #7 \$a United States \$z Delaware River. \$2 fast \$0 (OCoLC) fst01310316</b></p>
BIBFRAME	<p>Example 5</p> <p>BIBFRAME Entity: Work</p> <pre> &lt;bf:subject &gt; &lt;bf:Place rdf:about="http://bibframe.example.org/11377560#Place 651-40" &gt; &lt;rdf:type rdf:resource="http://www.loc.gov/mads/rdf/v1#ComplexS ubject" /&gt; &lt;rdfs:label &gt;United States--Delaware River.&lt;/rdfs:label&gt; &lt;madsrdf:authoritativeLabel &gt;United States--Delaware River.&lt;/madsrdf:authoritativeLabel&gt; &lt;madsrdf:componentList rdf:parseType="Collection" &gt; &lt;madsrdf:Geographic rdf:about="http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n78095 330-781" &gt; &lt;madsrdf:authoritativeLabel &gt;United States&lt;/madsrdf:authoritativeLabel&gt; &lt;/madsrdf:Geographic&gt; &lt;madsrdf:Geographic &gt; &lt;madsrdf:authoritativeLabel &gt;Delaware River&lt;/madsrdf:authoritativeLabel&gt; &lt;/madsrdf:Geographic&gt; &lt;/madsrdf:componentList&gt; &lt;bf:source &gt; &lt;bf:Source rdf:about="http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/subjectScheme s/fast" &gt;                     </pre>

```

<bf:code >fast</bf:code>
</bf:Source>
</bf:source>
<bf:identifiedBy >
<bf:Identifier >
<rdf:value >01310316</rdf:value>
<bf:source >
<bf:Source >
<bf:code >OCoLC</bf:code>
</bf:Source>
</bf:source>
</bf:Identifier>
</bf:identifiedBy>
</bf:Place>
</bf:subject>
    
```

Mapping

Original RDA	Original RDA LC-PCC PS	DCM Z1	Other
13	Not applicable	Not applicable	BSR

Other VES, Example 3: [RBGENR](#)

- RDA element being recorded: Work: [category of work](#)**
  - Situation: The cataloger recorded the RDA element category of work for a biographical work issued as part of an election campaign. The element is LC/PCC Core only when needed to differentiate a work from another work with the same title or from the name of an agent. Neither applied in this case, so it is not required.
  - The cataloger applied the option to record the element as a structured description using an access point taken from a VES called *RBMS Controlled Vocabularies: Genre Terms* (RBGENR).
  - The cataloger identified the VES used as the source of information, using \$2 in MARC (required by policy/metadata system when 655 2nd indicator is “7”) and <bf:source> in BIBFRAME (required by policy/metadata system).

Examples	
MARC	Example 6

	<p>Bibliographic record</p> <p><b>655 #7 \$a Campaign biographies \$2 rbgenr</b></p>
BIBFRAME	<p>Example 6</p> <p>BIBFRAME Entity: Work</p> <pre> &lt;bf:genreForm&gt;   &lt;madsrdf:Topic xmlns:madsrdf="http://www.loc.gov/mads/rdf/v1#"&gt;   &lt;madsrdf:authoritativeLabel&gt;<b>Campaign biographies.</b>&lt;/madsrdf:authoritativeLabel&gt;   &lt;bf:source&gt;   &lt;bf:Source rdf:about="http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/genreFormSche mes/rbgenr"&gt;     &lt;bf:code&gt;<b>rbgenr</b>&lt;/bf:code&gt;   &lt;/bf:Source&gt;   &lt;/bf:source&gt;   &lt;rdfs:label xmlns:rdfs="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf- schema#"&gt;Campaign biographies.&lt;/rdfs:label&gt;   &lt;/madsrdf:Topic&gt; &lt;/bf:genreForm&gt; </pre>

Mapping

Original RDA	Original RDA LC-PCC PS	DCM Z1	Other
6.3	6.3.1.3 [not applicable]	Not applicable	BSR

### Topic 3: Not Using a Vocabulary Encoding Scheme

Sometimes, no appropriate term can be found in the VES the cataloger prefers or is instructed to use. Depending on the situation, the cataloger may:

- Decide to contribute a new desired term to the preferred VES, whether directly (e.g. by creating a new NAR in the NAF) or via a proposal (e.g. for a new LCSH term).
- Decide not to contribute a new desired term to the preferred VES and instead record the element using a preferred string encoding scheme.

- Decide not to contribute a new desired term and instead record the element using an unstructured description.
- Decide to record the element using a different VES.
- Decide not to record the element.

The choice of action will depend on many factors, including the particular element, the level of description, LC/PCC policy, and any local policies an institution might have established.

**Not Using a VES, Example 1: Not in [NAF](#)**

- **RDA element being recorded: Person: [place of birth](#)**
  - Situation: The cataloger recorded the RDA element place of birth for a person. The element is not LC/PCC Core, thus it is not required.
  - The cataloger attempted to record the element as a structured description using an access point for the place taken from the *NACO Authority File* (NAF), per DCM Z1 370 instructions, but the access point was not found in the VES.
  - The cataloger decided *not* to create an authority record for the place in the NAF (an allowable practice according to DCM Z1 370).
  - Instead, the cataloger recorded the element as a structured description using the same value and string encoding scheme they would have been used if they *had* established the access point in the NAF.

Examples	
MARC	Example 7 Authority record 370 ## \$a Patty Hill (Jamaica)
BIBFRAME	Not applicable. NARs for persons will continue to be created and maintained in the NAF using MARC 21 coding and syntax.

Mapping

Original RDA	Original RDA LC-PCC PS	DCM Z1	Other
9.8	Not applicable	370	Not applicable

**Not Using a VES, Example 2: Not in [LCSH](#)**

- **RDA element being recorded: Corporate body: [category of government](#)**

- Situation: The cataloger recorded the RDA element category of government in an authority record for a Polish jurisdiction. The element is not LC/PCC Core, thus it is not required.
- DCM Z1 368 instructs catalogers to prefer a controlled vocabulary, so the cataloger attempted to record the element as a structured description using a value taken from the *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (LCSH), but no suitable term was found in the VES.
- The cataloger could not propose the term for inclusion in LCSH because they were not cataloging a resource *about* this particular category of jurisdiction.
- Since none of the terms in LCSH were suitably specific, the cataloger applied the option to record an uncontrolled term as an unstructured description.
- Since there was no equivalent term in English, the cataloger applied the option to record a term in the official language of the government (i.e., Polish).

Examples	
MARC	<p>Example 8</p> <p>Authority record</p> <pre>151 ## \$a Brzesko (Poland : Powiat) 368 ## \$b Powiat</pre>
BIBFRAME	Not applicable. NARs for jurisdictions will continue to be created and maintained in the NAF using MARC 21 coding and syntax.

Mapping

Original RDA	Original RDA LC-PCC PS	DCM Z1	Other
11.7.1.5	11.7.1.5	368	Not applicable

**Not Using a VES, Example 3: Instructed Not to Use a VES Term**

- **RDA element being recorded: Person: [term of rank, honour, or office](#)**
  - Situation: The cataloger recorded the RDA element term of rank, honour, or office in an authority record for a French nobleman. The element is LC/PCC Core for terms that indicate royalty, nobility, or ecclesiastical rank or office; for terms of address for persons of religious vocation; and in cases of conflict.
  - The cataloger applied the RDA option to record a term “in the language in which it was conferred or in a language used in the country in which a person resides”.

- o DCM Z1 368 instructs to prefer the term used in access points for the person, so the cataloger applied the RDA option to record an uncontrolled term as an unstructured description.

Examples	
MARC	<p>Example 9</p> <p>Authority record</p> <p>100 1# \$a Walsh, Joseph-Alexis, \$c vicomte, \$d 1782-1860</p> <p><b>368 ## \$d vicomte</b></p>
BIBFRAME	Not applicable. NARs for persons will continue to be created and maintained in the NAF using MARC 21 coding and syntax.

Mapping

Original RDA	Original RDA LC-PCC PS	DCM Z1	Other
9.4	9.4.1.4.1 [not applicable] 9.4.1.4.2 [not applicable] 9.4.1.4.3 [not applicable] 9.4.1.7 [not applicable]	368	Not applicable

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### Topic 4: Mixed Approaches

The cataloger will sometimes take a mixed approach to recording an element. For example, the cataloger might:

- Record some instances of the element using a VES and others not using a VES
- Record some instances of the element using one VES and others using a different VES

In some situations, the choice of whether to take a mixed approach will be left to the cataloger's judgment. In others, cataloging policy, local institutional policy, the comprehensiveness of the VESs in question, or the requirements of the metadata system may determine whether to take a mixed approach.

### Mixed Approach, Example 1: No VES + VES ([LCSH](#))

- **RDA element being recorded: Person: [field of activity of person](#)**
  - Situation: The cataloger recorded the RDA element field of activity of person for a 21st-century American poet who is especially well-known for writing villanelles and paradelles (two poetic forms). The element is not LC/PCC Core, thus it is not required.
  - DCM Z1 372 instructs catalogers to prefer a controlled vocabulary, so the cataloger attempted to record the element as a structured description using values taken from the *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (LCSH) VES.
  - The cataloger found no suitably specific term in the VES to represent the concept of the poet’s paradelles. The cataloger could not propose the term for inclusion in LCSH because they are not cataloging a resource about paradelles (or a work consisting of them). Because a suitably specific term was not found in LCSH, the cataloger decided to apply the RDA option to record an uncontrolled term as an unstructured description.
  - The cataloger found an appropriate term in LCSH to represent the poet’s villanelles and recorded it. The cataloger also decided to record a broader term from LCSH, given that the poet sometimes writes other types of poetry. The cataloger recorded both terms in a single field, following DCM Z1 372 instructions, and identified the VES used as the source of information, using \$2 in MARC (required by policy).

Examples	
MARC	<p>Example 10</p> <p>Authority record</p> <p><b>372 ## \$a Paradelles, American</b></p> <p><b>372 ## \$a Villanelles, American \$a American poetry--21st century \$2 lcsch</b></p>
BIBFRAME	Not applicable. NARs for persons will continue to be created and maintained in the NAF using MARC 21 coding and syntax.

#### Mapping

Original RDA	Original RDA LC-PCC PS	DCM Z1	Other
9.15	Not applicable	372	Not applicable

**Mixed Approach, Example 2: No VES + VES ([MARC Authority Code List](#))**

- **RDA element being recorded: Work: [category of work](#)**
  - Situation: A PCC cataloger recorded the RDA element category of work in a series authority record. The element is LC/PCC Core only when needed to differentiate a work from another work with the same title or from the name of an agent. Neither applies in this case, thus it is not required.
  - The cataloger applied the RDA option to record an uncontrolled term as an unstructured description (MARC 380). The cataloger used the term specified in the LC-PCC MGD for [Series-like phrases](#).
  - The cataloger also applied the RDA option to record the element as an identifier (MARC 008/12). The VES for the identifier is the list of codes defined for use in MARC 21 Authority 008/12; the code “c” denotes “series-like phrase.”

Examples	
MARC	<p>Example 11</p> <p>Authority record</p> <p>008/12 c</p> <p>380 ## \$a <b>Series-like phrase</b></p>
BIBFRAME	<p>Not applicable. Series authority records (SARs) will continue to be created and maintained in the NAF by PCC catalogers using MARC 21 coding and syntax. LC no longer creates or updates SARs.</p>

Mapping

Original RDA	Original RDA LC-PCC PS	DCM Z1	Other
6.3	6.3.1.3	380	<p>NACO Training: Module 6a <a href="#">Describing Series</a></p> <p>NACO Series Training <a href="#">Session 12</a></p>

**Mixed Approach, Example 3: Two VESs ([LCSH](#) + [LCSHAC](#))**

- **RDA element being recorded: Work: [subject](#)**
  - Situation: The cataloger recorded the RDA element subject for a textual monograph published for children. The element is LC/PCC Core.
  - The cataloger chose to record the element as a structured description using access points taken from two different VESs: *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (LCSH) and *Library of Congress Children’s Subject Headings* (LCSHAC). The latter VES is sometimes referred to using other names (such as *LC Subject Headings for Children’s Literature*) and other acronyms (such as CSH).
  - The cataloger identified the two VESs used as the sources of information, using 2nd indicator values in MARC (required by policy and metadata system) and <madsrdf:isMemberOfMADSScheme> in BIBFRAME (required by policy/metadata system).

Examples	
MARC	<p>Example 12</p> <p>Bibliographic record</p> <p><b>650 #0 \$a Swine \$v Juvenile literature.</b></p> <p><b>650 #1 \$a Pigs.</b></p>
BIBFRAME	<p>Example 12</p> <p>BIBFRAME Entity: Work</p> <pre> &lt;bf:subject&gt;   &lt;madsrdf:ComplexSubject xmlns:madsrdf="http://www.loc.gov/mads/rdf/v1#" rdf:about="http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects/sh2 010115218"&gt;   &lt;rdfs:label xmlns:rdfs="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf- schema#"&gt;Swine--Juvenile literature&lt;/rdfs:label&gt;   &lt;madsrdf:authoritativeLabel&gt;Swine--Juvenile <b>literature</b>&lt;/madsrdf:authoritativeLabel&gt;   &lt;madsrdf:isMemberOfMADSScheme rdf:resource="http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects" /&gt;   &lt;madsrdf:componentList rdf:parseType="Collection"&gt;   &lt;madsrdf:Topic&gt; </pre>

```

<madsrdf:authoritativeLabel>Swine</madsrdf:authoritativeLabel>
  </madsrdf:Topic>
  <madsrdf:GenreForm>
    <madsrdf:authoritativeLabel>Juvenile literature</madsrdf:authoritativeLabel>
  </madsrdf:GenreForm>
</madsrdf:componentList>
<bflc:aap-normalized
xmlns:bflc="http://id.loc.gov/ontologies/bflc/">swine
juvenileliterature</bflc:aap-normalized>
  </madsrdf:ComplexSubject>
</bf:subject>
<bf:subject>
  <madsrdf:Topic
xmlns:madsrdf="http://www.loc.gov/mads/rdf/v1#"
rdf:about="http://id.loc.gov/authorities/childrensSubjects/sj96006230">
    <rdfs:label
xmlns:rdfs="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#">Pigs</rdfs:label>

<madsrdf:authoritativeLabel>Pigs</madsrdf:authoritativeLabel>
  <madsrdf:isMemberOfMADSScheme
rdf:resource="http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects"/>
  <madsrdf:isMemberOfMADSScheme
rdf:resource="http://id.loc.gov/authorities/childrensSubjects"/>
  <bflc:aap-normalized
xmlns:bflc="http://id.loc.gov/ontologies/bflc/">pigs<
/bflc:aap-normalized>
  </madsrdf:Topic>
</bf:subject>

```

Mapping

Original RDA	Original RDA LC-PCC PS	DCM Z1	Other
13	Not applicable	Not applicable	BSR

**Mixed Approach, Example 4: Two VESs ([LCSH](#) + [LCDGT](#))**

- RDA element being recorded: Expression: [intended audience of expression](#)

- Situation: The cataloger recorded the RDA element intended audience of expression in an authority record for a resource that was written for use by French-Canadian veterans of World War II. The element is only LC Core for resources intended for children, thus it is not required in this situation.
- DCM Z1 385 instructs to prefer a controlled vocabulary. The cataloger decided to record the element as a structured description using values taken from *Library of Congress Demographic Group Terms* (LCDGT). However, an appropriate term was found in that VES for only one of the two audience categories the cataloger wanted to record.
- The cataloger found an appropriate term for the second category in a different VES, namely: *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (LCSH).
- The cataloger identified the two VESs used as the sources of information, using \$2 in MARC (required by policy).

Examples	
MARC	<p>Example 13</p> <p>Authority record</p> <p>385 ## \$a World War II veterans \$2 lcdgt</p> <p>385 ## \$a French-Canadians \$2 lcsH</p>
BIBFRAME	Not applicable. NARs for works and expressions will continue to be created and maintained in the NAF using MARC 21 coding and syntax.

Mapping

Original RDA	Original RDA LC-PCC PS	DCM Z1	Other
7.7	7.7 [not applicable]	385	LCDGT Manual: L 480/L 550

## Cataloger’s Judgment Areas

- **Whether to record an element.** The cataloger is only required to record an element if it is marked “core” in the associated LC-PCC PS (usually the first PS on the page in the “Prerecording” section). If the element is not marked “core”, the cataloger must use

judgment in deciding whether to record the element. If an element is not marked “core”, any policy statement for an RDA option that says “Apply the option” is simply a shorthand way of saying “Apply the option if you are recording the element.” In such cases, “Apply the option” should not affect the cataloger’s decision of whether to record the element.

- **Whether to use a VES to record an element.** RDA often provides options to “Record a term from a suitable vocabulary encoding scheme” as a structured description or to “Record a suitable uncontrolled term as an unstructured description.” The associated LC-PCC PSs will sometimes leave these decisions to cataloger judgment. The cataloger may find more specific instructions in additional policy documentation (e.g. Metadata Guidance Documents, DCM Z1, etc.) but otherwise the choice of whether to use a VES (and if so, which one to use) will be theirs to make.
- **Whether to use an additional VES to record an element.** When RDA provides an option to use a specific RDA VES, it then often follows that with an option to “Record a term from another suitable vocabulary encoding scheme.” The associated LC-PCC PS will often say “Cataloger’s judgment.” The decision of whether to apply the option, and if so which VES to use, may depend on such factors as: the extent to which the cataloger has knowledge of other appropriate VESs, whether a more suitable term is found in another VES, the type of resource being described, local institutional policies, and how much time the cataloger has to devote to the task.
- **Whether to record data provenance for the VES.** RDA often provides an option to “Record a vocabulary encoding scheme that is used as a source of information ...” The associated LC-PCC PS will often say “Do not apply the option unless specifically required by policy or the metadata system.” The cataloger will need to consult relevant policy and/or metadata system documentation when determining whether to apply the RDA option. If no such documentation can be found, they may need to use their judgment.
- **Whether to use the identifier and/or IRI methods to record VES values.** RDA often provides options to record a VES value for an element using three possible recording methods: structured description, identifier, and IRI. For the latter two methods, the associated LC-PCC PSs will often say “If a local encoding scheme is able to record the value of an element as an identifier or IRI, use judgment in applying the recording method.” The cataloger will need to consult relevant policy and/or metadata system documentation when determining whether these recording methods are appropriate. Note: Sometimes a metadata system can automatically apply these particular recording methods “behind the scenes,” thereby relieving the cataloger of having to do it manually. For example, the cataloger might select a term for a structured description from a drop-down “pick list” or using a system’s “lookup” function and the system might then automatically supply the corresponding identifier and/or IRI in the encoding, which might not be visible in the cataloger’s editing environment.

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## Revision History

Date	Action
2022-10-13	Corrected a typo
2022-08-16	Corrected a link
2022-01-31	Initial release

Document URL: <https://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/mgd/mg-vocabularyEncodingSchemes.pdf>