

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Barbara Tillett, LC Representative
Subject: Revision of RDA 3.19.7.3, Recording transmission speed

LC thanks ACOC for attempting what seemed to be a fairly simple correction. After checking reference sources that suggested this was a more complex topic, we asked the system engineer in our moving image area for advice. He advised us that “Transmission speed” is a misnomer, indicating that:

“transmission speed implies that the data is being transmitted live. This is different from the encoded bitrate, which is the data rate at which the essence is encoded. One of the problems with RDA’s terminology is it a) doesn’t reflect the fact that many types of media data are variable bitrate (i.e., the bitrate changes dynamically over time depending on the complexity of the signal being represented) and b) uses data transmission terminology for cataloging of file-based media assets.”

He suggests that the element is more accurately referred to as:

“encoded bitrate: the average or maximum bitrate the essence was encoded; the proper measurement is in “bps” (bits per second) with the appropriate metric prefix: “k” for “kilo”, “M” for “mega”, or “G” for “giga.”

He also indicates that if this information is not given, you will need a piece of software that can look at the file and read the value from the metadata in the file header. He further noted that there are more types of content than just streaming audio or video. Most files today are pre-authored files, not those created from audio or video streaming. You can’t catalog a stream, since it is by definition a live event and you can only create a record for a **recording** of that stream, i.e., the file created once the streaming was completed and the data stopped being transmitted. He believes the proper term of art is “encoded bitrate” rather than “transmission speed,” and that transmission speed refers to the speed the server delivers the data.

LC proposes to change the name of the element, with an understanding of the repercussions on element lists, glossary, registry, etc. We also appreciate the CCC proposal to reduce the complexity of the instruction by removing any mention of the units of the speed itself, and have reflected that in the following suggestion.

3.19.7 ~~Transmission Speed~~ Encoded Bitrate

3.19.7.1 Scope

~~Transmission speed~~ Encoded bitrate is the speed at which streaming audio, or video, etc., is designed to play.

3.19.7.2 Sources of Information

Use evidence presented by the resource itself, including embedded metadata, (or on any accompanying material or container) as the basis for

recording the ~~transmission speed~~ encoded bitrate. If desired, take additional evidence from any source.

3.19.7.3 Recording ~~Transmission Speed~~ Encoded Bitrate

Record the ~~transmission speed~~ encoded bitrate of the file, in ~~kilobytes per second (kpbs)~~, if it can be readily ascertained and is considered important for identification or selection (e.g., for streaming audio or video).

Clean copy

3.19.7 Encoded Bitrate

3.19.7.1 Scope

Encoded bitrate is the speed at which streaming audio, video, etc., is designed to play.

3.19.7.2 Sources of Information

Use evidence presented by the resource itself, including embedded metadata, or on any accompanying material or container as the basis for recording the encoded bitrate. If desired, take additional evidence from any source.

3.19.7.3 Recording Encoded Bitrate

Record the encoded bitrate of the file, if it can be readily ascertained and is considered important for identification or selection (e.g., for streaming audio or video).