To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Judith A. Kuhagen, Secretary, JSC

Subject: Subject Relationship Element in RDA Chapter 23

The text below reflects the decisions made by the Joint Steering Committee during its November 2014 meeting and via email after the meeting. Additions to represent other subject relationships (e.g., for persons, families, and corporate bodies that are the subject of a work) will be added in a later release.

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0.2 Conceptual Models Underlying RDA

0.2.1 General

A key element in the design of RDA is its alignment with the conceptual models for bibliographic and authority data developed by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA):

Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR)\(^4\)
Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRAD)\(^5\)
Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Data (FRSAD)\(^6\)

The FRBR, FRAD, and FRSAD models provide RDA with an underlying framework that has the scope needed to support:

a) comprehensive coverage of all types of content and media
b) the flexibility and extensibility needed to accommodate newly emerging resource characteristics
c) the adaptability needed for the data produced to function within a wide range of technological environments
d) coverage of all types of subjects.


\(^6\) *Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Data (FRSAD): A Conceptual Model* by Marcia Lei Zeng, Maja Žumer & Athena Salaba (Eds.) (Berlin/München: De Gruyter Saur, 2011).
0.2.2 Alignment with FRBR

[Instruction at 0.3.2 renumbered as 0.2.2 and footnote renumbered]

The RDA data elements for describing a resource generally reflect the attributes and relationships associated with the entities work, expression, manifestation, and item, as defined in FRBR.\(^7\) Those entities are defined in RDA as follows:

- **work**—a distinct intellectual or artistic creation (i.e., the intellectual or artistic content)
- **expression**—the intellectual or artistic realization of a work in the form of alpha-numeric, musical or choreographic notation, sound, image, object, movement, etc., or any combination of such forms
- **manifestation**—the physical embodiment of an expression of a work
- **item**—a single exemplar or instance of a manifestation.

In future releases, the scope of RDA may be extended to cover additional attributes and relationships that are associated with these four entities and support resource discovery, but are not currently defined in FRBR.

**Attributes and relationships currently out of scope.** Attributes and relationships associated with these four entities whose primary function is to support user tasks related to resource management (e.g., acquisition, preservation) are currently out of scope.

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\(^7\) See the attributes defined in sections 4.2–4.5 and the relationships defined in sections 5.2–5.3 of FRBR. For details on the correspondence between RDA elements and FRBR attributes and relationships, see *RDA to FRBR Mapping*, http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/5rda-rdafrbrmappingrev2.pdf.

0.2.3 Alignment with FRAD

[Instruction at 0.3.3 renumbered as 0.2.3 and footnote renumbered]

The RDA data elements for describing entities associated with a resource generally reflect the attributes and relationships associated with the entities person, family, corporate body, and place, as defined in FRAD.\(^8\) Those entities are defined in RDA as follows:

- **person**—an individual or an identity established by an individual (either alone or in collaboration with one or more other individuals)
- **family**—two or more persons related by birth, marriage, adoption, civil union, or similar legal status, or who otherwise present themselves as a family
- **corporate body**—an organization or group of persons and/or organizations that is identified by a particular name and that acts, or may act, as a unit
- **place**—a location identified by a name.
RDA also covers additional attributes of the entity work that are defined in FRAD but are not included in FRBR.

Attributes associated with the entities name, identifier, controlled access point, and rules, as defined in FRAD, are covered selectively.

In future releases, the scope of RDA may be extended to cover additional attributes and relationships (associated with the entities person, family, corporate body, place, work, expression, name, identifier, controlled access point, and rules) that support resource discovery, but are not currently defined in FRAD.

**Attributes and relationships currently out of scope.** The following attributes and relationships are currently out of scope:

- attributes and relationships associated with the entities concept, object, and event, as defined in FRAD
- relationships between controlled access points, as defined in FRAD
- attributes and relationships (associated with the entities person, family, corporate body, work, and expression) whose primary function is to support user tasks related to rights management.

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8 See the attributes defined in sections 4.1–4.7 and the relationships defined in sections 5.3–5.4 of FRAD. For details on the correspondence between RDA elements and FRAD attributes and relationships, see *RDA to FRAD Mapping*, http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/5rda-rdafradmappingrev.pdf.

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0.2.4 Alignment with FRSAD

The RDA element for the subject relationship generally reflects the relationship associated with the entity work as defined in FRSAD.⁹

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9 See the relationship defined in section 5.1 of FRSAD.

0.3 Relationship to Other Standards for Resource Description and Access

0.3.1 General

RDA is built on foundations established by the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules* (AACR) and the cataloguing traditions on which it was based.¹⁰ ¹¹ ¹² ¹³

Instructions derived from AACR have been reworked to produce a standard that will be easier to use, more adaptable, and more cost-efficient in its application. A key factor in the design of RDA has been the need to integrate
data produced using RDA into existing databases developed using AACR and related standards.

Other key standards used in developing RDA include the *International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD)*, the *MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data*, and the *MARC 21 Format for Authority Data*.

The metadata standards used in other communities (archives, museums, publishers, semantic web, etc.) were taken into consideration in the design of RDA. The goal was to attain an effective level of interoperability between those standards and RDA.

0.3.2 Alignment with RDA/ONIX Framework

RDA conforms to the *RDA/ONIX Framework for Resource Categorization*. The RDA vocabulary encoding schemes for the RDA data elements for carrier type and media type of the manifestation entity and content type of the expression entity are aligned with the base carrier and content categories defined in the Framework.

0.3.3 Alignment with ISBD

The RDA element set is compatible with ISBD. For mappings of the RDA element set to ISBD, see appendix D (D.1.1).

0.3.4 Alignment with MARC 21

The RDA element set is compatible with MARC 21. For mappings of the RDA element set to MARC 21, see appendix D (D.2) and appendix E (E.2).
0.3.5 Alignment with Dublin Core

The RDA element set is compatible with Dublin Core.\textsuperscript{18}

\textsuperscript{18} \textit{Dublin Core Metadata Element Set}, version 1.1 ([Dublin, Ohio]: Dublin Core Metadata Initiative, 2006), http://dublincore.org/documents/dces/.

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0.4.1 General

[\textit{instruction unchanged except for renumbering of footnote in 2\textsuperscript{nd} paragraph below}]

The IFLA Statement of International Cataloguing Principles\textsuperscript{19} informs the cataloguing principles used throughout RDA.


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0.5 Structure

RDA is divided into ten sections: sections 1–4 cover elements corresponding to the entity attributes defined in FRBR and FRAD; sections 5–10 cover elements corresponding to the relationships defined in FRBR, FRAD, and FRSAD.\textsuperscript{20}

The initial chapter in each section sets out the functional objectives and principles underlying the guidelines and instructions in that section.

Subsequent chapters within each section cover attributes or relationships that support a specific user task as follows:\textsuperscript{21}

[\textit{remainder of instruction unchanged except for the paragraphs shown below}]

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\textit{Section 4} covers the attributes of concepts (chapter 13\textsuperscript{*21}), objects (chapter 14\textsuperscript{*21}), events (chapter 15\textsuperscript{*21}), and places (chapter 16) that are most commonly used to identify those entities.

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\textit{Section 7} covers the relationships that are used to find works on a particular subject (chapter 23).
Section 10 covers the relationships that are used to find related concepts (chapter 34*21), objects (chapter 35*21), events (chapter 36*21), and places (chapter 37*).

Supplementary guidelines and instructions are provided in appendices as follows:22

Appendix M lists terms used as designators to indicate the nature of a relationship between a work and its subject. The relationship designators define the relationship more specifically than the relationship element by itself. The appendix provides definitions for terms used as relationship designators and instructions on their use.

20 Development of the placeholder Sections and chapters covering the attributes of concept, object, and event defined in FRAD is dependent on the outcomes from consolidation of the FR models.
21 Chapters marked with an asterisk may be developed in a future release of RDA.
22 Appendices marked with an asterisk may be developed in a future release of RDA.

0.6.1 General
[for changes to 0.6.1, see 6JSC/BL/15/rev/Sec final]

0.6.2 Core Elements
[for changes to 0.6.2, see 6JSC/BL/15/rev/Sec final]

0.6.10 Section 7: Recording Subject Relationships
When recording relationships between a work and its subject, include as a minimum at least one subject relationship element that is applicable and readily ascertainable.
0.7 **Access Points**

*instruction unchanged except for the addition of the third line in the list after the 2\textsuperscript{nd} paragraph as shown below*

- primary relationship between a manifestation and a work or expression embodied in the manifestation
- relationships between a resource and persons, families, and corporate bodies associated with that resource
- relationships between a work and its subject
- relationships between works, expressions, manifestations, and items
- relationships between persons, families, and corporate bodies.

0.10 **Examples**

*instruction unchanged except for the 7\textsuperscript{th} paragraph below*

When using an authorized access point or structured description to record a relationship to a related work, expression, manifestation, or item, the examples illustrate the use of relationship designators. The authorized access point or structured description is preceded by an introductory phrase paralleling the applicable relationship designator (see appendix J and appendix M).

Section 7: Recording Subject Relationships

23

GENERAL GUIDELINES ON RECORDING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN WORKS AND SUBJECTS

23.0 **Scope**

This chapter provides general guidelines and instructions on recording relationships between works and subjects. It includes:

a) an explanation of key terms (see 23.1)
b) the functional objectives and principles underlying the general guidelines and instructions in chapter 23 (see 23.2)
c) the core elements for recording subject relationships to entities (see 23.3)
d) the use of identifiers, authorized access points, and/or descriptions to record subject relationships (see 23.4)
e) the use of relationship designators to indicate the specific subject relationship between works and entities (see 23.5).

23.1 Terminology

23.1.1 Explanation of Key Terms

There are a number of terms used in this chapter that have meanings specific to their use in RDA. Some of these terms are explained at 23.1.2–23.1.6.

All terms with a specific technical meaning are defined in the glossary.

23.1.2 Work

The term work▼ refers to a distinct intellectual or artistic creation (i.e., the intellectual or artistic content).

The term work can refer to an individual work, an aggregate work, or a component of a work.

23.1.3 Subject

The term subject▼ refers to a term, phrase, classification number, etc., that indicates what the work is about.

23.1.4 Access Point

The terms access point and authorized access point are used as follows:

The term access point▼ refers to a name, term, code, etc., representing a specific entity (work, expression, person, family, corporate body, or other entity that serves as the subject of a work).

The term authorized access point▼ refers to the standardized access point representing an entity.

The authorized access point representing a work or expression is constructed by combining (in this order):

   a) the authorized access point representing a person, family, or corporate body responsible for the work, if appropriate
   b) the preferred title for the work
   c) other elements as instructed at 6.27-6.31.

The authorized access point representing a person, family, or corporate body is constructed using the preferred name for person, family, or corporate body.

The authorized access point representing the subject of a work may be a controlled subject term or combination of terms, or a classification number, as specified in an identifiable subject system.
23.1.5 Identifiable Subject System

The term **identifiable subject system** refers to a standard for subject access points and/or classification numbers used by the agency creating the data. It may be used in determining the names or terms, other identifying attributes, and relationships representing the subject of a work. It may also include rules for application of terms, systematic combination of terminology (e.g., pre-or post-coordination), and guidelines on cardinality and depth of assignment.

23.1.6 Relationship Designator

The term **relationship designator** refers to a designator that indicates the nature of the relationship between a work and its subject.

A relationship designator is recorded with the authorized access point, identifier, and/or description representing the subject of the work.

23.2 Functional Objectives and Principles

The data recorded to reflect the subject relationship should enable the user to find all works about a particular subject.

To ensure that the data created using RDA meet that functional objective, the data should reflect all significant subject relationships.

23.3 Core Elements

When recording relationships between a work and its subject, include as a minimum at least one subject relationship element that is applicable and readily ascertainable.

23.4 Subject Relationship

**CORE ELEMENT**

23.4.1 Basic Instructions on Recording Subject Relationships

23.4.1.1 Scope

**Subject relationship** refers to the relationship between a work and an identifier, an authorized access point, and/or a description that indicates what the work is about.

23.4.1.2 Recording the Related Subject

Record the related subject of the work by using one or more of these techniques:

a) identifier (see 23.4.1.2.1)

b) authorized access point (see 23.4.1.2.2)
and/or
c) description of the related subject (see 23.4.1.2.3).

Record an appropriate relationship designator to specify the nature of the relationship (see 23.5).

23.4.1.2.1 Identifier for the Subject

Provide an identifier for the subject.

EXAMPLE

- Library and Archives Canada control number: 0200B4753
  **Identifier for Icelandic Canadians, the subject of the work**
  Selected resource material on Canadians of Icelandic descent

- German National Library: http://d-nb.info/gnd/119545373
  **Identifier for Angela Merkel, the subject of the work** Frauen, Politik und Medien

- Medical Subject Headings control number: D011187
  **Identifier for Posture, the subject of the work** Clinical disorders of balance, posture and gait

- Integrated Taxonomic Information System serial number: 180693
  **Identifier for Cervidae, the subject of the work** Szarvasok nyomában és egyéb írások

- Library of Congress control number: n 78096930
  **Identifier for Harvard University, the subject of the work** The Harvard monthly

23.4.1.2.2 Authorized Access Point Representing the Related Subject

Provide an authorized access point representing the related subject.

The access point may be a controlled subject term or a combination of terms, or a classification number, as specified in an identifiable subject system.

EXAMPLE

- Aquatic animals
  **Authorized access point in the Sears list of subject headings for the subject of the work** Ugly creatures under water

- GV1796.F55
  **Authorized access point in the Library of Congress Classification system for the subject of the work** Guía del flamenco
Canada. Constitution Act, 1982  
**Authorized access point for the subject of the work** The aboriginal rights provisions in the Constitution Act, 1982

Literacy  
Bilingualism  
**Authorized access points in the Education Resources Information Center thesaurus for the subjects of the work** Literacy in the early years and English as an additional language

Chanel, Coco, 1883–1971  
**Authorized access point for the subject of the work** Mémoires de Coco

349.73  
**Authorized access point in the Dewey Decimal Classification system for the subject of the work** An introduction to the American legal system

Bianchi (Firm)  
Autobianchi (Firm)  
**Authorized access points for the subjects of the work** Dalle auto Bianchi alle Autobianchi

### 23.4.1.2.3 Description of the Subject of the Work

Provide a description of the related subject by using either a structured description or an unstructured description (e.g., keywords), as appropriate.

**EXAMPLE**

A biography of Martin Luther King, Jr., covering his childhood, leadership, powerful speeches, assassination, and greatest influences  
**Description of the subject of the work** Free at last!

knitting; patterns; sweaters; Fair Isle  
**Description of the subject of the work** Meg Swansen’s knitting

This documentary explores the history of electric automobiles in the United States, focusing specifically on the General Motors EV1. The film offers reasons why consumers failed to lease or purchase electric cars in the 1990s, including bad marketing, low gas prices, and limited availability outside of California  
**Description of the subject of the work** Who killed the electric car?

"An exegesis of Mark 11:15:19"  
**Description of the subject of the work** God’s order vs. the Jewish/Roman social order
23.5  Relationship Designator

23.5.1  Basic Instructions on Recording Relationship Designators

23.5.1.1  Scope

A relationship designator is a designator that indicates the nature of the relationship between a work and its subject. A relationship designator is recorded with the identifier, authorized access point, and/or description representing the subject of the work.

The defined scope of a relationship element provides a general indication of the relationship between a work and its subject. Relationship designators provide more specific information about the nature of the relationship (e.g., commentary in, evaluation of).

23.5.1.2  Sources of Information

Take information on the nature of the subject relationship from any source.

23.5.1.3  Recording Relationship Designators

Record one or more appropriate terms from the list in appendix M to indicate the specific nature of the subject relationship.

EXAMPLE

commentary on
Resource described: Tingey, Robert J. Commentary on Schematic geological map of Antarctica, scale 1:10,000,000. Relationship designator recorded in conjunction with an identifier for Schematic geological map of Antarctica

critiqued in
Resource described: Euryanthe / Carl Maria von Weber. Relationship designator recorded in conjunction with the authorized access point for Euryanthe and Carl Maria von Weber’s dramaturgy of German opera

If none of the terms listed in appendix M is appropriate or sufficiently specific, use another concise term to indicate the nature of the relationship.

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25.1.1.3  Recording Relationships to Related Works

[instruction unchanged except for examples as explained below]
Finding aid: http://bibpurl.oclc.org/web/14192

Resource described: Emery E. Andrews papers, 1925–1969. Archival collection of papers and related materials. Related work represented in the manifestation identified by the resource identifier

Resource described: Psycho / starring Vince Vaughn, Julianne Moore, Viggo Mortensen, William H. Macy ; produced by Brian Grazer and Gus Van Sant ; screenplay by Joseph Stefano ; directed by Gus Van Sant

27.1.1.3 Recording Relationships to Related Manifestations

[instruction unchanged except for examples as explained below]

J.2.3 Referential Work Relationships

[content of J.2.3 deleted (being moved to M.2.2) and replaced with wording below]

Designators for referential work relationships will be added in a future release of RDA.
Designators for referential expression relationships will be added in a future release of RDA.

J.4.3  Referential Manifestation Relationships

Designators for referential manifestation relationships will be added in a future release of RDA.

J.5.3  Referential Item Relationships

Designators for referential item relationships will be added in a future release of RDA.

[Appendix] M

Relationship Designators: Subject Relationships

M.0  Scope

This appendix provides general guidelines on using relationship designators to specify relationships between works and their subjects, and lists relationship designators used for that purpose.

M.1  General Guidelines on Using Relationship Designators

The defined scope of a relationship element provides a general indication of the relationship between a work and its subject. If the relationship element is considered sufficient for the purposes of the agency creating the data, do not use a relationship designator to indicate the specific nature of the relationship.

Relationship designators provide more specific information about the nature of the relationship (e.g., commentary in, evaluation of).

If none of the terms listed in this appendix is appropriate or sufficiently specific, use another concise term to indicate the nature of the relationship.
M.2 Relationship Designators for Subjects

M.2.1 Subjects

Record an appropriate term from the lists at M.2.2–M.2.5 with the identifier, authorized access point, and/or description indicating the relationship between a work and its subject (see 23.4). Apply the general guidelines on using relationship designators at M.1.

M.2.2 Work as Subject of a Work

**described in (work)** A work that describes a described work. *Reciprocal relationship*: description of (work)

**analysed in (work)** A work that examines the source work to identify its components and their relations. *Reciprocal relationship*: analysis of (work)

**commentary in (work)** A work that contains a set of explanatory or critical notes on the described work. *Reciprocal relationship*: commentary on (work)

**critiqued in (work)** A work that contains a critical evaluation of the described work. *Reciprocal relationship*: critique of (work)

**evaluated in (work)** A work that examines or judges the described work. *Reciprocal relationship*: evaluation of (work)

**reviewed in (work)** A work that contains a brief evaluation of the described work. *Reciprocal relationship*: review of (work)

**description of (work)** A work described by a describing work. *Reciprocal relationship*: described in (work)

**analysis of (work)** A work that has been examined to identify its components and their relations. *Reciprocal relationship*: analysed in (work)

**commentary on (work)** A work used as the basis for a set of explanatory or critical notes. *Reciprocal relationship*: commentary in (work)

**critique of (work)** A work used as the basis for a critical evaluation. *Reciprocal relationship*: critiqued in (work)

**evaluation of (work)** A work that is examined or judged. *Reciprocal relationship*: evaluated in (work)

**review of (work)** A work used as the basis for a brief evaluation. *Reciprocal relationship*: reviewed in (work)
M.2.3 Expression as Subject of a Work

described in (expression) A work that describes a described expression. Reciprocal relationship: description of (expression)

analysed in (expression) A work that examines the source expression to identify its components and their relations. Reciprocal relationship: analysis of (expression)

commentary in (expression) A work that contains a set of explanatory or critical notes on the described expression. Reciprocal relationship: commentary on (expression)

critiqued in (expression) A work that contains a critical evaluation of the described expression. Reciprocal relationship: critique of (expression)

evaluated in (expression) A work that examines or judges the described expression. Reciprocal relationship: evaluation of (expression)

reviewed in (expression) A work that contains a brief evaluation of the described expression. Reciprocal relationship: review of (expression)

description of (expression) An expression described by a describing work. Reciprocal relationship: described in (expression)

analysis of (expression) An expression that has been examined to identify its components and their relations. Reciprocal relationship: analysed in (expression)

commentary on (expression) An expression used as the basis for a set of explanatory or critical notes. Reciprocal relationship: commentary in (expression)

critique of (expression) An expression used as the basis for a critical evaluation. Reciprocal relationship: critiqued in (expression)

evaluation of (expression) An expression that is examined or judged. Reciprocal relationship: evaluated in (expression)

review of (expression) An expression used as the basis for a brief evaluation. Reciprocal relationship: reviewed in (expression)

M.2.4 Manifestation as Subject of a Work

described in (manifestation) A work that describes a described manifestation. Reciprocal relationship: description of (manifestation)

analysed in (manifestation) A work that examines the source manifestation to identify its components and their relations. Reciprocal relationship: analysis of (manifestation)
commentary in (manifestation) A work that contains a set of explanatory or critical notes on the described manifestation. Reciprocal relationship: commentary on (manifestation)

critiqued in (manifestation) A work that contains a critical evaluation of the described manifestation. Reciprocal relationship: critique of (manifestation)

evaluated in (manifestation) A work that examines or judges the described manifestation. Reciprocal relationship: evaluation of (manifestation)

reviewed in (manifestation) A work that contains a brief evaluation of the described manifestation. Reciprocal relationship: review of (manifestation)

description of (manifestation) A manifestation described by a describing work. Reciprocal relationship: described in (manifestation)

analysis of (manifestation) A manifestation that has been examined to identify its components and their relations. Reciprocal relationship: analysed in (manifestation)

commentary on (manifestation) A manifestation used as the basis for a set of explanatory or critical notes. Reciprocal relationship: commentary in (manifestation)

critique of (manifestation) A manifestation used as the basis for a critical evaluation. Reciprocal relationship: critiqued in (manifestation)

evaluation of (manifestation) A manifestation that is examined or judged. Reciprocal relationship: evaluated in (manifestation)

review of (manifestation) A manifestation used as the basis for a brief evaluation. Reciprocal relationship: reviewed in (manifestation)

M.2.5 Item as Subject of a Work

described in (item) A work that describes a described item. Reciprocal relationship: description of (item)

analysed in (item) A work that examines the source item to identify its components and their relations. Reciprocal relationship: analysis of (item)

commentary in (item) A work that contains a set of explanatory or critical notes on the described item. Reciprocal relationship: commentary on (item)

critiqued in (item) A work that contains a critical evaluation of the described item. Reciprocal relationship: critique of (item)
evaluated in (item) A work that examines or judges the described item. Reciprocal relationship: evaluation of (item)

reviewed in (item) A work that contains a brief evaluation of the described item. Reciprocal relationship: review of (item)

description of (item) An item described by a describing work. Reciprocal relationship: described in (item)

analysis of (item) An item that has been examined to identify its components and their relations. Reciprocal relationship: analysed in (item)

commentary on (item) An item used as the basis for a set of explanatory or critical notes. Reciprocal relationship: commentary in (item)

critique of (item) An item used as the basis for a critical evaluation. Reciprocal relationship: critiqued in (item)

evaluation of (item) An item that is examined or judged. Reciprocal relationship: evaluated in (item)

review of (item) An item used as the basis for a brief evaluation. Reciprocal relationship: reviewed in (item)

Glossary:

identifiable subject system
A standard for subject access points and/or classification numbers used by the agency creating the data. It may be used in determining the names or terms, other identifying attributes, and relationships representing what a work is about. It may also include rules for application of terms, systematic combination of terminology (e.g., pre- or post-coordination), and guidelines on cardinality and depth of assignment.

subject
A term, phrase, classification number, etc., that indicates what the work is about.

subject relationship
The relationship between a work and an identifier, an authorized access point, and/or a description that indicates what the work is about.

unstructured description
A full or partial description of a resource written as a sentence, paragraph, etc.