

TO: Verena Schaffner, Chair, EURIG
FROM: Barbara Tillett, Chair, JSC
SUBJECT: Representing Date of Works and Expressions in RDA, JSC Response

Related Documents:

[6JSC/EURIG/2 Date of expression–Revision of RDA6.10.1.1and 6.10.1.3](#)

The JSC thanks EURIG for submitting this paper, which provoked considerable discussion at this year’s meeting.

The JSC welcomes the use cases, which EURIG identifies, and acknowledges that at present RDA does not provide any mechanism for machine action on the Date of Work or Date of Expression elements. JSC believes that the use cases and discussion provide a valuable basis for further work.

However, the JSC did not accept the suggestion to create new aggregate elements “Chronological Information for Expression” and “Chronological Information for Work”. The JSC would like to avoid the creation of additional aggregate elements, as these create complex semantics and are difficult to implement.

The JSC takes the view that the issues raised in this paper further bear on the general issue of data about data. The JSC is also interested in exploring the modelling of event-based data in RDA. These issues will therefore be referred to a new JSC Technical Working Group, whose charge will include recommending a generic solution to the issue of data about data to address specific problems of this type. EURIG will be invited to join this new JSC Technical Working Group.

JSC notes that RDA does not specify how the *Date of Work* or the *Date of Expression* are to be recorded. In the absence of any specific guidance, agencies are free to structure the data to meet their own needs, using their preferred schema.

The JSC would also like to make EURIG aware that, as a follow on from last year’s proposal 6JSC/EURIG/2, a fast track proposal has been raised to revise the scope of 6.4.1 *Date of Work* and to bring it into line with the changes already approved for *Date of Expression*.

Proposed change, for information.

“6.4.1 Basic Instructions on Recording Date of Work

6.4.1.1 Scope

Date of work▼ is the earliest date associated with a work.

~~Date of work may be the date the work was created or the date the work was first published or released.~~

If no specific date can be identified as the date the work was created, treat the date of the earliest manifestation embodying the work as the date of work.

For instructions on date of promulgation of a law, etc., see [6.20.2 RDA](#).

For instructions on date of signing of a treaty, etc., see [6.20.3 RDA](#).