



SHARE

3XX Fields

SHARE Catalogers

Cataloger's Training Session – June 2026

What are the 3XX fields for?

- From OCLC BibFormats: “The 3XX fields pertain to information about the physical characteristics, graphic representation, physical arrangement, frequency and chronological/numerical designations for continuing resources, security information, and other related data.”
 - Examples: 337 – Media type; 340 – Physical medium; 344 – Sound characteristics; 353 Supplementary content characteristics
- Some of these terms are pulled from specific RDA registries; some are free text

Books

- 336 = Content type: what it is
- 337 = Media type: how it is accessed
- 338 = Carrier: what physical form it takes

Example:

336			text #b txt #2 rdacontent
337			unmediated #b n #2 rdamedia
338			volume #b nc #2 rdacarrier

- If the book is mainly images or illustrations, it may also have:

336			still image #b sti #2 rdacontent
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340 fields for Books

- 340 ‡n – Font size
 - 340 __ ‡n large print ‡2 rdafs
 - [RDA Font Size Registry | Vocabularies](#)
- 340 ‡l – Binding
 - 340 __ ‡l spiral binding ‡2 rdatb
 - [RDA Type of Binding Registry | Vocabularies](#)
- 340 ‡p – Illustrative content
 - 340 ‡p illustration ‡2 rdaill
 - [RDA Illustrative Content Registry | Vocabularies](#)

Audio Materials

- 336 spoken word #b spw #2 rdacontent
- 337 audio #b s #2 rdamedia
- 338 audio disc #b sd #2 rdacarrier
- 344 digital #2 rdatr
- 344 #b optical #2 rdarm
- 344 #g stereo #2 rdacpc
- 344 #c 1.4 m/s
- 347 audio file #2 rdaft
- 347 #b CD audio

Preloaded Audio Materials

Example: Playaway

- 336 spoken word #b spw #2 rdacontent
- 337 audio #b s #2 rdamedia
- 337 unmediated #n c #2 rdamedia
- 338 other #b sz #2 rdacarrier
- 338 other #b nz #2 rdacarrier

Extra 3XX fields can describe the digital audio storage:

- 344 digital #2 rdatr
- 344 #b non-volatile flash memory
- 347 audio file #2 rdaft
- 347 #b ACELP

Video Materials

- 336 two-dimensional moving image #b tdi #2 rdacontent
- 337 video #b v #2 rdamedia
- 338 videodisc #b vd #2 rdacarrier
- 344 digital #2 rdatr
- 344 optical #2 rdarm
- 344 surround #2 rdacpc
- 345 #c “Aspect ratio”
- 346 #b NTSC #2 rdabs
- 347 video file #2 rdaft

DVD or Blu-ray?

- 347 #b DVD video
- 347 #b Blu-ray video

Video Games

PlayStation 5 & Xbox:

336		computer program ꞑb cop ꞑ2 rdacontent
336		two-dimensional moving image ꞑb tdi ꞑ2 rdacontent
337		computer ꞑb c ꞑ2 rdamedia
338		computer disc ꞑb cd ꞑ2 rdacarrier
340		ꞑb 4 3/4 in.
340		ꞑg polychrome ꞑ2 rdacc
340		ꞑi "Console".
344		digital ꞑ2 rdatr
344		ꞑb optical ꞑ2 rdarm
344		ꞑg stereo ꞑ2 rdacpc
344		ꞑi sound ꞑ2 rdasco
347		ꞑa program file ꞑ2 rdaft
347		video file ꞑ2 rdaft
380		Video games ꞑ2 lcgft

Nintendo Switch

- Use the same basic fields but replace the disc-specific fields with:

338		computer chip cartridge ꞑb cb ꞑ2 rdacarrier
340		ꞑb 1 1/4 in.
340		ꞑi Nintendo Switch.

Realia and Kits

- Might have 3XX fields for multiple types of materials
- Can specify what the term is referring to in a ±3 field
 - For some fields, the ±3 comes at the beginning of the field, and for some it comes at the end
 - Example (right) includes 3XX fields for books, DVDs, and objects

↑ ↓ ⓘ 336	\$athree-dimensional form\$bt\$df\$2rdacontent
↑ ↓ ⓘ 336	\$atext\$bt\$xt\$2rdacontent
↑ ↓ ⓘ 336	\$atwo-dimensional moving image\$bt\$di\$2rdacontent
↑ ↓ ⓘ 337	\$aother\$bx\$2rdamedia
↑ ↓ ⓘ 337	\$aunmediated\$bn\$2rdamedia
↑ ↓ ⓘ 337	\$avideo\$bv\$2rdamedia
↑ ↓ ⓘ 338	\$avideodisc\$bvd\$2rdacarrier
↑ ↓ ⓘ 338	\$aother\$bnz\$2rdacarrier
↑ ↓ ⓘ 338	\$aobject\$bnr\$2rdacarrier
↑ ↓ ⓘ 338	\$avolume\$bn\$2rdacarrier
↑ ↓ ⓘ 340	\$aplastic\$2rdamat
↑ ↓ ⓘ 340	\$atextile\$2rdamat
↑ ↓ ⓘ 340	\$ametal\$2rdamat
↑ ↓ ⓘ 340	\$apaper\$2rdamat
↑ ↓ ⓘ 340	\$3DVD\$b4 3/4 in.
↑ ↓ ⓘ 340	\$3book\$b22 cm
↑ ↓ ⓘ 340	\$gpolychrome\$2rdacc
↑ ↓ ⓘ 344	\$adigital\$2rdatr
↑ ↓ ⓘ 344	\$boptical\$2rdarm

340: Physical medium

- ‡a – Material base and configuration
 - 340 __ ‡3 toy truck ‡a plastic ‡2 rdamat
- ‡b – Dimensions
 - 340 __ ‡b 4 ¾ in.
- ‡d – Information recording technique
 - 340 __ ‡d burning ‡2 rdapm
- ‡g – Color content
 - 340 __ ‡g polychrome ‡2 rdacc

New-ish 3XX fields

- 341: Accessibility content
 - Example: 341 0_ ‡a auditory ‡a closedCaptions ‡2 sapdv
- 383: Numeric designation of musical work or expression
- Full list can be found here: [MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data: 3XX: Physical Description, Etc. Fields - General Information \(Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Library of Congress\)](#) – New/updated material is listed in red

334: Mode of Issuance

- New in 2021
- Is it one or more units?
 - Most of what you catalog will be considered a “single unit” even if they have multiple parts
 - If it circulates together, it’s a single unit
- 334 $\neq$ a single unit $\neq$ 2 rdami
- 334 $\neq$ a multiple unit $\neq$ 2 rdami

380 Form of Work

- From BibFormats: “A class or genre to which a work belongs. May be used to differentiate a work from another work with the same title.”
- Use the most general descriptor available— be more granular in the 655 fields
 - 380 Form of Work
 - Example: For video materials, used “Television programs ‡2 lcgft” or “Motion pictures ‡2 lcgft”

Hyperlinks

334		single unit ‡b mono ‡0 http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/issuance/mono
336		text ‡b txt ‡2 rdacontent ‡0 http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/contentTypes/txt
337		unmediated ‡b n ‡2 rdamedia ‡0 http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/mediaTypes/n
338		volume ‡b nc ‡2 rdacarrier ‡0 http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/carriers/nc

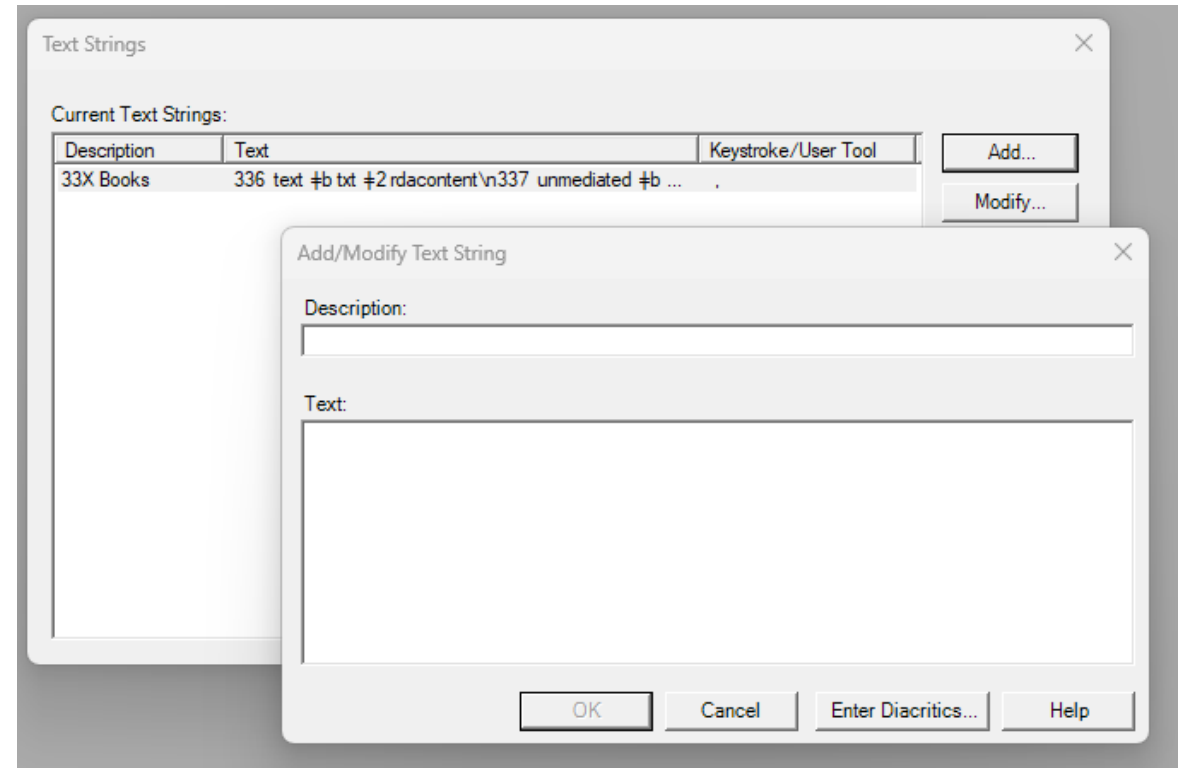
- Added automatically by OCLC
- From bib formats: “Subfield ‡0 contains the system control number of the related authority or classification record, or a standard identifier such as an International Standard Name Identifier (ISNI). These identifiers may be in the form of text or a URI”
- Do not need to add; ok to retain if present

RDA Registries

- ±2 source: identifies the source of the term or code used to record the information for that field
 - Example: ±2 rdacontent, from the RDA registry for content types: [RDA Registry | Vocabularies](#)
- Genre/Form Code and Term Source Codes
 - [Genre/Form Code and Term Source Codes: Source Codes for Vocabularies, Rules, and Schemes \(Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Library of Congress\)](#)
- If you're not choosing from a registry, omit ±2

Text Strings

- Recommended so you don't forget anything!
- In OCLC, go to Tools > Text Strings, then "Add"
 - "Description" is the title of the text string
 - Input the text, including field numbers, indicators, and all spacing as you want it to appear in the record



Resources

- July AskQC meeting
 - Get more from your metadata: What's new in MARC 3XX
[Current AskQC office hours - OCLC Support](#)
- Marc 21 Documentation: [MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data: 3XX: Physical Description, Etc. Fields - General Information \(Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Library of Congress\)](#)
- OCLC Bib Formats: [3xx Fields](#)



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Thank you!

Anna Wiegand, SHARE Cataloger –
awiegand@illinoisheartland.org

Quinn Vana, SHARE Cataloger –
qvana@illinoisheartland.org