

140 CODED DATA FIELD: CONTENT AND FORM OF WORK

Field Definition and Scope

Information on the category of content and the form of a work.

Form of work in subfield \$b is used only for non-musical works.

Repeatable if the form of work is indicated in different encoding schemes.

Subfields & Occurrence

Field/Subfield	Field/Subfield Name	Repeatability	Occurrence
140	CODED DATA FIELD: CONTENT AND FORM OF WORK	R	O
a	Category of Content of Work	NR	MA
b	Form of Work	NR	O
2	Source	NR	MA

Indicators

Indicator	Value	Description	
1	#	blank (not defined)	
2		Source of Code	
	#	UNIMARC code	Use this value when using a UNIMARC specified code in subfield \$b.
	7	Source specified in subfield \$2	

Subfields Description

\$a Category of Content of Work

2-character code indicates the broad category of content to which the work belongs. Not repeatable. (EX [1-11](#)).

The following codes are used:

br	broadcast work	
ca	cartographic work	
da	choreographic work	
el	computer work	
es	software work	Subgroup of the code el (computer work).
em	multimedia work	Subgroup of code el (computer work).
im	moving image work	
ic	cinematographic work	
mu	musical work	
mv	vocal work	Subgroup of the code mu (musical work).
ob	object work	
so	sounds work	
is	still image work	
ip	photographic work	Subgroup of the code is (still image work).
te	textual work	
tl	legal work	Subgroup of the code te (textual work).
to	official communication	Subgroup of the code te (textual work).
tr	religious work	Subgroup of the code te (textual work).

mi	mixed work	
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\$b Form of Work

2-character code specifying the form or genre of non-musical work.

It contains more precise information on the content of the work than the broad category indicated in subfield \$a (EX [1-4](#), [8](#), [11](#), [12](#)).

Do not use this subfield for musical works (value “mu” or “mv” in subfield \$a). Use subfield 128 \$a instead. (EX [5](#))

When using codes other than the UNIMARC, subfield \$2 is mandatory. (EX [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [8](#))

Not repeatable.

The following UNIMARC codes are used for forms:

aa	bibliography
ab	catalogue
ac	index
ad	abstract or summary
ae	dictionary
af	encyclopaedia
ag	directory
ah	project description
ai	statistics
aj	programmed text book
ak	patent
al	standard
an	laws and legislation
ao	numeric table
aq	examination paper
as	treaties
at	cartoons or comic strips
aw	conference publication
ax	festschrift

The following UNIMARC codes are used for genres:

ba	dissertation or thesis (original)
bb	technical report
bc	literature surveys/reviews
bd	dissertation or thesis (revised)
be	fiction
bf	drama
bg	essays
bh	humour, satire
bi	letters
bj	poetry
bk	speeches, oratory
bl	libretto
bm	autobiography
bn	individual biography
bo	collective biography

\$2 Source

Contains a code indicating the vocabulary encoding scheme used in \$b. Not repeatable.

Mandatory if \$b is present. (EX [1](#))

Notes on Field Contents

Field 140 is not to be confused with field 145 that contains a categorization reflecting the fundamental form of communication in which the content is expressed and the human sense through which it is intended to be perceived. The content type is an attribute of the expression entity, whether the content and form of work is an attribute of the work entity.

Related Fields

128 FORM OF MUSICAL WORK AND KEY OR MODE	In the case of musical works, field 128 should be used to add precision on the form of a musical work instead of A140 \$b, if the value in 140 \$a is “mu” or “mv” (EX 6 , 7 , 10).
231 AUTHORIZED ACCESS POINT - TITLE (WORK)	
241 AUTHORIZED ACCESS POINT - NAME/TITLE (WORK)	
608 FORM OR GENRE OF WORK	Fields 140 and 608 are complementary, they can be used in conjunction, depending on the cataloguing agency’s policy. Field 140 is dedicated to machine purposes. Field 608 gives more detail, and it can provide a link to a term in an external system (EX 1 , 2 , 8).

Examples

EX 1
140 ##\$ate\$broman\$2BnF-GenreLitt
241 ##\$3FRBNF11925504\$aStendhal (1783-1842)\$t≠NSB≠La ≠NSE≠chartreuse de Parme
608 ##\$3FRBNF11940505\$aRoman\$2rameau-Genre
The code for the form “novel” used in subfield \$b is chosen from vocabulary defined by the Bibliothèque nationale de France for textual works identified in subfield \$2. Field 140 is used together with field 608, which gives a link to a term in an external system.
EX 2
140 ##\$ate\$bropol\$2BnF-GenreLitt
241 ##\$3FRBNF11896014\$aChandler, Raymond (1888-1959)\$t≠NSB≠The ≠NSE≠big sleep
608 ##\$3FRBNF11932793\$aRoman policier\$2rameau-Genre
The code for the form “crime novel” used in subfield \$b is chosen from the vocabulary Bibliothèque nationale de France for textual works identified in subfield \$2. Field 140 is used together with field 608, which gives a link to a term in an external system.
EX 3
140 ##\$ais\$bportr\$2BnF-GenreIcono
241 ##\$3FRBNF 2131103\$aMellan, Claude (1598-1688)\$tPortrait du cardinal de Richelieu, à mi-corps, assis devant une table
The code used in subfield \$b for the form “portrait” is chosen in a vocabulary defined by the Bibliothèque nationale de France for still image works identified in subfield \$2.
EX 4
140 ##\$at\$btraite\$2BnF-FormeJur

231 ##\$8frefre\$aConvention sur la protection des Alpes\$d1991-11-07
370 ##\$aTraité multilatéral qui a pour objectif à long terme la sauvegarde de l'écosystème naturel des Alpes et leur développement durable
731 ##\$8freger\$aÜbereinkommen zum Schutz der Alpen\$d1991-11-07
731 ##\$8freita\$aConvenzione per la protezione delle Alpi\$d1991-11-07
731 ##\$8freslv\$aKonvencija o varstvu Alp\$d1991-11-07
The code used in subfield \$b for the form “treaty” is chosen in a vocabulary defined by the Bibliothèque nationale de France for legal works identified in subfield \$2.
EX 5
128 ##\$asp#
140 ##\$amu
241 #1\$3FRBNF13898935\$aRespighi, Ottorino (1879-1936)\$tFontane di Roma\$sP 106
370 ##\$aPoème symphonique constituant le premier d'un triptyque illustrant les lieux, les époques et les atmosphères de Rome
This symphonic poem is a musical work (in the 140\$a is code “mu”). Therefore, the form of the work is recorded in subfield 128\$a.
EX 6
128 ##\$aop#
140 ##\$amv
241 #1\$3FRBNF13891412\$1200#1\$aBerlioz\$bHector\$f1803-1869\$1231##\$a≠NSB≠Les ≠NSE≠Troyens\$sH 133A
370 ##\$aOpéra en 5 actes et 9 tableaux, en deux parties : “La Prise de Troie” (actes I et II), “Les Troyens à Carthage” (actes III, IV et V)
This opera is a musical work (in the 140\$a is code “mv”). Therefore, the form of the work is recorded in subfield 128\$a.
EX 7
128 ##\$acsn
140 ##\$amv
241 ##\$3FRBNF11893887\$aBrel, Jacques (1929-1978)\$tAmsterdam
608 ##\$3FRBNF13319048\$aChanson\$2rameau-Genre
This song is a musical work (in the 140\$a is code “mv”). Therefore, the form of the work is recorded in subfield 128\$a. Field 140 is used together with field 608, which gives a link to a term in an external system.
EX 8
140 ##\$aic\$b10508\$2frTAV
231 ##\$aPaths of glory\$cfilm
608 ##\$3FRBNF11982506\$aFilm de guerre\$2rameau-Genre
The code used in subfield \$b for the form “war movie” is chosen from the vocabulary defined by the Bibliothèque nationale de France for audiovisual works identified in subfield \$2. Field 140 is used together with field 608, which gives a link to a term in an external system.
EX 9
128 ##\$abt#
140 ##\$amu
241 #1\$3FRBNF12519700\$aDelibes, Léo (1836-1891)\$tCoppélia\$cballet

370 ##\$aBallet en 2 actes\$cIl existe un arrangement pour piano (1870) et une suite d'orchestre par le compositeur
This ballet is a musical work (in 140\$a is code "mu2). Therefore, the form of the work is recorded in subfield 128\$a. The form of work in the authorized access point distinguishes this work from another work by the same composer with the same title, but in another form (see EX 10).
EX 10
128 ##\$asu#
140 #1\$amu
241 #1\$3FRBNF12519700\$aDelibes, Léo (1836-1891)\$tCoppélia\$c-suite
370 ##\$aSuite d'orchestre tirée du ballet de même titre
This orchestral suite is a musical work (in the 140\$a is code "mu2). Therefore, the form of the work is recorded in subfield 128\$a. The form of work in the authorized access point distinguishes this work from another work by the same composer with the same title, but in another form (see EX 9).
EX 11
140 ##\$ate\$b-bd
241 #1\$aValls de Gomis, Estelle (1973-...)\$tLe vampire au fil des siècles : enquête autour d'un mythe\$7ba0yba0y\$8frefre
370 ##\$aTexte remanié de la thèse de doctorat en littérature, soutenue à l'université Toulouse 2 en 2003\$aPrésence d'illustrations peu nombreuses\$aBibliographie (20 pages)
501 #1 \$3FRBNF13577629\$5xxxxa\$aValls de Gomis\$bEstelle\$f1973-...
EX 12
140 ##\$ate\$b-bm
241 #1\$tMy family and other animals
501 #1 \$3FRBNF11901409\$5xxxxa\$aDurrell\$bGerald\$f1925-1995

History

2020	New field.
2022	Text errata.
2024	New ind. 2, update of \$a, \$b and examples.
2025	Update of \$b.