

215 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Field Definition and Scope

This field contains information on the physical characteristics of the resource.

This field corresponds to the ISBD Material Description Area. Subfields \$b and \$f can only be used by other cataloguing standards.

Repeatable when a separate physical description is needed to each component of a multimedia kit ([EX 15](#)).

Subfields & Occurrence

| Field/Subfield | Field/Subfield Name | Repeatability | Occurrence |
|----------------|--|---------------|------------|
| 215 | PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION | R | O |
| a | Specific Material Designation and Extent | R | O |
| b | Materials and Technique Display | NR | O |
| c | Other Physical Details | NR | O |
| d | Dimensions | R | O |
| e | Accompanying Material | R | O |
| f | Weight | NR | O |

Indicators

| Indicator | Value | Description |
|-----------|-------|---------------------|
| 1 | # | blank (not defined) |
| 2 | # | blank (not defined) |

Subfields Description

\$a Specific Material Designation and Extent

The name of the specific type of material to which the resource belongs ([EX 3, 6, 7-14](#)) and/or an indication of the number of pieces or constituent parts ([EX 1, 2, 5](#)). Repeatable ([EX 8](#)).

\$b Materials and Technique Display

Free-text note about the substances or materials used in the creation of the resource, as well as description of the technique, media, and support used in the creation of the resource. It clarifies the relationship between the materials of which the resource is made and the techniques used to apply them. Not repeatable. ([EX 17-19](#))

\$c Other Physical Details

Physical data about the resource other than that contained elsewhere in this field or in the notes fields, e.g. details of illustrative matter, whether the resource has colour or sound, etc. ([EX 9-10](#)). Not repeatable.

\$d Dimensions

The measurements relevant of the resource being described. Repeatable ([EX 8](#)).

\$e Accompanying Material

A brief description of any material accompanying the resource being described, which is intended to be used with the resource ([EX 4, 8](#)). Repeatable.

\$f Weight

The weight of the resource. It is usually expressed in grams.

If an object is fragmented or consists of several separate parts, the weight of each part is entered in the same subfield \$f, separated by commas. Not repeatable. ([EX 20, 21](#)).

Notes on Field Contents

The treatment of accompanying material will vary according to the cataloguer's view of its importance. Compare [EX 4](#), [8](#), [15](#).

Punctuation at subfield boundaries should not be entered in the field; however, within a subfield, any separating punctuation is entered (see especially [EX 4](#)). For further information on the data content of this field, refer to the relevant ISBD. The correspondence between this field and ISBD Consolidated Edition (2011) specifications is illustrated below.

| UNIMARC subfield | Element Name | ISBD (2011) section | Preceding punctuation |
|------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| \$a | Specific material designation and extent of resource | 5.1 | New area |
| \$c | Other physical details | 5.2 | : |
| \$d | Dimensions | 5.3 | ; |
| \$e | Accompanying material | 5.4 | + |

Related Fields

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| 105 CODED DATA FIELD: TEXTUAL LANGUAGE MATERIAL, MONOGRAPHIC, Illustration Codes (character positions 0-3) | These character positions contain illustration codes that correspond to the illustration data in 215 \$c. |
| 115 CODED DATA FIELD: VISUAL PROJECTIONS, VIDEO RECORDINGS AND MOTION PICTURES | This field contains coded data on materials and technique relating to visual projections, video recordings and motion pictures. |
| 116 CODED DATA FIELD: GRAPHICS | This field contains coded data on materials and technique relating to non-projected graphics. |
| 117 CODED DATA FIELD: THREE-DIMENSIONAL ARTEFACTS AND REALIA | This field contains coded data on materials relating to three-dimensional artefacts and realia. |
| 123 CODED DATA FIELD: CARTOGRAPHIC RESOURCES – SCALE AND CO-ORDINATES | |
| 126 CODED DATA FIELD: SOUND RECORDINGS – PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES | |
| 130 CODED DATA FIELD: MICROFORMS – PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES | |
| 140 CODED DATA FIELD: ANTIQUARIAN – GENERAL | This field contains coded data on materials relating to the physical form of older monographic publications (antiquarian) and also later materials described in similar bibliographic detail. |
| 307 NOTES PERTAINING TO PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION | Any detail concerning physical description which cannot be entered in field 215 may be entered as a note in field 307. |

Examples

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| EX 1 |
| 215 ##\$a264 p., 24 leaves of plates\$cill., 17 facs.\$d21 cm\$el map |
| EX 2 |
| 215 ##\$ax, 32, 73 p., [1] leaf of plates\$cmaps\$d21 cm |
| EX 3 |
| 215 ##\$al folder (6 p.)\$cmaps, plans, charts, portraits\$d21 x 30 cm |
| EX 4 |

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| 215 ##\$a3 vol. (49, 37, 18 p.)\$cill., col.maps\$d22 cm\$esound disk (16 min): 33 1/3 rpm., mono., 17.5 cm |
| EX 5 |
| 215 ##\$a35 S.\$c16 graph. Darst.\$d24 cm |
| EX 6 |
| 215 ##\$a1 map\$cboth sides, col.\$d41 x 84 cm, folded to 22 x 10 cm |
| EX 7 |
| 215 ##\$a1 globe\$ccol., mounted on metal stand\$d31 cm in diam. |
| EX 8 |
| 215 ##\$a1 score(vi, 63p.)\$d20cm.\$a16 parts\$d32 cm.\$el booklet The main components are a score and 16 parts. The heights of these resources differ. There is an accompanying booklet. |
| EX 9 |
| 215 ##\$a1 film reel (20 min., 570 m)\$cnitrate, b&w, si.\$dl6 mm The resource is a silent black and white 16mm. 20 minute film reel on a nitrate base. It is 570 metres long. The catalogue entry would appear as follows: 1 film reel (20 min., 570 m) : nitrate, b&w, si. ; 16 mm |
| EX 10 |
| 215 ##\$a1 videocassette (U-matic) (30 min.)\$ccol., sd. The resource is a colour videocassette in U-matic format, with sound, lasting 30 minutes. |
| EX 11 |
| 215 ##\$a1 sound reel (100 min.)\$c19 cm/s., 4 track, adjacent The resource is a four-track sound reel with a playing time of 100 minutes at a speed of 19 cm./second. The track configuration is given. |
| EX 12 |
| 215 ##\$a1 sound reel (50 min.)\$c38 cm/s., 2 track, stereo, Dolby processed The resource is a two-track stereo sound reel with a playing time of 50 minutes at a speed of 38 cm./second. A Dolby noise reduction system has been used. |
| EX 13 |
| 215 ##\$a1 sound disc\$c33 1/3 rpm, coarse The resource is a sound disc with a playing speed of 33 1/3 rpm. The groove width is coarse. |
| EX 14 |
| 215 ##\$a1 sound disc\$c78 rpm, vertical The resource is a sound disc with a playing speed of 78 rpm. The groove direction is vertical. |
| EX 15 |
| 215 ##\$a3 filmstrips (96 fr.)\$ccol.\$d35 mm |
| 215 ##\$a1 map\$ccol.\$d25×25 cm folding to 10×18 cm |
| 215 ##\$a13 rocks and minerals\$din container, 14×9×2 cm |
| 215 ##\$a1 wallchart\$ccol.\$d48×90 folding to 24×15 cm |
| EX 16 |
| 215 ##\$a340 p., 4 leaves of plates\$cill.\$d4to (19 cm.) The resource is a book from the hand-press era. |

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| EX 17 |
| 215 ##\$bWatercolor and graphite, with gouache on cream wove paper; verso: graphite\$dWings open: height: 19 in. (484 mm.), width: 26 in. (660 mm.), Left wing: height: 19 in. (484 mm.), width: 6 3/8 in. (161 mm.), depth: 1 1/8 in. (28 mm.), Center: height: 18 7/8 in. (480 mm.), width: 12 1/2 in. (318 mm.), depth: 1 3/4 in. (45 mm.), Right wing: height: 19 in. (484 mm.), width: 6 1/4 in. (158 mm.), depth: 1 1/8 in. (28 mm.), Medallions: diameter: 4 1/4 in. (108 mm.), with beading |
| EX 18 |
| 215 ##\$bEtching on paper\$d194 x 128 mm |
| EX 19 |
| 215 ##\$a 2 salt cellars\$bLead-glazed white clay decorated with colors and inlaid dark clay\$cclay\$dAZ037.1: height: 5 3/4 inches (145 mm.), width: 3 3/8 inches (85 mm.); AZ037.2: height: 5 1/2 inches (140 mm.), width: 3 3/4 inches (95 mm.) “Salamander”: height: 5 1/2 inches (140 mm.); “Three Crescents”: height: 5 inches (127 mm.) |
| A set of two salt-cellars. Dimensions are given for each item of the set as well as for decorative elements (“Salamanders” and “Three Crescents”). |
| EX 20 |
| 215 ##\$a1 coin\$bSilver\$d 19 mm\$f2,44 g |
| A Roman silver denarius with a diameter of 19mm, weighing 2,44 grams. |
| EX 21 |
| 215 ##\$aAes rude, 4 pieces\$bBronze\$f42,63 g, 28,57 g, 19,32 g, 13,95 g |
| 4 pieces of aes rude (unmarked bronze nuggets used as money in Ancient Roma and Italy), with their respective weights. |

History

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| 1998 | Field issued/re-issued with corrections/additions. |
| 2000 | Field issued/re-issued with corrections/additions. |
| 2016 | Corrections and additions. |
| 2023 | Text edit. New subfield: \$f Weight and examples (20, 21). |
| 2024 | Text edit. |