

231 DIGITAL FILE CHARACTERISTICS [PROVISIONAL]

Field Definition and Scope

This field contains statements relating to the characteristics of a digital file, i.e. technical specifications relating to the digital encoding of text, image, audio, video, and other types of data in a resource, as well as accessibility information.

Digital file characteristics could also be recorded in field 215 (Physical Description) subfield \$c (Other Physical Details).

Subfields & Occurrence

Field/Subfield	Field/Subfield Name	Repeatability	Occurrence
231	DIGITAL FILE CHARACTERISTICS [PROVISIONAL]	R	O
a	File Type	R	O
b	Encoding Standard	R	O
c	Version of Encoding Standard	R	O
d	Details of Encoding Standard	R	O
e	File Size	R	O
f	Resolution	R	O
g	Regional Encoding	R	O
h	Encoded Bitrate	R	O
i	Accessibility Information	R	O
2	Source	NR	O
6	Interfield Linking Data	R	O

Indicators

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

Subfields Description

\$a File Type

A general type of data content encoded in a computer file ([EX 1](#), [2](#), [3](#)). Repeatable.

\$b Encoding Standard

A schema, standard, etc., used to encode the digital content of a resource ([EX 1](#), [2](#), [3](#)). Repeatable.

\$c Version of Encoding Standard

The version of the standard recorded in \$b ([EX 2](#)). Repeatable.

\$d Details of Encoding Standard

Details of the standard recorded in \$b ([EX 2](#)). Repeatable.

\$e File Size

Number of bytes in a digital file ([EX 2](#)). Repeatable.

\$f Resolution

The smallest measuring unit used to register data for a computer image, expressed as dots per inch, pixels per line, or lines per millimetre. It indicates the amount of detail found in one pixel of the image ([EX 4](#)). Repeatable.

\$g Regional Encoding

A code identifying the region of the world for which a digital file has been encoded on a carrier and preventing that carrier from being played on a player sold in a different region. ([EX 3](#)). Repeatable.

\$h Encoded Bitrate

The quantity of digital data that are conveyed or processed per unit of time, usually expressed using the bits per second unit or one of its multiples. ([EX 1](#)). Repeatable.

\$i Accessibility Information

A code or term providing information on the accessibility of the content of the digital resource. ([EX 9](#)). Repeatable.

\$2 Source

A code identifying a controlled list of terms used as a source for the data, if any. Not repeatable.

\$6 Interfield Linking Data

This subfield contains information allowing the field to be linked for processing purposes to other fields in the record. (See section 3.13 Interfield Linking Data, 3 Format structure).

Notes on Field Contents

Multiple values from the same source vocabulary may be recorded in the same field in separate occurrences of subfields. Terms from different source vocabularies are recorded in separate occurrences of the field.

Related Fields

135 CODED DATA FIELD: ELECTRONIC RESOURCES	
215 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION	Especially \$a Specific material designation and extent and \$c Other physical details.
230 MATERIAL SPECIFIC AREA: ELECTRONIC RESOURCE CHARACTERISTICS	The field is equivalent only to the ISBD(ER) Type and Extent of Resource Area.
336 TYPE OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCE NOTE	
337 SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS NOTE (ELECTRONIC RESOURCES)	

Examples

EX 1
231 ##\$aAudio file\$bmp3\$h32 kbps
EX 2
231 ##\$aFichier texte\$bEPUB\$c3.0\$d\$dformat fixe\$e1249 Ko
EX 3
231 ##\$aVideo file\$bDVD video\$gregion 2
EX 4
231 ##\$aFile di immagini\$bJPEG\$f3.6 megapixel
EX 5
231 ##\$aImage file\$bJPEG\$c3 Mo\$2
EX 6

231 ##\$aImage file\$2rdaft
231 ##\$aImage file\$bQ2195\$c3 Mo\$2wikidata
The term used in subfield \$a is taken from RDA list of terms, whereas the one in \$b comes from Wikidata (http://www.wikidata.org). Field 231 is repeated for terms taken from different source vocabularies.
EX 7
231 ##\$aText file\$bASCII\$2RDA
EX 8
231 ##\$aProgram file\$bFORTRAN\$c95
EX 9
231 ##\$i20\$2onix196
The code used in subfield \$i is taken from the ONIX codelist 196 (http://onix-codelists.io/codelist/196). It indicates that the digital file contains synchronised pre-recorded audio that makes the content accessible to visually impaired persons.

History

2017	New field.
2018	Corrections in the Related Fields (230).
2021	New subfield \$i, correction Ex 6.