

608 FORM, GENRE OR PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS ACCESS POINT

Field Definition and Scope

This field contains a term or terms indicating the form, genre and/or physical characteristics of the resource being described.

Subfields & Occurrence

Field/Subfield	Field/Subfield Name	Repeatability	Occurrence
608	FORM, GENRE OR PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS ACCESS POINT	R	O
a	Entry Element	NR	O
j	Form Subdivision	R	O
x	Topical Subdivision	R	O
y	Geographical Subdivision	R	O
z	Chronological Subdivision	R	O
2	Source	NR	O
3	Authority Record Identifier or Standard Number	R	O
5	Institution to which the Field Applies	NR	O

Indicators

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

Subfields Description

\$a Entry Element

The term in the form prescribed by the system of form access points used. Not repeatable.

\$j Form Subdivision

A term added to the subject access point to further specify the kind(s) or genre(s) of material ([EX 6](#)). Agencies not using this subdivision should use \$x instead. Repeatable.

\$x Topical Subdivision

A term added to the form of the access point to specify the aspect that the access point represents. Repeatable.

\$y Geographical Subdivision

A term added to the form of the access point to specify a place in relation to the topic that the access point represents. Repeatable.

\$z Chronological Subdivision

A term added to the form of the access point to specify the period of time in relation to the topic that the access point represents. Repeatable.

\$2 Source

An identification in coded form of the system from which the subject access point is derived. It is recommended that subfield \$2 always be present in each occurrence of the field. For a list of subject sources, see [Appendix A](#). Not repeatable.

\$3 Authority Record Identifier or Standard Number

The identifier for the authority record for the access point. This subfield is for use with UNIMARC/Authorities format.

Repeatable when it is necessary for more than one Authority Record Identifier or Standard Number to indicate each part of an access point where the indexing system uses a pre-coordinate syntax.

\$5 Institution to which the Field Applies

Name of the institution to which field applies in the coded form if it is considered necessary by the agency which creates the record to identify specific attributes of an item.

If the subfield is used codes should be entered in accordance with the provisions of International Standard Identifier for Libraries and Related Organizations (ISIL), [ISO 15511](#) or may contain codes from [MARC Code List for Organizations](#), otherwise, the full name of the agency or a national code may be used.

If the institution holds more than one copy the shelfmark of the item should be added after a colon. Not repeatable.

Notes on Field Contents

This field contains data entered according to the provisions of the system of form access points used.

Related Fields

606 TOPICAL NAME USED AS SUBJECT	Field 606 contains a topical name used as subject.
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Examples

EX 1
608 ##\$aEmblem books\$yGermany\$z17th century\$2rbgenr
A form access point constructed according to Genre terms : thesaurus for use in rare book and special collections cataloging.
EX 2
608 ##\$aDictionaries\$xFrench\$z18th century\$2rbgenr
The resource is a French dictionary published in 1770.
EX 3
608 ##\$aBritish marble papers (Paper)\$yGermany\$z17th century\$2rbpap
The term indicating physical characteristics of the resource constructed according to <i>Paper terms : a thesaurus for use in rare book and special collections cataloging</i> .
EX 4
608 ##\$aVellum bindings (Binding)\$yItaly\$z16th century\$2rbbin
EX 5
608 ##\$aArmorial bindings (Provenance)\$2rbprov\$5UkCU
The term indicating physical characteristics of the item in Cambridge University Library.
EX 6
608 ##\$aChildren's stories\$jPictorial works\$2lc
EX 7
608 ##\$aDetective and mystery stories\$2gsafd
EX 8
200 1#\$aMartine à la montagne\$fconçu et réalisé par White Birds
608 ##\$3FRBNF133189029\$aJeux vidéo

The resource is a video game.

History

1996	New field.
2000	Field issued/re-issued with corrections/additions.
2008	Field may be linked to indicate to which specific copy a specific instance of a field relates.
2019	Example 8 added.
2024	Text edit.