

33X Fields: What they Are, What they Look Like, and Where to Find the Needed Terms and Codes

To provide some context, in AACR2 the general material designation or GMD, as found in 245\$h is used to segregate formats of materials into categories using supplied labels such as “[microform]”. Then, the Specific Material Designation, or SMD, in MARC field 300\$a provided more specificity.

If you are cataloging using the new *Resource Description and Access* (RDA) standard you don’t have to worry about GMDs at all! They have been replaced with a highly-specific set of new MARC fields:

the MARC **336** field for Content Type and the RDA instructions are found in **6.9**, the MARC **337** field for Media Type with the instructions found in **3.2**, and the MARC **338** field for Carrier Type, and its instructions are found in **3.3**.

Two of these fields are considered “core” fields in RDA, the **336** and **338**, meaning they must be included in the record — though when looking at copy you most likely see all three employed. The basic 33X set of fields for a sheet map is:

336 cartographic image \$b cri \$2 rdacontent
337 unmediated \$b n \$2 rdamedia
338 sheet \$b nb \$2 rdacarrier

However, \$b in these fields is optional, so you may also see:

336 cartographic image \$2 rdacontent
337 unmediated \$2 rdamedia
338 sheet \$2 rdacarrier

Note that these fields are repeatable in order to accommodate a resource with multiple characteristics, and the terms that are used in the “types” in subfield “a” come from a controlled vocabulary.

Look for a helpful sheet of 33X examples to other kinds of cartographic materials in a format similar to a sheet on 007 examples, elsewhere in this manual. Tables containing appropriate terms and codes for creating 33X fields for all kinds of information resources is found at:

<http://www.loc.gov/marc/RDAinMARC.html>

Just click on the appropriate link to the 336, 337, or 338 fields.