

Explanation of changes between VRA Core 4.0 beta version (released Dec 2005) and VRA Core 4.0 release version (schemas dated 4/9/07)

After the beta version of Core 4.0 was released in December of 2005, commentary and feedback were solicited from the library, museum, and visual resources communities as well as from metadata experts. As a result, some changes have been made in the currently released version of Core 4.0, most of which are relatively minor. One new element, CULTURAL CONTEXT, has been introduced or, rather, reintroduced, since something similar existed in earlier versions of the Core. The various changes are enumerated here, starting with the most general and working toward the more specific.

- The VRA Core 4.0 XML schema exists in two versions: one which imposes no restrictions on the data values entered into any of the elements, sub-elements, or attributes, and one which imposes restrictions on the data values entered into the *type* attributes. These two versions were formerly referred to as “lax” and “strict” schema. It was decided that this nomenclature was overly normative and potentially misleading. The schema versions have been renamed, more simply, **unrestricted** and **restricted**. In the beta version, *type* values were listed under the rubric “Recommended data values for *type* attribute,” whereas in the new version these are listed as “Restricted schema data values.”
- Three new global attributes have been added to the group already comprising *extent*, *refid*, *rules*, *vocab*, *source*, and *xml:lang*:
 - ***dataDate*** refers to the date and/or time a particular piece of data was captured. The inclusion of a time/date attribute along with a source attribute linked to individual data values within an element set facilitates targeted updates for data values derived from specific sources captured on, before, or after a particular date.
 - ***href*** refers to a hypertext reference that provides a link to another electronic resource. In the beta version, *href* was specific to the RELATION element, but it was decided that hypertext references could be of use in any of the elements.
 - ***pref*** indicates that a particular data value is the preferred value when multiple data values for the same element or subelement exist. In the beta version, *pref* was specific to the TITLE element, but it was decided that this means of indicating a preferred value was useful throughout the element set.
- As a general rule, xml element, sub-element, and attribute names or *type* values that consist of more than one word have been contracted into “camelback” notation, so that, for example, “file size” is now **fileSize** and “image of” is now **imageOf**.

All other changes from the beta version are specific to individual elements, as follows:

- In the WORK, COLLECTION, or IMAGE element, the value of the ***id*** attribute (which uniquely identifies the xml record) must begin with an alphabetical

character. Therefore a convention has been followed that prefixes a numeric value with w_ for works, c_ for collections, and i_ for images.

- In both the AGENT and DATE elements a *circa* attribute has been added to the earliestDate and latestDate subelements. This attribute takes a true/false value, thus allowing a given date value to be flagged as being approximate.
- A **CULTURAL CONTEXT** element has been added to represent the name of the culture, people (ethnonym), or adjectival form of a country name from which a Work, Collection, or Image originates, or the cultural context with which the Work, Collection, or Image has been associated. This is to be differentiated from the culture subelement under AGENT, which refers to the nationality or culture of a named individual, group, or corporate body. See Introduction to Core 4.0 (p.2) for further explanation of this distinction.
- In the LOCATION element, the *type* attribute has been assigned additional restricted schema data values:
 - **intended** refers to a location where a work was intended to be built.
 - **publication** refers to the geographic location of the publication of a work, collection, or image.
 - at the same time, the data value “context” has been eliminated as a LOCATION *type*, because the concept of “context” is better handled within the RELATION element.
- In the refid subelement of the LOCATION element, the *type* attribute has been assigned the following restricted schema values: **accession**, **barcode**, **shelflist**, and **other**.
- In the LOCATION element, the global attribute *extent* may be used to further specify or disambiguate geographic term types. For example, the location name value “New York” could have an *extent* value of “state” or “inhabited place”.
- In the RELATION element, the *type* attribute has had changes made to the following restricted schema values:
 - imageOf/depictedIn has been changed to **imageOf/imageIs**.
 - derivedFrom/sourceIs has been changed to **derivedFrom/sourceFor**
- In the RELATION element, the *type* attribute has been assigned additional restricted schema data values:
 - **reliefFor/impressionIs**
 - **designedFor/contextIs**
 - **exhibitedAt/venueFor**
 - **versionOf/versionIs**
 - **replicaOf/replicaIs**

- The RIGHTS element, which in the beta version was a simple, undifferentiated placeholder, has been given a more granular structure:
 - a *type* attribute has been created, which has been assigned the following restricted schema values: **copyrighted**, **publicDomain**, **undetermined**, and **other**.
 - **rightsHolder** and **text** subelements have also been created to specify the name of the rights holder and the text of the copyright statement, if such exists.

- In the name subelement of the SOURCE element, the *type* attribute has been assigned an additional restricted schema value: **donor**.

- In the refid subelement of the SOURCE element, the *type* attribute has been assigned additional restricted schema values: **citation** and **openURL**.

- In the name subelement of the TEXTREF element, the *type* attribute has been assigned additional restricted schema values: **book**, **electronic**, and **serial**.

- In the refid subelement of the TEXTREF element, the *type* attribute has been assigned the following restricted schema values: **citation**, **openURL**, **ISBN**, **ISSN**, **URI**, **vendor**, and **other**.

- In the TITLE element, the *type* attribute, as it pertains to Works has been assigned additional restricted schema data values:
 - **cited** refers to titles that are commonly used in scholarly literature.
 - **popular** refers to vernacular titles or nicknames that have been applied to a given work (such as “Temple of Vesta”, given to the Round Temple in the Forum Boarium of Rome, without any historical evidence of a dedication).
 - at the same time, the data value “traditional” has been eliminated as a Work title *type*, because this term too broadly embraced the kinds of titles now typed as “cited” or “popular”.

- In the TITLE element, the *type* attribute, as it pertains to Images has had its restricted schema values changed: “full view” and “detail” have been replaced by **generalView** and **partialView**.