608 FORM, GENRE OR PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS HEADING

Field Definition

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

Subfields & Occurrence

Field	Field name	Repeatability	Occurrence
608	FORM, GENRE OR PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS HEADING	R	O
Subfield	Subfield name	Repeatability	Occurrence
a	Entry Element	NR	
j	Form Subdivision	R	
x	Topical Subdivision	R	
y	Geographical Subdivision	R	
z	Chronological Subdivision	R	
2	System Code	NR	
3	Authority Record Number	R	
5	Institution to which the Field Applies	NR	

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 headings used. Not repeatable.

$j Form Subdivision

A term added to the subject heading 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 heading to specify the aspect that the heading represents. Repeatable.

$y Geographical Subdivision

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

$z Chronological Subdivision

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

$2 System Code

An identification in coded form of the system from which the form heading is derived.

It is recommended that subfield 2 always be present in each occurrence of the field. Not repeatable.

$3 Authority Record Number

The control number for the authority record for the heading. This subfield is intended to be used with the *UNIMARC Authorities Format*. Repeatable when it is necessary for more than one authority record number to indicate each part of a heading where the indexing system uses a pre-coordinate syntax.

$5 Institution to which the Field Applies

Name of institution to which field applies in coded form. Since there are no internationally accepted codes, the codes from *USMARC Code List for Organizations*, which includes codes for many non-U.S. library agencies, are recommended. Otherwise, the full name of the agency or a national code may be used. If the institution holds more than one copy the subfield should also contain the shelfmark after a colon. Not repeatable.

Notes on Field Contents

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

Related Fields

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

Examples

EX 1
608 ##$aEmblem books$yGermany$zl7th century$2rbgenr
A form heading constructed according to Genre terms : thesaurus for use in rare book and special collections cataloging.
EX 2
608 ##$aDictionaries$xFrench$zl8th century$2rbgenr The item is a French dictionary published in 1770.
EX 3
608 ##$aBritish marble papers (Paper)$yGermany$zl7th century$2rbpap
The term indicating physical characteristics of the item constructed according to Paper terms : a thesaurus for use in rare book and special collections cataloging.
EX 4
608 ##$aVellum bindings (Binding)$yItaly$zl6th century$2rbbin
EX 5
608 ##$aArmorial bindings (Provenance)$2rbprov$5UkCU
The term indicating physical characteristics of the copy in Cambridge University Library.
EX 6
608 ##$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.