

Playaways and RDA

Summary of relevant sections from RDA Chapters 3, 6, and 7

1) Media Type (RDA 3.2):

Scope – “reflects the general type of intermediation device required to view, play, run, etc., the content of a resource.”

Assign the two relevant Media Types: **audio** and **computer** (RDA Table 3.1)

2) Carrier Type (RDA 3.3) and Extent (RDA 3.4):

Scope (Carrier Type) – “reflects the format of the storage medium and housing of a carrier in combination with the type of intermediation device required to view, play, run, etc., the content of a resource.”

Scope (Extent) – “reflects the number and type of units and/or subunits making up a resource.”

Assign the Extent/Carrier Type: **1 audio media player**

NOTE: None of the terms listed under RDA 3.3.1.2 for Carrier Type accurately represent a Playaway device, therefore, it is recommended to follow RDA 3.4.1.5 to “use a term in common usage (including a trade name, if applicable) to designate the type of unit.”

The recommended terminology for the SMD (Specific Material Designation) is given as “sound media player” in the AACR2 guidelines for Playaways; however, the term “audio” is used above for Carrier Type to be consistent with RDA terminology.

As instructed in RDA 3.4.1.7, the number of subunits may be specified if “readily ascertainable and considered important for identification or selection.”

Example: **1 audio media player (1 audio file)**

3) Physical Description

Dimensions (RDA 3.5.1.3):

In contrast to the AACR2 guidelines for Playaways, RDA instructs the use of centimeters when recording the dimensions of a carrier, instead of inches. Therefore, for consistency, it is recommended to begin recording the dimensions of a Playaway device as:

Example: **9 x 6 cm.**

Alternately, the units of dimension may still be stated in inches if “preferred by the agency preparing the description”, as stated in RDA 3.5.1.3.

Example: **3 3/8 x 2 1/8 in.**

Sound characteristics (RDA 3.16):

Type of recording: **digital**

Recording medium: **non-volatile flash memory** [Optional] (see RDA 3.16.3.3)

Playing speed: **[Not applicable]**

Groove characteristic: **[Not applicable]**

Track configuration: **[Not applicable]**

Tape configuration: **[Not applicable]**

Configuration of playback channels: **[record appropriate term]**

Special playback characteristics: **[record appropriate term]**

Digital File characteristics (RDA 3.19):

File type: **audio file**

Encoding format: **ACELP**

File size: **[record the number of bytes of the audio file, if available]**

Transmission speed: **[Not applicable]**

4) Content Type (RDA 6.10):

Scope – “reflects the fundamental form of communication in which the content is expressed and the human sense through which it is intended to be perceived.”

Assign the relevant Content Type, usually: **spoken word** or **performed music**

5) Duration (RDA 7.22):

Scope – “the playing time, running time, etc., of the content of a resource.”

Record the playing time of the audio file as instructed in RDA 7.22.1.3