Literals

Lesson 8 Transcript

Hello, and welcome to the BIBFRAME video tutorial series, presented by the Cataloging Policy Specialists in the Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division at the Library of Congress. The scope and purpose of this series is to provide training on using BIBFRAME.

This video tutorial is Lesson 8, Literals.

In this video tutorial, we will cover the following learning objectives. Participants will learn how to identify fields that require literals or data strings. They will also learn how to enter transcribed or unstructured data, how to add and delete fields, and how to specify the language and script of a field.

Literals contain transcribed or unstructured data. Although this data is neither linked-data-friendly nor is it machine-actionable, it is readily comprehensible to humans. Examples include the BIBFRAME instance title, the statement of responsibility, the edition statement, and notes.

Some fields like the statement of responsibility are transcribed directly from the resource being described. Other fields, like some notes fields, are not transcribed from the resource but are recorded with an unstructured method.

Even though some notes might adhere to a particular format, these fields are not structured because the data in them cannot be connected to an external authoritative source. For example, we commonly record the phrase "Includes bibliographical references," but this phrase is not linked data because it does not have a URI that can be found in a source like the Library of Congress Subject Headings or the Name Authority File.

Fields that expect literals are text-entry boxes. These fields can be duplicated or deleted by using the lightning bolt menu.

If you have two separate fields of the same type and select or click on "3--Delete component" for one of them, the entire field and its data will be deleted. If you only have a single instance of a field and you select "Delete Component," then the data will be deleted but the empty field will remain.

Choosing the option to "Add another component" will add another, separate field of the same type, but selecting "Additional literal" will add another text box to the current field.

For example, if the resource in hand lists two places of publication, you can click on "Additional literal" to add another field for the second place of publication.

If the resource in hand lists a publisher and a distributor in different cities, then you would select "Add another component" from the lightning bolt menu to add another Provision activity field. For one field, you would select "Publication" from the drop-down menu, and for the other field, you would select "Distribution."

Selecting or clicking on "6--Set language" in the lightning bolt menu will permit you to set the language and script for the value in the literal field. Currently this feature is used when creating metadata

descriptions for materials in non-Latin scripts. When the literal field contains romanzied data, a second literal field is added with the data in the original non-Latin script. The field with the original non-Latin script should be coded with the language and script.

Thank you for watching this video tutorial. You can find more training, information, and support online at the Library of Congress.