



Required Data Fields for Abstractions, Episodics, and Edits

Table of Contents

1	Scope.....	1
2	Data Requirements for Abstraction Records.....	2
3	Data Requirements for Series.....	5
4	Data Requirements for Seasons.....	7
5	Data Requirements for Episodes.....	9
6	Data Requirements for Edits.....	11
7	Data Requirements for Other Record Types.....	13

1 Scope

The number and variety of data elements in the EIDR Content ID Registry can seem daunting, but only a small number of them are actually required for every record. Most of them exist to address particular use cases or only apply to certain types of records.¹ In general, the EIDR data elements are grouped into four categories:

- **Required** – Must be present in every record, either provided directly or inherited from a parent record.
- **Conditionally Required** – Required under certain circumstances.

¹ The primary determination for data requirements is the record’s Referent Type (Movie, Series, Season, etc.), but for certain Referent Types, that may vary by position in the registration tree (root vs. child record).

- Optional, but Highly Recommended – Not required, but encouraged due to their high value in discovery and de-duplication.
- Optional, and Only Applicable in Select Use Cases – Not required.

This document addresses the Required, Conditionally Required, and Optional but Recommended data elements.² Information about the truly optional fields is in EIDR’s *Data Fields Reference Guide* and *Best Practices for Creating Abstraction Records*.

2 Data Requirements for Abstraction Records

These are root records with a ReferentType of Movie, Short, TV, Web, or Supplemental, sometimes called “title” records. The StructuralType is always “Abstraction”. For “title” Abstraction records that are episodes of a series, see the Series section, below.

Element Name	Maximum Cardinality	Data Requirements
Required		
StructuralType	1	“Abstraction”
Mode	1	“AudioVisual” (Silent films are “Visual”; Radio programs are “Audio”)
ReferentType	1	“Movie”, “TV”, “Short”, “Web”, “Supplemental”
ResourceName	1	The work’s original release title in mixed case without trailing articles.
ResourceName@lang	1	A valid LMT ³ written language code. Use “und” if not known.
ResourceName@titleClass	1	Skip if not known. When present, most often “release”, “regional”, or “AKA”. Other values are possible, including “working” or “internal”.
OriginalLanguage	32	A valid LMT spoken language code. Use “und” if not known, “zxx” if no language content is present. (Silent films typically use Visual language codes.)
OriginalLanguage@mode	1	“Audio” (Silent films are “Visual”)

² In XML, there are tags, which carry a data payload, and attributes of the tags. We distinguish the two by using an at-symbol (@) for the attributes. When XML tags are nested, one inside another, we focus on those that carry data or have attributes. The nesting information is presented as a slash (/) separated tag list. Information on tags that exist only as containers is in [Data Fields Reference](#).

³ LMT = Language Metadata Table. See <https://www.mesaonline.org/lmt>.

Element Name	Maximum Cardinality	Data Requirements
ReleaseDate	1	Preferably the full date (yyyy-mm-dd) of the original commercial release or else a 4-digit year (yyyy).
CountryOfOrigin	32	2-character ISO 3166-1 country code or 4-character ISO 3166-3 former country code (DOI obsolete country code). Use "XX" if not known.
Status	1	"valid" (in most cases)
ApproximateLength	1	In hours and minutes (or just minutes). Do not include seconds in an Abstract Title's Approximate Length unless seconds are relevant to identification.
Administrators/Registrant	1	The EIDR Party ID of the entity that created the record.
Conditionally Required⁴		
AssociatedOrg	16	The companies associated with the Abstract, preferably the production companies.
AssociatedOrg/DisplayName	1	Required only if an organizationID is not provided.
<i>AssociatedOrg@idType</i>	1	"EIDRPartyID" Required only if an Organization ID is provided.
<i>AssociatedOrg@organizationID</i>	1	The EIDR Party ID of the Associated Org. Required only if a DisplayName is not provided.
AssociatedOrg@role	1	Most often "producer".
Credits/Director/DisplayName	2	The names(s) of the director(s) in natural name order (not "last, first")
Credits/Actor/DisplayName	4	The names(s) of the top billed actors(s) in natural name order (not "last, first")
Optional, But Recommended		
AlternateResourceName	128	Additional names by which the work is also known. Include as many as possible.
AlternateResourceName@lang	1	Same as for Resource Name.
<i>AlternateResourceName@titleClass</i>	1	Same as for Resource Name.

⁴ See Conditionally Required notes below.

Element Name	Maximum Cardinality	Data Requirements
AlternateID	∞	IDs associated with the Abstraction other than the EIDR ID (IMDb, ISAN, house IDs, etc.). Include as many as possible.
AlternateID@type	1	Common IDs have their own type (“IMDB” for IMDb IDs, etc.). Others use the type “Proprietary” with an identifying domain.
<i>AlternateID@domain</i>	1	Identifies the organization that issued the Alternate ID. Required when type is “Proprietary”.
<i>AlternateID@relation</i>	1	“IsSameAs” (in most cases) If not present, “IsSameAs” is assumed. The relation value describes how the EIDR ID relates to the Alternate ID. For example, “ContainsAllOf” would indicate that the EIDR Abstraction record includes all of the material identified by the Alternate ID.

Notes

The Required elements are always required for every record. In root Abstraction records, they must be provided directly.

The Optional elements are always optional (but always encouraged) – the more descriptive metadata provided, the more accurate the de-duplication process is – both for the initial registration and in the future when others match or try to register the same thing, perhaps as a foreign release in a different territory. We both encourage registrants to provide the optional data and to fill in multiple values when they are available and allowed.

The Conditionally Required elements follow the rule that at least one of the following Participant data values must be provided (more are welcome, but each record must meet at least one):

- An Associated Org (preferably, a producer)
OR
- A Director
OR
- 4 Actors

Finally, some attributes are required when their XML tag is present, and others are optional. The optional attributes are marked with *italics*.

3 Data Requirements for Series

Series are Collection records and follow the same rules as Abstraction records (see “Data Requirements for Abstraction Records”) except as noted below.

Element Name	Maximum Cardinality	Data Requirements
Required		
StructuralType	1	“Abstraction”
Mode	1	“AudioVisual” (Silent series are “Visual”)
ReferentType	1	“Series”
ResourceName	1	The Series’ original release title in mixed case without trailing articles.
ResourceName@lang	1	A valid LMT written language code. Use “und” if not known.
<i>ResourceName@titleClass</i>	1	Skip if not known. If present, most often “release”, “regional”, or “AKA”. Other values are possible.
OriginalLanguage	32	A valid LMT spoken language code. Use “und” if not known. (For a series of silent works, use Visual language codes.)
OriginalLanguage@mode	1	“Audio” (Silent Series are “Visual”)
ReleaseDate	1	Preferably the full date (yyyy-mm-dd) of the original commercial release of the first Episode. A 4-digit year (yyyy) is also valid.
CountryOfOrigin	32	2-character ISO 3166-1 country code or 4-character ISO 3166-3 former country code (DOI obsolete country code). Use “XX” if not known.
Status	1	“valid” (in most cases)
ApproximateLength	1	If the Episodes have a consistent length, provide this in hours and minutes (or just minutes). Do not include seconds. Use “0” if the Episode lengths are inconsistent or not known.
Administrators/Registrant	1	The EIDR Party ID of the entity that created the record.
Conditionally Required⁵		

⁵ See Conditionally Required notes under Abstract Titles, above.

Element Name	Maximum Cardinality	Data Requirements
AssociatedOrg	16	A company associated with the abstract title, preferably a list of the producers or else the original commissioning broadcaster.
AssociatedOrg/DisplayName	1	Required only if an organizationID is not provided.
<i>AssociatedOrg@idType</i>	1	“EIDRPartyID” Required only if an Organization ID is provided.
<i>AssociatedOrg@organizationID</i>	1	The EIDR Party ID of the Associated Org (if any). Required only if a DisplayName is not provided.
AssociatedOrg@role	1	Most often “producer”.
Credits/Director/DisplayName	2	The name of the director in natural name order (not “last, first”). Only include if a single director (or directing team) is responsible for the vast majority of the Episodes.
Credits/Actor/DisplayName	4	The names(s) of the top billed actors (s) in natural name order (not “last, first”). Only include actors who appear in the vast majority of the Episodes.
<i>Optional, But Recommended (if applicable)</i>		
AlternateResourceName	128	Additional names by which the Series is also known. Include as many as possible.
AlternateResourceName@lang	1	Same as for Resource Name.
<i>AlternateResourceName@titleClass</i>	1	Same as for Resource Name.
AlternateID	∞	IDs associated with the Series other than the EIDR ID (IMDb, ISAN, house IDs, etc.). Include as many as possible.
AlternateID@type	1	Common IDs have their own type (“IMDB” for IMDb IDs, etc.). Others use the type “Proprietary” with an identifying domain.
<i>AlternateID@domain</i>	1	Identifies the organization that issued the Alternate ID. Required when type is “Proprietary”.

Element Name	Maximum Cardinality	Data Requirements
<i>AlternateID@relation</i>	1	“IsSameAs” (in most cases) If not present, “IsSameAs” is assumed. The relation value describes how the EIDR ID relates to the Alternate ID. For example, “ContainsAllOf” would indicate that the EIDR Series record includes all of the material identified by the Alternate ID.
SeriesInfo/EndDate	1	Preferably the full date (yyyy-mm-dd) of the original commercial release of the final Episode. A 4-digit year (yyyy) is also valid. Include only if the Series has ended its run.
SeriesInfo/SeriesClass	1	Use “Mini-series” if the series was originally presented as a mini-series or “Anthology” if the series is primarily composed of episodes that stand on their own.
SeriesInfo/NumberRequired	1	“true” if child records must be identified by a unique number.
SeriesInfo/OriginalTitleRequired	1	“true” if child records must have user-supplied titles.

Notes

ApproximateLength can be 0. (Used when the child Episode records do not have a consistent duration.) Otherwise, a non-0 duration in the Series can be inherited by the child records.

Series records have NumberRequired, DateRequired, and OriginalTitleRequired Boolean elements (they can be “true” or “false”). If the element is missing, it is assumed to be false. These control the required fields in the direct child records. For example, if a Series has NumberRequired = “true”, then its Seasons must all have SequenceNumbers.

At least one of the Series-specific values must be present: EndDate, SeriesClass, NumberRequired, DateRequired, or OriginalTitleRequired.

4 Data Requirements for Seasons

Season are Collection records and follow the same rules as Abstraction records, but they can (and generally do) inherit most BaseObjectData elements from their parent Series.

Element Name	Maximum Cardinality	Data Requirements
Required		
StructuralType	1	"Abstraction"
ReferentType	1	"Season"
ReleaseDate	1	Preferably the full date (yyyy-mm-dd) of the original commercial release of the first included Episode. A 4-digit year (yyyy) is also valid unless the parent Series has DateRequired = "true".
Status	1	"valid" (in most cases)
Administrators/Registrant	1	The EIDR Party ID of the entity that created the record.
SeasonInfo/Parent	1	Series EIDR ID
Conditionally Required		
ResourceName	1	Required if the parent Series has OriginalTitleRequired = "true"
ResourceName@lang	1	A valid LMT written language code. Use "und" if not known.
<i>ResourceName@titleClass</i>	1	Most often skipped.
ApproximateLength	1	May be skipped if same as the parent Series. (0 is allowed.)
SeasonInfo/SequenceNumber	1	Required if the Season does not have a user-provided title or a full release date (yyyy-mm-dd) or if the parent Series has NumberRequired = "true"
Optional, But Recommended (if applicable)		
AlternateID	∞	Same as for Series.
AlternateID@type	1	Same as for Series.
<i>AlternateID@domain</i>	1	Same as for Series.
<i>AlternateID@relation</i>	1	Same as for Series.
SeasonInfo/EndDate	1	Preferably the full date (yyyy-mm-dd) of the original commercial release of the final included Episode. A 4-digit year (yyyy) is also valid. Include only if the Season has ended its run.
SeasonInfo/NumberRequired	1	"true" if child Episodes must be identified by a unique number.
SeasonInfo/DateRequired	1	"true" if child Episodes must have full dates (not just 4-digit years).
SeasonInfo/OriginalTitleRequired	1	"true" if child Episodes must have user-supplied titles.

Notes

Like Series, Season records have their own NumberRequired, DateRequired, and OriginalTitleRequired Boolean elements (they can be “true” or “false”).⁶ If the element is missing, it is assumed to be false. For Seasons, these control the required fields in their child Episode records.

5 Data Requirements for Episodes

Episodes are Abstraction records (see “Data Requirements for Abstraction Records”) that can (and generally do) inherit many BaseObjectData elements from their parent Series or Season.

Element Name	Maximum Cardinality	Data Requirements
Required		
StructuralType	1	“Abstraction”
ReferentType	1	“TV”, “Short”, “Supplemental”, or “Web” (rarely “Movie”)
ReleaseDate	1	Preferably the full date (yyyy-mm-dd) of the original commercial release of the Episode. A 4-digit year (yyyy) is also valid unless the parent has DateRequired = “true”.
Status	1	“valid” (in most cases)
Administrators/Registrant	1	The EIDR Party ID of the entity that created the record.
EpisodeInfo/Parent	1	Series or Season EIDR ID
Conditionally Required		
ResourceName	1	Required if the Episode does not have a Distribution Number or full ReleaseDate (yyyy-mm-dd) or if the parent has OriginalTitleRequired = “true”
ResourceName@lang	1	Same as for Series.
ResourceName@titleClass	1	Same as for Series.

⁶ Values for the “Required” fields are not inherited from Series to Season. The rules enforced by the Series’ Required fields only apply to its direct children and the Season’s Required fields only affect its direct children.

Element Name	Maximum Cardinality	Data Requirements
ApproximateLength	1	May be skipped if the parent has a non-zero Approximate Length. Provide this in hours and minutes (or just minutes). Do not include seconds unless it is a significant differentiator.
EpisodeInfo/SequenceInfo/DistributionNumber	1	Required if the Episode does not have a user-provided name or full ReleaseDate (yyyy-mm-dd) or if the parent has NumberRequired = "true"
<i>EpisodeInfo/SequenceInfo/DistributionNumber@domain</i>	1	Optionally identifies the organization that provided the Distribution Number.
<i>Optional, But Recommended</i>		
AlternateResourceName ⁷	128	Additional names by which the Episode is also known. Include as many as possible.
AlternateResourceName@lang	1	Same as for Resource Name.
<i>AlternateResourceName@titleClass</i>	1	Same as for Resource Name.
Credits/Director/DisplayName	2	The name of the director in natural name order (not "last, first").
Credits/Actor/DisplayName	4	Top 4 billed actors in natural name order (not "last, first") when they are unique per episode, as with an Anthology Series.
AlternateID	∞	Same as for Series.
AlternateID@type	1	Same as for Series.
<i>AlternateID@domain</i>	1	Same as for Series.
<i>AlternateID@relation</i>	1	Same as for Series.

⁷ If the Episode has a system-generated ResourceName, the Registrant can still provide AlternateResourceNames to capture Episode nicknames, territory- or language-specific names, or "non-official" Episode names.

Notes

Episode records can inherit their Mode, ApproximateLength (if non-zero), and Participant Data (Associated Org, Director, and Actor) from their parent Series or Season.

An Episode is only given a ResourceName when it has a unique, descriptive name.⁸ If the Episode is identified only by number or release date, do not provide a ResourceName. The Registry will generate a standardized name based on the Episode metadata.

If an Episode has both a name *and* a number, you may provide one or the other, subject to the data requirements of the Parent record.⁹ However, it is strongly recommended that you provide both name and number as an aid to de-duplication and future discovery.

6 Data Requirements for Edits

Edits represent a particular version of a work and are registered as child records of Abstractions or other Edits. Edits are not valid for Collection records (Series, Season, or Compilation). For more detailed instructions, see **Best Practices and Use Cases for EIDR Edits**.

Element Name	Maximum Cardinality	Data Requirements
Required		
StructuralType	1	“Performance”
ReleaseDate	1	Preferably the full date (yyyy-mm-dd) of the original commercial release of the Edit. A 4-digit year (yyyy) is also valid. (If not known, use the Release Date of the parent.)
Status	1	“valid” (in most cases)
ApproximateLength	1	Provide this in hours and minutes (or just minutes). Including seconds is optional.
Administrators/Registrant	1	The EIDR Party ID of the entity that created the record.
EditInfo/Parent	1	An EIDR Abstraction (root record or Episode) or Edit ID.
EditInfo/EditUse	1	Used to identify the primary distribution channel for which the Edit was originally created.

⁸ If the parent Series or Season has OriginalTitleRequired = “true”, then the Episode must have a Registrant-provided ResourceName.

⁹ Series and Season records may have NumberRequired, DateRequired, and OriginalTitleRequired Boolean elements that control the associated data requirements in Episode records.

Element Name	Maximum Cardinality	Data Requirements
EditInfo/ColorType	1	“color”, “bandw”, “colorized”, or “composite”
EditInfo/ThreeD	1	“true” for a 3D version, “false” if not.
<i>Optional, But Recommended</i>		
ResourceName	1	When the Edit has a distinguishing name, such as “[Title of Film] Director’s Cut.” Otherwise, skip.
ResourceName@lang	1	A valid LMT written language code. Use “und” if not known.
<i>ResourceName@titleClass</i>	1	Skip if not known. Most often “release”, “regional”, or “AKA”. Other values are possible.
AlternateID	∞	IDs associated with the Edit other than the EIDR ID (V-ISAN, house IDs, etc.). Include as many as possible.
AlternateID@type	1	Same as for Abstraction.
<i>AlternateID@domain</i>	1	Same as for Abstractions.
<i>AlternateID@relation</i>	1	Same as for Abstractions.
Administrators/MetadataAuthority	4	Same as for Abstractions.
Description	1	A human-readable, free-text description of the unique characteristics of this Edit. Not used in de-duplication.
Description@lang	1	A valid LMT written language code.
VersionLanguage	64	Languages present in this version of the work not found in the Abstraction.
VersionLanguage@mode	1	“Audio” for dubs, “Visual” for subtitles
EditInfo/EditClass	8	Used to identify the key characteristics that differentiate this Edit.
EditInfo/MadeForRegion	8	2-character ISO 3166-1 country code, 4-character ISO 3166-3 former country code (DOI obsolete country code), 3-digit UN M.49 region code, “International”, or “Domestic” indicating the territory(ies) for which the Edit was originally made.

7 Data Requirements for Other Record Types

For information on Clips, Composites, Compilations, and Manifestations, please see EIDR's *Data Fields Reference Guide*.