

Special coded dates (MARC 046)

[Music Cataloging at Yale](#) [1] ? [MARC tagging](#) [2]

Note: this page was created with music cataloging in mind.

Sources: LC MARC 21 format for [046 - Special coded dates](#) [3] and [DCM Z1](#) [4]

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The 046 field (Special coded dates) is for dates associated with the entry described in an authority or bibliographic record.

The date and time are recorded according to [Extended Date/Time Format](#) [5] (EDTF) schema in all cases [except for centuries](#), in the pattern using 4 digits for the year, 2 for the month, and 2 for the day, each element separated by a hyphen:

year = yyyy

year and month = yyyy-mm

year, month, and day = yyyy-mm-dd

Use subfield **‡2 edtf** to indicate the date schema.

See [Using the Extended Date/Time Format \(EDTF\) Specification](#) below.

The application of EDTF to dates applies only to the 046 field, not to date(s) in subfields **‡s** or **‡t** in other fields (e.g., start and end dates in the [37X fields](#) [6]) since **‡2** in those fields is already being used for other purposes and therefore cannot be used to identify EDTF as the source of the encoding for a date.

Instructions for PCC catalogers in [Descriptive Cataloging Manual \(DCM\) Z1](#) [4], section on field 046:

Best practice:

- ° When encoding date information, give the fullest information about the date that is readily available.
- ° The date in an 046 may be more precise than a date used in the 100 **‡d**.
- ° When revising existing authority records, record dates in the 046 when the information is readily available even if the authorized access point itself does not have dates in 100 **‡d**.
- ° The 046 field must be repeated when subfield **‡2** does not apply to all dates.

Indicators

1st	blank = no information provided 1 = work 2 = expression 3 = manifestation
2nd	blank

Subfields

persons

[examples](#)

a person's date of birth, date of death, and the date or date range of the person's period of activity

Use in conjunction with [Date associated with the person](#) [7] (RDA 9.3)

Subfields:

f = birth date ([9.3.2 \[8\]](#)): the year a person was born

- ° may include the month and day of the person's birth
- ° code in this format: yyyymmdd

g = death date ([9.3.3 \[9\]](#)): the year a person died

- ° may include the month and day of the person's death

s = start period ([9.3.4 \[10\]](#)): start date for period of activity associated with

t = end period ([9.3.4 \[10\]](#)): end date for period of activity associated with

corporate bodies

[examples](#)

a date or range of dates on which a conference, etc., is held, or a date with which the corporate body is associated

Subfields:

q = establishment date: the year a corporate body was established

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° use when a corporate body's date of establishment and date of term ° may include the month and day of the corporate body's establishment ° Valid to use as of 8/15/23
	r = termination date: the year a corporate body was terminated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° use when a corporate body's date of establishment and date of term ° may include the month and day of the corporate body's termination ° Valid to use as of 8/15/23
	s = start period: earliest date in a period of activity
	t = end period: latest date in a period of activity
families	a significant date associated with a family
works and expressions	a significant date associated with a work or expression
examples	Use in conjunction with Recording date of work [11] (RDA 6.4-6.5)
	Subfields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> work [12]: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> k = Beginning or single date created: earliest date (normally the year) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° may be the date the work was created or first published or released ° may be the starting date of a range or a single date expression [13]: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> k = Beginning or single date created: the earliest date (normally the year) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° may be the date of the earliest known manifestation of that expression ° may be the starting date of a range or a single date l = Ending date created: Ending date of the date range for which the expression was created o = Single or starting date for aggregated content: Single or starting date for aggregated content p = Ending date for aggregated content: Ending date of original release

Using the [Extended Date/Time Format \(EDTF\) Specification](#) [5]:

To check that a date conforms to EDTF, use the [EDTF validator](#) [14]

Character: Indicates:

When there are multiple components (year and month, etc.), the character goes to the immediate left of the component to which it applies and applies to that component only

?	uncertain date
~	approximate date
%	uncertain as well as approximate date

Character: Used:

X	the unspecified date character, formerly lower case "u", is superseded by upper case "X"
	used in place of a digit to indicate that the value of that digit is unspecified; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° it may be substituted for each of multiple digits ° may occur anywhere within a component
/	use a forward slash to separate an interval of two dates representing a period of time beginning sometime during the start date and ending sometime during the end date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° either date may be a year, year-month, or year-month-day ° there is no space between the dates
[]	use to enclose set of dates in a single-choice list (select one date) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° use a comma to separate two dates, indicating the date is known to be one of two years ° there is no space between the dates
{ }	use to enclose an inclusive list of multiple dates (all dates included) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° for consecutive dates, this means a discrete set, not an interval, of dates ° use a comma to separate dates ° there is no space between the dates
..	double dots at the beginning or end of a date mean "on or before" or "on or after" respectively

Formatting dates: 4 digits for the year, 2 for the month, and 2 for the day

Use the pattern:

yyyy	single year
yyyy-mm	single year and month
yyyy-mm	single year and month
yyyy-mm-dd	single year, month, and day

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yyyy~	approximate year
yyyy?	uncertain year
yyyy%	approximate year that is uncertain
yyyy-2x	season; spring = 21; summer = 22; autumn = 23; winter = 24
yy	century is known; Note: edtf format is not used for century; use the format "yy": e.g., "16" for 17th century; do not code as edtf
yyyX	decade is known
[yyyy,yyyy]	one of two consecutive years
[..yyyy]	on or before
[yyyy..]	on or after

Go to www.loc.gov/standards/datetime/listserv.html [15] to subscribe to the listserv for discussion of the EDTF date/time format.

Examples

Examples: Persons:

Known dates	Type of date	Example of ‡d	046
Single year	year of birth	1978-	‡f 1978-04-26 ‡2 edtf
	year of birth; month needed to resolve conflict	1956 January 29-	‡f 1956-01-29 ‡2 edtf
Range of years	year of death	-1625	‡g 1625 ‡2 edtf
	dates of birth and death known	1910-2011	‡f 1910-08-27 ‡g 2011-02-21 ‡2 edtf
	years of birth and death known; month of birth needed to resolve conflict	1937 February 26-2000	‡f 1937-02-26 ‡g 2003 ‡2 edtf
	year of birth; month needed to resolve conflict	1956 January 29-	‡f 1956-01-29 ‡2 edtf
	specific day of birth varies	1912-1983	‡f [1912-07-14,1912-07-19,1912-07-27] ‡g 1983-03-07 ‡2 edtf
Known to be date of birth known; one of two dates in the same year	date of death varies in different sources: died April 24 or 25, 1939	1880-1939	‡f 1880-11-02 ‡g [1939-04-24,1939-04-25] ‡2 edtf
	date of birth known; date of death varies in different sources: died July 31, 2012 or August 1, 2012	1921-2012	2 046 fields: ‡f 1921-11-08 ‡2 edtf ‡g [2012-07-31, 2012-08-01] ‡2 edtf
	years of birth and death known; date of death differs in sources: died August 28 or 29, 1998; source of death dates given in ‡v in separate 046 fields	1923-1998	3 046 fields: ‡f 1923-03-12 ‡2 edtf ‡g 1998-08-28 ‡v New York times WWW site, Nov. 19, 2012 ‡2 edtf ‡g 1998-08-29 ‡v Social Security death index, Nov. 19, 2012 ‡2 edtf
	year of birth	-1372 or 1373	‡g [1372,1373] ‡2 edtf
Known to be year of death one of two years	year of birth	1569 or 1570-1600	‡f [1569,1570] ‡g 1600 ‡2 edtf
	year of birth and death	1622 or 1623-1680 or 1681	‡f [1622,1623] ‡g [1680,1681] ‡2 edtf

Approximate dates

Type of date	Example of ‡d	046
Single year	year of birth	‡f 1720~ ‡2 edtf
	year of death	‡g 1581~ ‡2 edtf
Range of years	year of birth known; year of death approximate	‡f 1566 ‡g 1638~ ‡2 edtf
	year of birth approximate; year of death known	‡f 1539~ ‡g 1582 ‡2 edtf
	year of birth and death both approximate	‡f 1540~ ‡g 1600~ ‡2 edtf
	year of birth one of two years; year of death one of two years	‡f [1762-05-15,1764-05-07] ‡g [1812,1814] ‡2 edtf

Probable dates

Type of date	Example of ‡d	046
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Single year	year of death	-1557?	‡g 1557? ‡2 edtf
Unspecific dates			
Single day	some day in December, 1411	-1411	‡g 1411-12-XX ‡2 edtf
Single decade	decade of birth	[no date in heading]	‡f 189X ‡2 edtf
Single estimated decade	193-?	[no date in heading]	‡f 1930?/1939? ‡2 edtf
Single century	17th century	[no date in heading]	‡s 16
Active dates			
Single year	known year	active 1745	‡s 1745 ‡2 edtf
	approximate year	active approximately 1490	‡s 1490~ ‡2 edtf
Range of years	start and end years both known	active 1639-1645	‡s 1639 ‡t 1645 ‡2 edtf
	start year known; end year approximate	active 1687-approximately 1735	‡s 1687 ‡t 1735~ ‡2 edtf
	start year approximate; end year known	active approximately 1390-1417	‡s 1390~ ‡t 1417 ‡2 edtf
	both years approximate	active approximately 1470-approximately 1485	‡s 1470~ ‡t 1485~ ‡2 edtf
	start year questionable; end year known	active 1385?-1395	‡s 1390~ ‡t 1417 ‡2 edtf
	century known	active 17th century	‡s 16
	active in two centuries	active 16th century-17th century	‡s 15 ‡t 16
	century of start is approximate; century of end is known	active approximately 12th century-13th century	‡s 11 ~ ‡t 12 ~
Approximate, probable years			
	probable year of birth; approximate year of death	1656?-approximately 1712	‡f 1656? ‡g 1712~ ‡2 edtf
	approximate year of birth; probable year of death	approximately 1560-1621?	‡f 1560~ ‡g 1621? ‡2 edtf
	approximate year of birth; death one of two known years	approximately 1708-1752 or 1753	‡f 1708~ ‡g [1752,1753] ‡2 edtf
	probable year of birth; death one of two probable years	1768?-1798 or 1799?	‡f 1768? ‡g [1798?,1799?] ‡2 edtf
	born c1500, died after 1547	approximately 1500-	‡f 1500~ ‡g [1548..] ‡2 edtf
One of two known years			
	different year of birth in different sources	born 1945 in one source, 1946 in another	2 046 fields: ‡f 1945 ‡v Contretänze, c1986 ‡2 edtf ‡f 1946-03-17 ‡v Grove Music online, viewed April 15, 2013 ‡2 edtf
	different year of death in different sources	died 1955 in one source, 1951 in another	2 046 fields: ‡f 1955 ‡v Timbrell, C. French pianism, c1992 ‡2 edtf ‡f 1951 ‡v Portuguese Wikipedia, March 27, 2014 ‡2 edtf
Examples: Corporate bodies:			
Known dates			
Single year	year of beginning	founded 1867	‡s 1867 ‡2 edtf
	year and month	founded: July 2010	‡s 2010-07 ‡2 edtf
Multiple	year of beginning and end	formed 1981, disbanded	2 046 fields:

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years	1998	‡s 1981 ‡t 1998 ‡2 edtf	
	reunited briefly in 2005	‡s 2005 ‡t 2005 ‡2 edtf	
Examples: Works and expressions:			
Single year	Type of date	Example	046
	year only	composed 2008	‡k 2008 ‡2 edtf
	year of arrangement	arranged by the composer in 1982	‡k 1982 ‡2 edtf
	probable year	composed in 1795?	‡k 1795? ‡2 edtf
	by a year	composed by 1775	‡k [..1775] ‡2 edtf
	year and month	August 1960	‡k 1960-08 ‡2 edtf
		composed no later than August 1762	[..1762-08] ‡2 edtf
	year, month, and day	December 27, 1927	‡k 1927-12-27 ‡2 edtf
	range of specific months within a single year	composed September-November 1986	‡k 1986-09 ‡l 1986-11 ‡2 edtf
Range of years	Type of date	Example	046
	years	composed 2006-2007	‡k 2006 ‡l 2007 ‡2 edtf
	range of years	composed 2010-11	‡k 2010 ‡l 2011 ‡v Peter Fribbins WWW site, April 22, 2013 ‡u http://www.peterfribbins.co.uk/repertoire.html#piano [16] ‡2 edtf
	season	written at Christmas 2011	‡k 2011 ‡l 2012 ‡2 edtf
	range of specific months over two or more years	composed between December 16, 2011, and February 1, 2012	‡k 2011-12-16 ‡l 2012-02-01 ‡2 edtf
	range of specific dates	composed January 4-18, 1878	‡k 1878-01-04 ‡l 1878-01-18 ‡2 edtf
	beginning date uncertain; revised	composed before November 1792; revised in 1793	‡k 1792-11~ ‡l 1793 ‡2 edtf
	different years given in different sources	1890 given as date in one source, another source gives 1890 to the end of 1893 or the beginning of 1894	‡k 1890 ‡l [1893,1894-02] ‡2 edtf
	approximate year	c. 1740	‡k 1740~ ‡2 edtf
	range of approximate years	c1860-63	‡k 1860~ ‡l 1863~ ‡2 edtf
	approximate decades	late 1840s or early 1850s	‡k [184X,185X] ‡2 edtf
	uncertain years	composed probably after about 1717, 1736 at the latest	‡k 1717~/1736 ‡2 edtf
One of two known years	Type of date	Example	046
	different year of composition in different sources	2008 in one source, 2009 in another	2 046 fields: ‡k 2008 ‡2 edtf ‡k 2009 ‡2 edtf
		1977 in one source, 1978 in another	2 046 fields: ‡k 1977 ‡v Dusapin, P. Trio, p1984 ‡2 edtf ‡k 1978 ‡v Grove music online WWW site, viewed June 9, 2014 ‡2 edtf
Multiple separate dates	Type of dates	Example	046
	date of composition and revision date	composed 2003, revised 2005	‡k {2003,2005} ‡2 edtf
		composition finished at 3:00 PM, September 25,	‡k {2004-09-25T15:00,2013-09} ‡2 edtf

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		2004; revised September 2013	Note: ‡k and ‡l have also been used to indicate composition and revision dates: ‡k 1985-09 ‡l 2009-07 ‡2 edtf
		completed September 1985 and revised July 2009	
Dates of contents of a collection /aggregation	Type of dates	Example	046
	multiple single years	earliest and latest dates for 3 works published in a collection	‡o 2010 ‡p 2013 ‡2 edtf

Source URL: <https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/MARC046>

Links

[1] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music> [2] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/marc-tagging> [3] <http://www.loc.gov/marc/authority/ad046.html> [4] <https://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeDCM/DCM/Z01.pdf> [5] <https://www.loc.gov/standards/datetime/> [6] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/MARC37X> [7] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/attributespersons#9.3> [8] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/attributespersons#9.3.2> [9] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/attributespersons#9.3.3> [10] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/attributespersons#9.3.4> [11] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/dateplacework> [12] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/frbr-wemi-music#work> [13] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/frbr-wemi-music#expression> [14] <https://digital2.library.unt.edu/edtf/> [15] <http://www.loc.gov/standards/datetime/listserv.html> [16] <http://www.peterfribbins.co.uk/repertoire.html#piano>