



Dates in DDC data and what they mean for you

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CLASSIFICATION DATA

Overview

- 685 (History Note)
- 990 (internal note)
- Leader (005, 008)
- Less common fields (697, 699)

685 field

- Officially defined in MARC Classification
- Generally most reliable date
- Describes when a change was published

But...

- Only consistently added from 2017 onward

990 field

- Also reliable
- Also describes when a change was published

But...

- Vague about precise nature of a change
- Ephemeral

Leader (LDR)

- Officially defined in MARC Classification
 - 008/00-05: Creation date
 - 005: Last modified
- Set automatically in ESS

But...

- Only loosely related to publication

Internal fields

- 697, 699
- Diverse usage
- Some superseded by 990
- Limited utility to non-editors
- Only current usage: non-selection of isCaption

OTHER FORMATS

Authority data in DDC

- Relative Index
- Mapped external vocabularies (local copies)
- Limited to 008 and 005
- Mixed usage of 990s

Date of assignment

- Authorized in Bibliographic, Authority, and Community Information
- Practice introduced in 2021

SO WHAT?

Dates in the multilingual DDC

- Different fields serve different purposes
- Questions for translators
 - Which fields are most important to you?
 - Do you add your own dates?
- What would be helpful in linked data?

Happy dating!

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**Because
what is
known must
be shared.®**