



## Description of the MARC 21 format

MARC (MACHine Readable Cataloging) is a widely used global standard for representing and exchanging bibliographic, authority, holdings, classification and community information data in machine-readable form. MARC is maintained by the Library of Congress; the current version is the 21st, MARC 21.

MARC 21 format homepage: <http://www.loc.gov/marc/>

The following is an explanation of the format for bibliographic data.

The MARC format consists of tags, indicators, subfield codes and coded values that identify the data elements in bibliographic records. A bibliographic data record commonly includes titles, names, subjects, notes, publication data and information about the physical description of an item.

Example of field 245 for the title:

- Tag: 245
- First indicator: 1
- Second indicator: 2
- Subfields: a, b and c

```
= <marc:datafield tag="245" ind1="1" ind2="0">
<marc:subfield code="a">Elisabeth Kopp :</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="b">zwei Leben - ein Schicksal : Aufstieg und Fall der ersten
Bundesrätin der Schweiz /</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="c">René Lüchinger, A. Kurt</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
```

The MARCXML Schema has been developed to implement the MARC format in an XML environment.  
MARC 21 XML Schema homepage: <http://www.loc.gov/standards/marcxml/>

Example of a data record in MARCXML, indicating the most important fields:

```
= <marc:record>
<marc:leader>01<span data-bbox="258 633 403 673" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Start of data record</span> 313 a 4500</marc:leader>
<marc:controlfield tag="001">vtls001728903</marc:controlfield>
<marc:controlfield tag="003">Sz</marc:controlfield>
<marc:controlfield tag="005">20140127113600.0</marc:controlfield>
<marc:controlfield tag="008">131213s2014 sz a 001 0bger d<span data-bbox="678 665 988 736" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">008 = Data elements of fixed length:
Year of publication: positions 07-10 (2014)
Country code: positions 15-17 (sz)
Language code: positions 35-37 (ger)</span>
= <marc:datafield tag="020" ind1="" ind2="">
<marc:subfield code="a">9783727212536 (geb.) :</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="c">CHF 39.90</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
<span data-bbox="745 752 969 778" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">020 = ISBN with price</span>
= <marc:datafield tag="035" ind1="" ind2="">
<marc:subfield code="a">Sz001728903</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
= <marc:datafield tag="039" ind1="" ind2="9">
<marc:subfield code="a">201401271136</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="b">pw</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="c">201401271132</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="d">pw</marc:subfield>
```

```

<marc:subfield code="c">201312200847</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="d">yb</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="y">201312131122</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="z">lg</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
- <marc:datafield tag="040" ind1="" ind2="">
<marc:subfield code="a">Sz</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="c">Sz</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
- <marc:datafield tag="082" ind1="7" ind2="4">
<marc:subfield code="a">949.4</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="2">23sdb</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
- <marc:datafield tag="082" ind1="0" ind2="4">
<marc:subfield code="8">1\x</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="a">949.4073092</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="2">22/ger</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
- <marc:datafield tag="100" ind1="1" ind2="">
<marc:subfield code="a">Lüchinger, René</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
- <marc:datafield tag="245" ind1="1" ind2="0">
<marc:subfield code="a">Elisabeth Kopp :</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="b">zwei Leben - ein Schicksal : Aufstieg und Fall einer
Bundesrätin der Schweiz /</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="c">René Lüchinger, A. Kurt</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
- <marc:datafield tag="260" ind1="" ind2="">
<marc:subfield code="a">Bern :</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="b">Stämpfli,</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="c">cop. 2014</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
- <marc:datafield tag="300" ind1="" ind2="">
<marc:subfield code="a">280 S., [16] S. Taf. ;</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="c">24 cm</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
- <marc:datafield tag="500" ind1="" ind2="">
<marc:subfield code="a">Register</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
- <marc:datafield tag="504" ind1="" ind2="">
<marc:subfield code="a">Literaturverz.</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
- <marc:datafield tag="600" ind1="1" ind2="7">
<marc:subfield code="a">Kopp, Elisabeth</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="d">1936-</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="0">(DE-588)118927108</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="2">gnd</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
- <marc:datafield tag="700" ind1="1" ind2="">
<marc:subfield code="a">Kurt, Alfred</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
- <marc:datafield tag="949" ind1="" ind2="">
<marc:subfield code="A">VIRTUAITEM</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="D">10010</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="F">1</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="X">100</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="6">1901842618</marc:subfield>

```

100 = Main author  
(standardised form)

245 = Title, subtitle and author  
statement

260 = Place of publication, publisher  
and year of publication

300 = Physical description

500 = Notes

600 = Subject  
(standardised form)

700 = Additional  
author (standardised form)

```
<marc:subfield code="a">N 333060</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
_ <marc:datafield tag="993" ind1="" ind2="">
<marc:subfield code="a">sb</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="b">2013/24</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="c">949.4</marc:subfield>
<marc:subfield code="k">be</marc:subfield>
</marc:datafield>
</marc:record>
```

End of data re-  
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