This page provides recommendations for converting from the PBCore metadata standard to MARC 21. Since MARC has more fields than PBCore, there may be multiple recommendations for the same PBCore element, depending on context and desired level of detail. This documentation includes recommendations for both simple and complex mappings. MARC 21 fields are listed by field number with specific subfields if applicable.

This mapping includes all PBCore elements, but does not include all possible attributes to those elements. Attribute mappings are included when attributes are required within PBCore, or when mapping an attribute would allow for a more specific mapping within MARC.

This page does not provide recommendations for converting from MARC 21 to PBCore, although it may in some cases be used as a guideline for such work.

An Excel spreadsheet containing the mapping can be downloaded [here].

pbcoreAssetType -- a broad definition of the type of intellectual content being described.

Maps to: 380 ##$a (Form of Work)

pbcoreAssetDate -- reflects dates associated with the Intellectual Content.

Maps to: 046 ##$k (Special Coded Dates, Beginning or Single Date Created)

Note: If the date is a range rather than a single unique date, the end date should go in 046 ##$i.

If @dateType is specified using PBCore controlled vocabularies, additional specific mappings can be achieved.

If the @dateType is 'published,' pbcoreDate and @dateType should be mapped to 264 #1$c (Production, Publication, Distribution, Manufacture, and Copyright Notice; Publication; Date of production, publication, distribution, manufacture, or copyright notice.)

If the @dateType is 'distributed,' pbcoreDate and @dateType should be mapped to 264 #2$c (Production, Publication, Distribution, Manufacture, and Copyright Notice; Distribution; Date of production, publication, distribution, manufacture, or copyright notice.)

If the @dateType is 'created,' pbcoreDate and @dateType should be mapped to 264 #3$c (Production, Publication, Distribution, Manufacture, and Copyright Notice; Manufacture; Date of production, publication, distribution, manufacture, or copyright notice.)

If the @dateType is 'copyrighted,' pbcoreDate and @dateType should be mapped to 264 #4$c (Production, Publication, Distribution, Manufacture, and Copyright Notice; Copyright notice; Date of production, publication, distribution, manufacture, or copyright notice.)

pbcoreIdentifier -- an identifier that can apply to the asset.

Maps to: 001 (Control Number), 024 8#$a (Other Legacy Identifier, Unspecified type of standard number or code, Standard number or code)

Note: Identifiers supplied by the holding/cataloging organization should be mapped to 001. Additional/legacy identifiers should be mapped to 024 8#$a

pbcoreIdentifier @source – a required attribute that provides the name of the authority used to declare data value of the element.

Maps to: 003 (Control Number Identifier), 024 7#$2 (Other Legacy Identifier, Source spedified in subfield $2, Source of number or code)

Note: @source for identifiers supplied by the holding/cataloging organization should be mapped to 003. IF the organization assigning the identifier is not a source used in MARC 21, they can request a code at http://www.loc.gov/marc/organizations. @source for additional/legacy identifiers should be mapped to 024 7#$2. If there is no standard source, 'local' can be used in $2 as source of identifier.

pbcoreTitle – a name or label relevant to the asset.

Maps to: 245 00$a (Title Statement, No added entry, No nonfiling characters, Title)

Note: If the title does begin with nonfiling characters, such as 'The' or 'A',' the second indicator (0) should instead correspond to the number of those characters (245 03$a for 'The', 245 01$a for 'A').

If @subjectType is specified with a PBCore controlled vocabulary term, more specific mappings are possible. If the @titleType is the 'Main' title (which could be defined, using the PBCore controlled vocabulary list, as 'Program Title,' 'Series Title,' or 'Album Title') then map directly to 245 00$a.

If @titleType is 'Episode' or 'Segment,' pbcoreTitle and @titleType should be mapped to 245 00$p (Title Statement, No added entry, No nonfiling characters, Name of part/section of a work)

pbcoreTitle @titleType – a name or label relevant to the asset.

Maps to: 246 1#$i (Varying Form of Title, Note, Display text)

Note: This should only be used for titleTypes that are not the 'Main' title, and generally when there is more than one Title listed in the record. If the @titleType is the 'Main' title (which could be defined, using the PBCore controlled vocabulary list, as 'Program Title,' 'Series Title,' or 'Album Title') then map directly to 245 00$a.

pbcoreSubject – used to assign topic headings or keywords that portray the intellectual content of the asset.

Maps to: 653 ##$a (Index Term – Uncontrolled)

Note: if @subjectType is specified, more specific mappings can be achieved.

If @subjectType is 'keyword' or 'topic,' pbcoreSubject and @subjectType should be mapped to 650 #4$a (Subject Added Entry – Topical Term, Source not specified, Topical term or geographic name entry element)

If @subjectType is 'personal name,' pbcoreSubject and @subjectType should be mapped to 600 #4$a (Subject Added Entry – Personal Name, Source not specified, Personal name)

If @subjectType is 'keyword' or 'topic,' pbcoreSubject and @subjectType should be mapped to 650 #4$a (Subject Added Entry – Topical Term, Source not specified, Topical term or geographic name entry element)

If @subjectType is 'corporate name,' pbcoreSubject and @subjectType should be mapped to 610 #4$a (Subject Added Entry – Corporate Name, Source not specified, Corporate name or jurisdiction name as entry element)

pbcoreDescription – uses free-form text or a narrative to report general notes, abstracts, or summaries about the intellectual content of an asset.

Maps to: 500 ##$a (General Note)

Note: if @descriptionType is specified with a PBCore vocabulary term, more specific mappings can be achieved.

If @descriptionType is 'summary,' pbcoreDescription and @descriptionType should be mapped to 520 ##$a (Summary, etc.)

If @descriptionType is 'subject,' pbcoreDescription and @descriptionType should be mapped to 520 0#$a (Summary, etc., Subject)

If @descriptionType is 'reviews,' pbcoreDescription and @descriptionType should be mapped to 520 1#$a (Summary, etc., Review)

If @descriptionType is 'abstract,' pbcoreDescription and @descriptionType should be mapped to 520 3#$a (Summary, etc., Abstract)

If the element @source is specified, this can be mapped to 520 ##$c (Summary, etc., Assigning source)

pbcoreGenre – uses free-form text or a narrative to report general notes, abstracts, or summaries about the intellectual content of an asset.

Maps to: 655 ##$a (Index Term – Genre/Form)

Note: if PBCoreGenre @source is specified, this can mapped to 655 #7$2 (Index Term – Genre/Form, Source specified in subfield $2, Source of term)

pbcoreRelation -- contains the pbcoreRelationType and pbcoreRelationIdentifier elements
pbcoreRelationType -- describes the relationship between the asset being describe by the pbcore document and any other asset

pbcoreRelationIdentifier -- contains the identifier of the related asset

Maps to: 787 0#$i and 787 0# $o (Other Relationship Entry – Relationship Information and Other Relationship Entry – Other item identifier)

Note: certain relationshipType values from the PBCoreRelationshipType controlled vocabulary list can map to more specific fields.

If the relationshipType is hasVersion/isVersionOf, pbcoreRelation and its subfields can be mapped to 775 0#$o (Other Edition Entry – Other item identifier)

If the relationshipType is isPartOf, pbcoreRelation and its subfields can be mapped to 773 0#$o (Host Item Entry – Other item identifier)

If the relationshipType is hasPart, pbcoreRelation and its subfields can be mapped to 774 0#$o (Constituent Unit Entry – Other item identifier)

If the relationshipType is hasDerivative, pbcoreRelation and its subfields can be mapped to 776 0#$o (Additional Physical Form Entry – Other item identifier)

pbcoreCoverage -- a container for subelements coverage and coverageType
coverage -- refers to either the geographic location or the time period covered by the asset's intellectual content
coverageType -- used to identify the actual type of keywords that are being used by its companion metadata element coverage

Note: the mapping of this element depends on whether coverageType is designated 'spatial' or 'temporal.'

If spatial, maps to: 522 ##$a (Geographic Coverage Note)

If temporal, maps to: 518 ##$a (Date/Time and Place of an Event Note)

If temporal coverage is formatted as a year (YYYY), it can also map to 045 0#$b (Time Period of Content, Single date/time, Formatted 9999 B.C. through C.E. time period)

pbcoreAudienceLevel – identifies a type of audience, viewer, or listener for whom the media item is primarily designed or educationally useful

Maps to: 521 ##$a (Target Audience Note, Audience)

pbcoreAudienceRating – designates the type of users for whom the intellectual content of a media item is intended or judged appropriate

Maps to: 521 8#$a (Target Audience Note, No display constant generated)

pbcoreAnnotation – allows the addition of any supplementary information about the metadata used to describe the PBCore record

Maps to: 500 ##$a (General Note)

pbcoreCreator -- a container for subelements creator and creatorRole
creator -- identifies the primary person, people, or organization(s) responsible for creating the asset.
creatorRole -- identifies the role played by the person, people or organization(s) identified in the companion descriptor creator.

Maps to: 720 ##$a and 720 ##$e (Added Entry-Uncontrolled Name, Name and Relator term)

Note: If Creators are known to be individuals, this can map to 700 ##$a and 700 ##$e (Added Entry – Personal Name, Name and Relator term.) If Creators are known to be organizations, this should instead map to 710 ##$a and 710 ##$e (Added Entry-Corporate Name, Name and Relator term.)

pbcoreContributor -- a container for subelements contributor and contributorRole
contributor -- identifies a person, people, or organization that has made substantial creative contributions to the asset.
contributorRole -- identifies the role played by the person, people or organization(s) identified in the companion descriptor contributor.

Maps to: 720 ##$a and 720 ##$e (Added Entry-Uncontrolled Name, Name and Relator term)

Note: If Contributors are known to be individuals, this can map to 700 ##$a and 700 ##$e (Added Entry – Personal Name, Name and Relator term.) If Contributors are known to be organizations, this should instead map to 710 ##$a and 710 ##$e (Added Entry-Corporate Name, Name and Relator term.)

pbcorePublisher -- a container for subelements publisher and publisherRole
publisher -- identifies a person, people, or organization primarily responsible for distributing or making the asset available to others.
publisherRole -- identifies the role played by the person, people or organization(s) identified in the companion descriptor publisher.

Maps to: 260 ##$b (Publication, Distribution, etc., Name of publisher, distributor, etc.)

Note: Certain publisherRoles from the PBCore controlled vocabulary can map to more specific fields.

If the publisherRole is 'Publisher,' map to 264 #1$b (Production, Publication, Distribution, Manufacture, and Copyright Notice; Publication; Name of producer, publisher, distributor, manufacturer)

If the publisherRole is 'Distributor,' map to 264 #2$b (Production, Publication, Distribution, Manufacture, and Copyright Notice; Distribution; Name of producer, publisher, distributor, manufacturer)

pbcoreRightsSummary -- a container for sub-elements 'rightsSummary', 'rightsLink' and 'rightsEmbedded' used to describe Rights for the asset

rightsSummary -- a general free-text element to identify information about copyrights and property rights held in and over an asset or instantiation, whether they are open access or restricted in some way

rightsLink -- a URI pointing to a declaration of rights

rightsEmbedded -- allows the inclusion of xml from another rights standard, e.g. ODRL, METS, etc.

[placeholder for when final mapping is determined]

pbcoreExtension -- an extension element, containing either a specific element from another standard OR embedded xml containing the extension.

extensionWrap -- serves as a container for the elements extensionElement, extensionValue, and extensionAuthorityUsed.

extensionElement -- serves as a container for the elements extensionElement, extensionValue, and extensionAuthorityUsed.

extensionValue -- expresses the data value of the label indicated by extensionElement.

extensionAuthorityUsed -- identifies the authority used for the extensionElement.

extensionEmbedded -- allows the inclusion of xml from another schema, e.g. TEI, METS, etc.

Maps to: 887 ##$a (Non-MARC Information Field.)

Note: If extensionWrap is used, content should be embedded with PBCore extension tags, and extensionAuthorityUsed should be mapped to 887 ##$2 (Non-MARC Information Field, Source of data). If extensionEmbedded is used, content should be embedded as-is.

instantiationIdentifier -- contains an unambiguous reference or identifier for a particular instantiation of an asset.

Maps to: 001 (Control Number), 024 8#$a (Other Legacy Identifier, Unspecified type of standard number or code, Standard number or code)

Note: Identifiers supplied by the holding/cataloging organization should be mapped to 001. Additional/legacy identifiers should be mapped to 024 8#$a. When instantiations are part of a PBCore asset record, they should be created as a separate MARC record that replicates all Asset-level information except the 001 Identifier. The instantiationIdentifier should then be recorded in the original Asset record using 776 1#$w (Additional Physical Form Entry).

instantiationDate – a date associated with an instantiation.

Maps to: 260 ##$c (Publication, Distribution, etc.; Date of publication, distribution, etc.)

Note: if @dateType is specified using PBCore controlled vocabularies, more specific mappings can be achieved.

If the @dateType is 'published,' pbcoreDate and @dateType should be mapped to 264 #1$c (Production, Publication, Distribution, Manufacture, and Copyright Notice; Publication; Date of production, publication, distribution, manufacture, or copyright notice.)

If the @dateType is 'distributed,' pbcoreDate and @dateType should be mapped to 264 #2$c (Production, Publication, Distribution, Manufacture, and Copyright Notice; Distribution; Date of production, publication, distribution, manufacture, or copyright notice.)

If the @dateType is 'created,' pbcoreDate and @dateType should be mapped to 264 #3$c (Production, Publication, Distribution, Manufacture, and Copyright Notice; Manufacture; Date of production, publication, distribution, manufacture, or copyright notice.)

If the @dateType is 'copyrighted,' pbcoreDate and @dateType should be mapped to 264 #4$c (Production, Publication, Distribution, Manufacture, and Copyright Notice; Copyright notice; Date of production, publication, distribution, manufacture, or copyright notice.)

instantiationDimensions – an element that specifies either the dimensions of a physical instantiation, or the high-level visual dimensions of a digital instantiation.

Maps to: 300 ##$c (Physical Description; Dimensions)

instantiationPhysical – used to identify the format of a particular instantiation as it exists in a physical form that occupies physical space.

Note: The mapping of this element depends on the use of vocabulary terms from the PBCore instantiationPhysical controlled vocabulary.

If the instantiationPhysical value corresponds to one of the terms on the 'film' vocabulary, map to: 300 ##$c (Physical Description; Dimensions)

If the instantiationPhysical value corresponds to one of the terms on the 'audio' vocabulary, map to: 344 ##$b (Sound Characteristics; Recording medium)

If the instantiationPhysical value corresponds to one of the terms on the 'video' vocabulary, map to: 346 ##$a (Video characteristics; Video format)

instantiationDigital – used to identify the format of a particular instantiation of an asset as it exists as a digital file on a server, hard drive, or other digital storage medium.

Maps to: 347 ##$b (Digital File Characteristics – File type)

instantiationStandard – if the instantiation is a physical item, instantiationStandard can be used to refer to the broadcast standard of the video signal (e.g. NTSC, PAL), or the audio encoding (e.g. Dolby A, vertical cut). If the instantiation is a digital item, instantiationStandard should be used to express the container format of the digital file (e.g. MXF)

Maps to: 300 ##$b (Physical Description; Other physical details) or 347 ##$b (Digital File Characteristics – File type)

Note: The mapping of this element depends on whether the instantiation is identified as an instantiationPhysical or instantiationDigital. If instantiationPhysical, map to 300 ##$b. If instantiationDigital, map to 347 ##$b.

instantiationLocation – may contain information about a specific location for an instantiation, such as an organization's name, departmental name, shelf ID and contact information. The instantiationLocation for a digital file should include domain, path or URI to the file.

Maps to: 852 ##$a (Location), 856 ##$d$f (Electric Location and Access, Path, Electronic name), 856 7_$u (Electric Location and Access, Method specified in subfield $2, Uniform Resource Identifier)

Note: Note: The mapping of this element depends on whether the instantiation is identified as an instantiationPhysical or instantiationDigital. If instantiationPhysical, map to 852 ##$a. If instantiationDigital, map to 856 7_$u.

instantiationMediaType – used to identify the format of a particular instantiation of an asset as it exists as a digital file on a server, hard drive, or other digital storage medium.

Maps to: 337 ##$a (Media Type)

instantiationGenerations – identifies the use type and provenance of the instantiation..

Maps to: 340 ##$j (Physical Medium; Generation)

instantiationFileSize – indicates the file size of a digital instantiation.

Maps to: 347 ##$c (Digital File Characteristics; File size)

instantiationTimeStart – describes the point at which playback begins for a time-based instantiation.

Maps to: 340 ##$h (Physical Medium; Location within medium)

instantiationDuration – provides a timestamp for the overall length or duration of a time-based media item.

Maps to: 306 ##$a (Playing Time)

instantiationDataRate – expresses the amount of data in a digital media file that is encoded, delivered or distributed, for every second of time.

Maps to: 347 ##$f (Digital File Characteristics; Encoded bitrate)

instantiationColors – indicates the overall color, grayscale, or black and white nature of the presentation of an instantiation, as a single occurrence or combination of occurrences in or throughout the instantiation.

Maps to: 340 ##$g (Physical Medium; Color content)

instantiationTracks – indicates the number and type of tracks that are found in a media item, whether it is analog or digital.

Maps to: 500 ##$a (General Note)

instantiationChannelConfiguration – designed to indicate, at a general narrative level, the arrangement or configuration of specific channels or layers of information within an instantiation's tracks.

Maps to: 344 ##$g (Sound Characteristics; Configuration of playback channels)

instantiationLanguage – identifies the primary language of the tracks' audio or text. Languages must be indicated using 3-letter codes standardized in ISO 639-2 or 639-3.

Maps to: 041 ##$a, 041 #7$2

Note: MARC uses ISO 639-2. PBCore allows for ISO 639-2 and ISO 639-3. If ISO 639-2 is used, this field should map to 041 ##$a; if ISO 639-3 is used, this field should map to 041 #7$2.

instantiationAlternativeModes – a catch-all metadata element that identifies equivalent alternatives to the primary visual, sound or textual information that exists in an instantiation.

Maps to: 546 ##$a (Language Note)

instantiationEssenceTrack – an XML container element that allows for grouping of related essenceTrack elements and their repeated use.

Note: instantiationEssenceTrack is a container element for information of a granularity that is usually not recorded by MARC. We recommend recording instantiationEssenceTrack and all sub-elements as PBCore XML in field 887 ##$a (Non-Marc Information Field).

instantiationRelation -- contains the instantiationRelationType and instantiationRelationIdentifier elements
instantiationRelationType -- describes the relationship between the asset being describe by the pbcore document and any other asset
instantiationRelationIdentifier -- contains the identifier of the related asset

Maps to: 787 0#$i and 787 0# $o (Other Relationship Entry – Relationship Information and Other Relationship Entry – Other item identifier)

Note: certain relationType values from the PBCoreRelationshipType controlled vocabulary list can map to more specific fields.

If the relationType is DerivedFrom, instantiationRelation and its subfields can be mapped to 786 0#$o (Data Source Entry – Other item identifier)

If the relationType is isPartOf, pbcoreRelation and its subfields can be mapped to 773 0#$o (Host Item Entry – Other item identifier)

If the relationType is hasPart, pbcoreRelation and its subfields can be mapped to 774 0#$o (Constituent Unit Entry – Other item identifier)

If the relationType is isFormatOf/hasFormat, pbcoreRelation and its subfields can be mapped to 776 0#$o (Additional Physical Form Entry – Other item identifier)

If the relationType is replaces, pbcoreRelation and its subfields can be mapped to 780 0#$o (Preceding Entry – Other item identifier)

If the relationType is isReplacedBy, pbcoreRelation and its subfields can be mapped to 785 0#$o (Succeeding Entry – Other item identifier)

instantiationAnnotation – allows the addition of any supplementary information about the metadata used to describe the PBCore record

Maps to: 500 ##$a (General Note)

instantiationExtension -- an extension element, containing either a specific element from another standard OR embedded xml containing the extension.
extensionWrap -- serves as a container for the elements extensionElement, extensionValue, and extensionAuthorityUsed.
extensionElement -- serves as a container for the elements extensionElement, extensionValue, and extensionAuthorityUsed.
extensionValue -- expresses the data value of the label indicated by extensionElement.
extensionAuthorityUsed -- identifies the authority used for the extensionElement.
extensionEmbedded -- allows the inclusion of xml from another schema, e.g. TEI, METS, etc.

Maps to: 887 ##$a (Non-MARC Information Field.)

Note: If extensionWrap is used, content should be embedded with PBCore extension tags, and extensionAuthorityUsed should be mapped to 887 ##$2 (Non-MARC Information Field, Source of data). If extensionEmbedded is used, content should be embedded as-is.