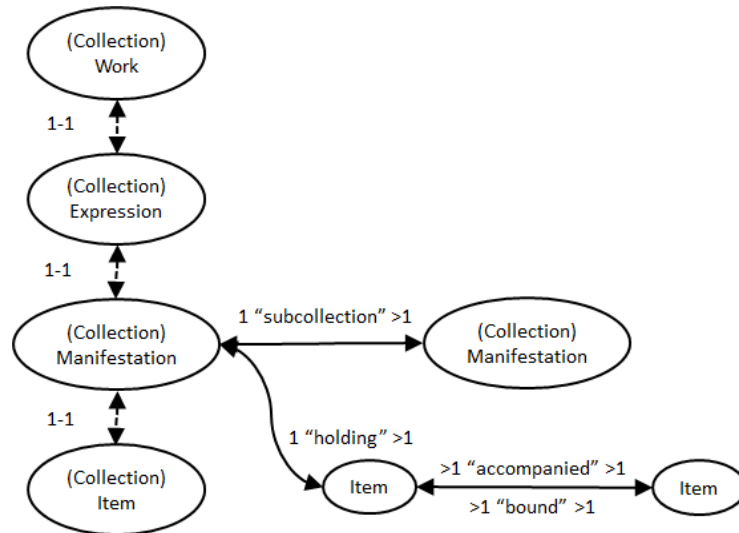


The Collections Model in RDA

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Collections model

This is the basic model diagram for a collection in RDA:



Primary WEMI stack for collections

A *collection work* is a plan for selecting items that are to be gathered together for some purpose. It realizes one and only one *collection expression* which in turn realizes one and only one *collection manifestation*. The *collection item* is the one and only exemplar of the collection manifestation. A collection item is the set of all items that are gathered by the collection work.

Attributes of a collection work

Because the collection work is the plan for how items are selected that form the collection item, the attribute elements Work: [collection accrual method](#) and Work: [collection accrual policy](#) are used to describe the accrual method and the accrual policy for the items that are to be gathered together. These two attributes are supported by the [RDA Collection Accrual Method](#) and the [RDA Collection Accrual Policy VESs](#). The terms in each VES are considered a baseline and may have terms added to them in the future, if needed.

Subcollections

A subcollection is a collection manifestation that is a part of a larger collection manifestation. This whole-part relationship between collection manifestations does not extend to a whole-part relationship between collection expressions or collection works, as the plans for each of the collection works are independent of one another.

This is different from how other whole-part relationships operate in the WEM-stack. A whole-part relationship between manifestations may imply a whole-part relationship between embodied expressions and a whole-part relationship between realized works.

To express the whole-part relationship between collections, the relationships Manifestation: [subcollection](#) and Manifestation: [subcollection of](#) have been established. These elements support concepts used in archival collections, such as the concept of “fonds” or other hierarchical structures. Because the elements are still describing a whole-part relationship between manifestations, these elements are element subtypes of Manifestation: [part manifestation](#) and Manifestation: [part of manifestation](#).

Collection manifestations and constituent items

A collection manifestation is different from other types of manifestations because its collection item is the set of all items that are gathered together as part of the plan for the collection work. The constituent items are independent of one another, which also means that the manifestations of the constituent items are also independent of one another. It follows that the manifestations of the constituent items gathered in a collection do not have logical whole-part relationships with the collection manifestation.

A collection manifestation may be related to a constituent item by using Manifestation: [holding](#). An item that is a constituent item may be related to a collection manifestation using Item: [holding of](#).

Locations of collection manifestations and items

Collection manifestations and their related items are stored in places. These places may be coarsely or granularly defined. For example, a place could be a campus of an institution with multiple buildings or as specific as a shelf location. Users require this information in order to access collections.

A collection manifestation may be related to a place by using Manifestation: [location of collection](#). An item that is a constituent part of a collection manifestation may also be related to a place using Item: [location of item](#).

Bound with

The “bound with” concept describes a situation where two or more exemplars of independent manifestations whose carrier types are “volume” or “sheet” are physically bound together. Viewed

through the lens of the collections model, the manifestation singleton that is the end product of the “bound with” process is a kind of collection manifestation.

The element Item: [bound with](#) is a shortcut, as it does not identify the collection manifestation that is holding the items.

Collection descriptions

RDA identifies three kinds of collection descriptions:

1. Unitary finding aid. This collection description is a *metadata description set* that describes the collection manifestation as a whole (along with its primary related entities), but does not describe the constituent items held by the collection manifestation.
2. Analytic finding aid. This collection description is a metadata description set that only describes the items held in a collection manifestation.
3. Hierarchic finding aid. This collection description is a metadata description set that has aspects of the unitary and analytic description sets. Use of this kind of collection description is typical of archival collection descriptions that provide descriptions of some of the items held in a collection manifestation and their arrangement into sub-collections.

The collections model developed by Michael Heaney also identified a 4th kind of collection description: an indexing finding aid, which is a collection description that consists of information derived from the individual items held by a collection manifestation. RDA treats this type of finding aid differently and will be discussed in another section.

A collection manifestation may be related to a finding aid by using Manifestation: [finding aid](#) or its element subtypes, Manifestation: [catalogue](#) or Manifestation: [hierarchic finding aid](#). Manifestation: [finding aid](#) may be used to relate any collection manifestation to any of the three types of finding aids. Manifestation: [catalogue](#) may be used to relate a collection manifestation to an analytic finding aid. Manifestation: [hierarchic finding aid](#) may be used to relate a collection manifestation to a hierarchic finding aid.

Indexing finding aid

As mentioned earlier, Heaney identified a 4th kind of finding aid, an indexing finding aid. This is a finding aid that derives its content from the items held by a collection manifestation or from manifestations of metadata description sets. The content of the indexing finding aid is based on the items held in the collection manifestation, but the context is disregarded. Instead some other organizing principle is used.

An indexing finding aid is an index, and the relationship between the collection manifestation and the index that is used is Manifestation: [index](#). The concept of indexing finding aid is defined in the RDA Glossary.

Agents associated with collections and collection descriptions

Collectors

A collection work may be related to the person responsible for the collection using the element Work: [collector agent](#) or its agent element subtypes. The collector is the agent responsible for the plan, the collection work, whose result was the collection manifestation.

Agents responsible for finding aids

The element Work: [compiler agent](#) or its agent element subtypes may be used to relate a description of a collection to the agent responsible for the description. The narrower element Work: [collection registrar agent](#) or its agent element subtypes may be used to relate an analytic finding aid to an agent responsible for it.