Registry of Digital Masters
Standardized Terminology for Access Restriction
Rev. March 23, 2007

The Registry of Digital Masters includes records for digital materials that a participant is committed to preserve, whether or not access copies of those materials are available to the public. However, registry records should carry clear, machine-identifiable indications of whether access is open to the public or restricted, whether restricted to a limited user group, for a period of time, or indefinitely. Such indications help users of the registry to select subsets of records needed for various systems and services. For example, only records describing freely available resources may be in scope for a given service. The service's harvester needs an unambiguous marker of open access.

Subfield $f in MARC field 506 (Restrictions on Access Note) has been defined for standardized terminology for access restriction. Supply the source of the controlled term in the $2. Full descriptions of the nature of any access restrictions can be supplied in the 506 $a. In addition, for the purposes of the Registry of Digital Masters, access characteristics of a resource should be categorized into one of five basic cases, defined below:

Unrestricted online access

A use copy of the resource is freely and openly accessible online to anyone.

Example:

506 0 _ $f Unrestricted online access $2 star
506 0 _ $a No restrictions on access copy. $f Unrestricted online access $2 star
506 0 _ $3 1868-1923 $a Publicly accessible. $f Unrestricted online access $2 star

Online access with authorization

Access is available only to authorized users. Access may be based on factors such as a user's location or affiliation, or may require payment.

Example:

506 1 _ $3 Use copy $a Access available to account holders only. $f Online access with authorization $2 star

Preview only

The user's ability to view or interact with the resource is significantly limited, often due to copyright restrictions. For example, a user may be able to search a text and view a few sentences (such as snippets) or pages where the terms occur, but not the entire resource or all the relevant portions of the resource.

Example:

506 1 _ $3 Use copy $a In copyright material. Searches will return text snippets only. $f Preview only $2 star

No online access

Used when the digital resource is not available to the public online via open access, access with authorization, or preview only access.

Examples:

506 1 _ $a Closed until January 1, 2068. $f No online access $2 star
506 1 _ $3 Master copy $f No online access $2 star

Restrictions unspecified

Access restrictions are not known, are subject to change, differ within the resource, and/or are not provided. If a link is provided, users following the link may or may not be restricted from accessing some or all of the content.

Examples:

506 _ _ $f Restrictions unspecified $2 star
506 _ _ $a Access to some volumes may be restricted. $f Restrictions unspecified $2 star

Registry records should carry one of these exact phrases in the 506 $f, along with a "$2 star" to indicate that the terms were taken from the Registry of Digital Masters access restriction categories.

The first indicator (Restrictions) should be used as appropriate in conjunction with $f values as follows:

506 $f	506 First Indicator	Definition
Unrestricted online access	0	No restrictions
Online access with authorization	1	Restrictions apply
Preview only	1	Restrictions apply
No online access	1	Restrictions apply
Restrictions unspecified	blank	No information provided