

DDEX Guidance on Metadata in Multiple Languages and Non-Latin Characters

About DDEX

[DDEX](#) is a standards setting organization focused on the creation of digital value chain standards to make the exchange of data and information across the music industry more efficient. There are currently ten families of DDEX standards, of which the most relevant for record companies are the Electronic Release Notification Message Suite ([ERN](#)) for communication between labels and distributors with DSPs, and the Recording Data and Rights ([RDR](#)) for communication between labels with Music Licensing Companies (MLCs), the collective management organizations for producers of sound recordings.

Metadata in different languages

All DDEX standards support the use of different languages and scripts in free-form string fields through the inclusion of an XML attribute called *LanguageAndScriptCode*. This enables communication of artists names and release/song titles in multiple languages.

<https://kb.ddex.net/implementing-each-standard/best-practices-for-all-ddex-standards/guidance-on-releaseresourcework-metadata/metadata-in-different-languages/>

DDEX uses the lang[-script][-region][-variant] syntax, which enables communication of specific language regions and variants. For example:

```
LanguageAndScriptCode="sr-Cyrl" (Serbian written using the Cyrillic script)
```

```
LanguageAndScriptCode="sr-Latn" (Serbian written using the Latin script)
```

[https://kb.ddex.net/implementing-each-standard/best-practices-for-all-ddex-standards/guidance-on-allowed-value-sets-\(avs,-aka-code-lists\)/common-language-and-script-code-combinations/](https://kb.ddex.net/implementing-each-standard/best-practices-for-all-ddex-standards/guidance-on-allowed-value-sets-(avs,-aka-code-lists)/common-language-and-script-code-combinations/)

Translating and transliterating names

Artist names can be translated or transliterated into several languages. For example: Sergei Rachmaninoff (English), Serguéi Rajmáninov (Spanish) and Сергей Рахманинов (Russian). This can be communicated in ERN as:

```
<PartyName LanguageAndScriptCode="en">  
  <FullName>Sergei Rachmaninoff</FullName>  
</PartyName>
```

```
<PartyName LanguageAndScriptCode="es">  
  <FullName>Serguéi Rajmáninov</FullName>  
</PartyName>
```

```
<PartyName LanguageAndScriptCode="ru" IsInOriginalLanguage="true">  
  <FullName>Сергей Рахманинов</FullName>  
</PartyName>
```

<https://kb.ddex.net/implementing-each-standard/best-practices-for-all-ddex-standards/guidance-on-contributors,-artists-and-writers/translating-and-translitterating-names/>

Translating and transliterating titles

Song titles and release titles can also be translated or transliterated into several languages. For example, the “Phantom of the Opera” might be called “Το Φάντασμα της Όπερας” in Greek, or “شبح الأوبرا” in Arabic. This can be communicated in ERN as:

```
<DisplayTitle LanguageAndScriptCode="en">
  <TitleText>Phantom of the Opera</TitleText>
</DisplayTitle>

<AdditionalTitle LanguageAndScriptCode="gr">
  <TitleText>Το Φάντασμα της Όπερας</TitleText>
</AdditionalTitle>

<AdditionalTitle LanguageAndScriptCode="ar">
  <TitleText>شبح الأوبرا</TitleText>
</AdditionalTitle>
```

<https://kb.ddex.net/implementing-each-standard/best-practices-for-all-ddex-standards/guidance-on-releaseresourcework-metadata/translating-and-transliterating-titles/>

Subtitles in multiple languages

The ERN standard also allows the separation of the “main” title from the “sub title”, to communicate titles and subtitles in multiple languages.

<https://kb.ddex.net/implementing-each-standard/best-practices-for-all-ddex-standards/guidance-on-releaseresourcework-metadata/subtitles-in-multiple-languages/>

Direction of writing

In the western world most languages write Left-to-Right (or LTR). However, a good number of languages/scripts are Right-to-left (or RTL), such as Arabic. The *LanguageAndScriptCode* should be used to determine the writing direction:

```
<Title LanguageAndScriptCode="ar">
  <TitleText>شبح الأوبرا</TitleText>
</Title>
```

<https://kb.ddex.net/implementing-each-standard/best-practices-for-all-ddex-standards/guidance-on-xml-issues/direction-of-writing/>

For more information, contact DDEX: <https://kb.ddex.net/contact-us/>