

Text Options

Purpose:

DDI has a number of standard options for expressing the content of Text. They have been structured to support bundling of language variants of the same content, support a specific structured text options, as well as support dynamic text in question and other displayed text. The decision structure below is intended to assist you in selecting the appropriate text type. The table following that lists the available options for text, recommended cardinality, general usage, and structure notes. SEE ALSO “Standard Properties Available for All Classes” for special purpose items like Name, Display Label, etc.

Complex Data Type									
<i>Characteristics</i>	One Char String	xs:string	External Controlled Vocabulary Entry	Paired External Controlled Vocabulary	Value	International String	Structured String	Typed Descriptive Text	Dynamic Text
<i>Restrict content to a single character</i>	X								
<i>Unlimited characters</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Option to recognize leading and trailing white space</i>					X				X
<i>Support multi-lingual content</i>						X	X	X	X
<i>Support internal structure tags</i>							X	X	X
<i>Support use of dynamic content</i>									X
<i>Supports use of an external controlled vocabulary</i>			X	X				X	
<i>Supports use of two external controlled vocabulary simultaneously</i>				X					

Textual Content

DDI has standard ways to express textual content. There are a number of ComplexDataTypes related to textual content. Only a limited number of these are available for use as a datatype for a property. The table below provides a list of all datatypes related to textual content, their role, and appropriate use.

Data Type	Cardinality	Usage	Structure Notes
DynamicText	0..n A dynamic text must be repeated for each presentation language because conditional content may be in different locations based on the language.	Supports the use of fixed and conditional text in a structured way	Uses an abstract "TextContent" which allows for any combination of "LiteralText" and "ConditionalText" to support the use of injected text in an automated system. For example: What is the name of your [son/daughter]? Where "What is the name of your " is that Literal Text and [son/daughter] would include coding to insert the appropriate term for the conditional text
ExternalControlledVocabularyEntry	No restriction	A string entry that may be part of an external controlled vocabulary which can be specified	Provides xs:string content entry plus, optionally, information on the location and name of the External Controlled Vocabulary.
InternationalString	0..1 Exception: 0..n if there is an intent for the class	Bundles language equivalent content. Use where multiple languages must be supported but	Bundles a set of "String" content each with a language identifier to reflect multi-language equivalent

	to contain multiple instances of the property in a single language.	NOT internal structure (XHTML markup)	text.
OneCharString	No restriction	An xs:string limited to a single character	Use where one character only is allowed.
PairedExternalControlledVocabularyEntry	No restriction	Provides a user specified hierarchy for paired external controlled vocabulary terms	In general DDI supports hierarchical (nested) controlled vocabularies in the common ExternalControlledVocabularyEntry. This structure supports a 2-dimensional where 2 External Controlled Vocabularies can be randomly paired. For example: In Agent Association where a "role" might have a paired value for an "extent" of contribution.
StructuredString	0..1 Exception: 0..n if there is an intent for the class to contain multiple instances of the property in a single language.	Bundles language equivalent content structured text. Use where multiple languages and internal structure (XHTML markup)	Bundles a set of "content" text each with a language identifier to reflect multi-language equivalent text. Content allows for the use of a limited set of xhtml:BlkNoForm.mix such as Header, List, Bold, Paragraph, etc.
TypedDescriptiveText	0..1 Exception: 0..n if the class needs to be	A descriptiveText (StructuredString) with a type property (ExternalControlledVocabularyEntry)	Allows the user to provide a type property to the bundle as a whole. Example: ContentCoverage allows

	repeated for reasons other than language		for typing a general statement of coverage as Purpose, Table Of Contents, List of Variables, etc.
Value	No restriction	A standard xs:string with the property whitespace to support leading or trailing spaces	Allows the user to either preserve or ignore white space in the entry. Example: a Code such as a 1990 U.S. Census Tract which contains both leading zeros and trailing spaces all of which are significant.
xs:string	No restriction	Use only when the content is not intended to be translatable	Example: Postal Code