

EIDR BEST PRACTICE: EPISODIC DISTRIBUTION BUNDLES

This document details the best practice recommendations for obtaining EIDR Content IDs for commercial distribution bundles for the syndication and foreign territory releases of episodic programs.

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1 Overview

Each episode in a series can have any number of creative or technical/language versions represented by EIDR Edits and Manifestations, respectively. All of these are registered with EIDR as descendants of the episode’s abstract Title record following standard EIDR practice.¹

The standard EIDR Series/Season/Episode hierarchical registration structure captures the original episode presentation order and (optional) season groupings. Episodic syndication and foreign territory distribution are based on collections of particular versions of the episodes (Edits or Manifestations, rather than abstract Title records) and may have a different order from the original sequence. These distribution bundles are represented in EIDR using Compilations.

2 Episodic Distribution Bundles

If an EIDR ID is needed for a particular episodic distribution bundle that differs in a material way from the original presentation (the episodes are presented in a different order, their grouping spans or splits the original seasons, they have territory-specific standards and practices edits, they have been edited for time to allow for more commercials, they have different language tracks, etc.), register the episode Edits and

¹ See *EIDR Best Practices Guide* Sections 3.4 Creating an Edit and 3.5 Creating Manifestations and *How to Use EIDR to Identify Versions for Distribution Purposes: Edits, Languages, and Regional Releases*.

Manifestations following standard EIDR practice, as noted above, then group them using an EIDR Compilation.²

NOTE: If only the numbering format or presentation sequence is different, and the distribution bundle does not reference a specific Edit or Manifestation of each episode, then add an Alternate Number to each abstract episode Title record with a Domain to identify the source/purpose of the alternative number format or sequence.

2.1 Distribution Seasons

- Create the necessary Edits (for creative versions) or Manifestations (for language versions) as descendent records of the original abstract Episode Title records.
- Create an EIDR Compilation with Compilation Class = “Season” to represent the distribution bundle.
 - Give it a descriptive name, such as ““Friends” Season 1 for German Distribution.”
- List all the included Edit or Manifestation records as Entries of the Compilation.
 - Set the Entry Display Name to the title by which the episode will be known in this distribution bundle (this may be the same as the episode’s original title).
 - Set the Entry Number to the intended presentation sequence.
 - Set the Entry Class = “Episode.”

NOTE: A particular Compilation can contain Edits or Manifestations, but not a mix of both. If the Compilation will contain Edits, set the Structural Type = “Performance.” If the Compilation will contain Manifestations, set the Structural Type = “Digital.”

2.2 Distribution Series

If a series will be distributed as a set of distribution bundles, echoing traditional Series/Season groupings, the individual Season distribution bundles can be grouped using a Series Compilation.

- Create the necessary Season Compilations as noted above.
- Create an EIDR Compilation with Compilation Class = “Series” to represent the collection of distribution bundles.
 - Set the Structural Type = the Structural Type of the included Season Compilations.

² See also *EIDR Best Practice: Digital Packages*.

- Give the Series Compilation a descriptive name, such as ““Friends” for German Distribution.”
- List all the associated Season Compilations as Entries of the Series Compilation.
 - Give each Entry as descriptive Display Name.
 - Set the Entry Number to the intended Season sequence.
 - Set the Entry Class = “Season.”

3 Re-Cut Miniseries

Occasionally, the episodes of a series are completely re-cut so that the same story arc is told over a different number of episodes. Unlike traditional Edits, these re-cut episodes do not have a single abstract Title or Edit as their parent. Instead, they contain material that spans multiple episodes in the original presentation sequence.

For example, a miniseries that was originally presented in installments over 7 nights may also have versions that tell the same story over 5 nights, 3 nights, and 1 night (the latter being the “movie” version of the miniseries). These re-cut episodes are registered in EIDR as new abstract Title records, with their own tree of derived Edit and Manifestation child records. Since one would never follow Episode 1 of the 7-night version with Episode 2 of the 3-night version, these re-cut episodes must be separated into their own groupings with their own sequence numbers. In EIDR, these are Recut Seasons of the original abstract Series.

- Register the Series with Series Class = “Mini-series.”
- Create a Season with Season Class = “Main” to contain the abstract Title records for the original episodes.
 - Give the Season a descriptive name such as “Original Version” or “7-Night Version.”
- Create a separate Season with Season Class = “Recut” to contain the abstract Title records for each of the re-cut versions.
 - Give each Season a descriptive name such as “5-Night Version” or “1-Night Movie Version.”
 - Register the episodes under their respective Recut Season.
 - If there is a 1-night version, give that Episode an Episode Class = “Standalone.” This will facilitate de-duplication, making it easier to catch attempts to register the 1-night version as an independent Movie record.

NOTE: If a distribution bundle includes specific Edits language versions (Manifestations), etc. of the episodes of a RecutSeason, follow the standard practices

outlined above for Episodic Distribution Bundles. Since most miniseries have a single broadcast season (with sequels appearing as separate miniseries, rather than follow-on seasons of the original miniseries), use Compilation Class = “Series” and Entry Class = “Episode” rather than creating separate Series and Season Compilations.