

## Content Types¶

In Drupal, Nodes come in different subtypes called [Content Types](#). These let you define a type of content ("Article" and "Basic Page" are Drupal defaults and "Repository Item" is an Islandora specific example), the set of metadata fields that are attached to that content, and how those fields can be edited and displayed. Each content type is essentially a metadata profile that can be used for a piece of web content, or to describe a digital resource. You can create your own content types for your Islandora project or use a pre-defined one like Repository Item from the Islandora Starter Site. We will go over the metadata specific aspects of Content Types below, but see [our tutorial for a fuller walk-through of creating a content type](#).

Not all content types in your Drupal site need be [Islandora Resource Nodes](#). Making a content type a Resource Node will associate Islandora specific behaviours (such as syncing to Fedora or causing derivatives to be generated) with it. The decision to make a content an Islandora resource node is left to the discretion of the site manager. In Islandora, a "resource node" is usually considered a descriptive record for "a thing", and is conceptually similar to an "Islandora Object" in 7.x, i.e. a "Fedora Object" in Fedora 3.x and below. Read more on configuring a content type to be treated as a Resource Node.

## Fields¶

The administrator will define the fields that are associated with a specific content type . The same fields can be applied to different content type , but the field display and editing configurations are unique to each content type. The names and definitions of these fields are specific to Drupal and do not have to correspond to an outside metadata schema. You will give each field a Label, Machine Name, and a specific [Field Type](#), like Text, Integer, EDTF, or Entity Reference (see below). Specific to the Field Type you will then define the maximum length of the field, the number of values it can contain, and what taxonomies it might link to.

Fields can be added under **Administration >> Structure >> Content types >> Your Content Type's Name >> Manage fields** (/admin/structure/types/your\_type/fields). This tab will list all Fields, their Label, Machine Name, Field Type, and give you the option to make what edits to the definition of that field that you can.

Certain decisions must be made when fields are created, and before any content is added, because they can not be changed later. Field Type can not be changed, so you wouldn't be able to change a text field to a taxonomy field after creation. The field's machine name also can't be changed. The number of values allowed in a field or its maximum length or type of item to reference (in the case of Entity reference fields) can not be changed after content has been added. You can, however, always add new fields to a content type, even after content has been added.

7.x Migration Note: What About My MODS XML?

Even when using the Islandora Starter Site, there is no "official" metadata schema in Islandora. Where Islandora 7.x used MODS, and took advantage of its hierarchical/extensible structure, Drupal Fields are a flat structure working with distinct, individual elements. You can base your fields on those in MODS, or any other schema, but that structure is up to you. The Metadata Interest Group has developed a sample [MODS-Drupal-RDF mapping](#), which provides a structure upon

which you can build your Drupal fields. It is used by the Repository Item content type in the Islandora Starter Site.

you cannot change the Content Type of a node

Once a node is created, its content type cannot be changed. Just as you are unable to change many aspects of a Field once it has been created, once a node has been created it is now permanently of that content type and the fields associated with it. At that point your only option would be to create a new node of the intended content type, map the field values (programmatically or by copy-paste), and update any media or children that refer to the old node to refer to the new one.

The Islandora Starter Site provides a **Repository Item** content type that can be used as a structure to build your collection around, or it can be used as a sample to see how fields in content types work. It pre-defines fields, including **Alternative Title** and **Date Issued** that could be of use in many digital repositories. The full list of fields and their field types can be seen in the screenshot below.

## Manage fields ☆

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LABEL	MACHINE NAME	FIELD TYPE	OPERATIONS
Access Control	field_access_terms	Entity reference	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
Alternative Title	field_alternative_title	Text (plain)	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
Coordinates	field_coordinates	Geolocation	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
Date	field_edtf_date	EDTF	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
Date Created	field_edtf_date_created	EDTF	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
Date Issued	field_edtf_date_issued	EDTF	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
Description	field_description	Text (plain, long)	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
Dewey Classification	field_dewey_classification	Text (plain)	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
Display hints	field_display_hints	Entity reference	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
Edition	field_edition	Text (plain)	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
Extent	field_extent	Text (plain)	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
Form	field_form	Entity reference	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
Genre	field_genre	Entity reference	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
Geographic Subject	field_geographic_subject	Entity reference	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
Identifier	field_identifier	Text (plain)	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
ISBN	field_isbn	Text (plain)	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
Language	field_language	Entity reference	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼
Library of Congress Classification	field_lcc_classification	Text (plain)	<a href="#">Edit</a> ▼