

Uncertain dates

Schema: EAC-CPF 2.0

Context: Encoding uncertain dates in `<date>`, `<toDate>`, `<fromDate>`

Description: The attributes `@certainty`, `@notBefore` and `@notAfter` can be used with the `<date>`, `<toDate>`, `<fromDate>` elements to express the level of certainty of a particular date. `@notBefore` and `@notAfter` can be used to indicate the earliest and latest possible dates that an uncertain date might fall between. `@certainty` can be used to encode a term such as approximate, circa, or uncertain to indicate the level of certainty of the date provided. The `@calendar` and `@era` attributes are also available to provide additional information about a date.

EAC-CPF will also enable the use of the Extended Date/Time Format (EDTF), which has been included in the latest version of the ISO 8601 standard. This allows for the encoding of dates as 'uncertain' (?), 'approximate' (~), and 'uncertain and approximate' (%) within the machine-processable date in the `@standardDate` attribute for `<date>`, `<fromDate>` and `<toDate>`.

Example

```
<dateRange>
  <fromDate notBefore="1971" notAfter="1975">around 1973</fromDate>
  <toDate standardDate="1992">1992</toDate>
</dateRange>
```

```
<date certainty="uncertain" standardDate="1968?">circa 1968</date>
```

```
<date notBefore="1701">not before the 18th century</date>
```

```
<dateRange>
  <fromDate notBefore="1720">not before the 1720s</fromDate>
  <toDate notAfter="1759">not after the 1750s</toDate>
</dateRange>
```

```
<dateRange>
  <fromDate calendar="gregorian" certainty="approximate" era="ce"
standardDate="1950">1950</fromDate>
  <toDate calendar="gregorian" certainty="approximate" era="ce"
standardDate="2000">2000</toDate>
</dateRange>
```

