-----Original Message-----  
From: INNOPAC [mailto:innopac-bounces@innovativeusers.org] On Behalf Of Jackson, Richard  
Sent: Monday, July 08, 2013 9:50 AM  
To: IUG INNOPAC List  
Subject: [IUG] Print templates: changing the format of due dates

Following my presentation on print templates at IUG last April, someone asked me why you can't change the format of a due date on a circulation notice that same way that you can change it for today's date printed at the top. I didn't know the answer. This certainly seemed like something we ought to be able to do, so when someone else asked me the same question recently, I looked into it.

With a Text Field containing today's date [new java.util.Date()], you can right-click, select Field pattern, and choose any of several patterns that will print the date as, for example, "July 08, 2013", "Monday 08 July 2013", etc. Unfortunately, this doesn't work with a Text Field containing $F{Item\_Due\_Date}. This is because $F{Item\_Due\_Date} is a string field, and date patterns will only work with date fields.

However, I believe I have found a solution. In iReport, open the Text Field Expression editor for the due date field. Change the expression from "$F{Item\_Due\_Date}" to the following:

new SimpleDateFormat("EEEEE dd MMMMM yyyy").format(new SimpleDateFormat("mm-dd-yy").parse($F{Item\_Due\_Date}))

The expression class should remain java.lang.String. Don't try to set the Pattern property, as the pattern is already built into the expression. In the above example, the pattern "EEEEE dd MMMMM yyyy" will cause the date to print as "Monday 08 July 2013". Other possibilities:

MMMM dd, yyyy ("July 08, 2013")

M/d/yyyy ("7/8/2013")

dd-MMM-yyyy ("08-Jul-2013")

etc.

For more information on the characters used to set date and time patterns, see the table near the top of <http://docs.oracle.com/javase/1.5.0/docs/api/java/text/SimpleDateFormat.html>.

I'm using iReport 4.0.2 by the way. I don't know if this will work with 1.3.3.

Richard

Richard V. Jackson

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**From:** Jackson, Richard [mailto:rjackson@huntington.org]   
**Sent:** Friday, July 05, 2013 4:18 PM  
**To:** Zuniga, Victor  
**Subject:** RE: Print Templates Question

Victor,

This morning I finally had some time to look at your problem.  I’m happy to report that I think I have found a solution.

In iReport, click on the Text Field that contains the due date and open the Text Field Expression editor.  It probably contains just the field name:

$F{Item\_Due\_Date}

Change the expression to this:

new SimpleDateFormat("EEEEE dd MMMMM yyyy").format(new SimpleDateFormat("mm-dd-yy").parse($F{Item\_Due\_Date}))

Now if the $F{Item\_Due\_Date} field contains “07-31-13”, the expression will convert it to “Wednesday 31 July 2013”.  You don’t need to use the Field Pattern property; the pattern is built into the expression in the argument following the first “SimpleDateFormat”.  If you’ve already set a pattern, you probably should delete it.

Note that you can change the pattern to anything you want.  For example, “SimpleDateFormat("EEE, MMM dd, yyyy")” will print the date as “Wed, Jul 31, 2013”.  For more on the characters used to set date and time patterns, see the table near the top of <http://docs.oracle.com/javase/1.5.0/docs/api/java/text/SimpleDateFormat.html>.

I’m glad you asked me this.  I think I mentioned that someone else asked me this question at IUG.  Now that I’ve figured it out, I will post something to the IUG List sometime next week.

Richard

**From:** Zuniga, Victor [<mailto:VZuniga@poudrelibraries.org>]   
**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2013 3:21 PM  
**To:** Jackson, Richard  
**Subject:** Print Templates Question

Hi Richard,

I have a question I am hoping you can help me with. We are in the process to implement the due date slip on the Express Lane product via email. I am trying to convert the item due date ($F{Item\_Due\_Date}) into the following format: “Wednesday 01 June 2013” through the Field pattern (Right click on the selected data field and then select “Field Pattern”) but it’s not doing the conversion as expected.

I tried doing some formatting by editing expressions which it validates within ireport but it prevents the template from previewing and subsequently printing the slip.

Have you encountered this issue? If so, any pointers you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks in advance,

Victor

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