



# poster 1—**order and uniform**

There are many formats by which date and time information is represented. Format **order** concerns the arrangement of calendar or clock units. Gregorian calendar dates are commonly arranged in the following format orders:

**Interform**—a format order designating the expression of date and/or time units from largest to smallest; e.g., ‘yyyyy-mm-dd’. a conventional style of expression in China. Also used conventionally worldwide among information technology communities. accommodates practicable interchange of date and time information. Read more in ISO 8601 (<http://www.iso.ch>) and AAT ICAS (<http://www.aatideas.org>).

**Continental**—a format order designating the expression of date units from smallest to largest; e.g., ‘dd-month-yyyy’. a conventional style of expression in Europe. Also used in Americas among a number of scientific or professional communities.

**Customary**—a different format order that is derived from a conventional use or practice; e.g., ‘month-dd-yyyy’. a conventional style of expression in the United States.

Format **uniform** concerns the particular expression of calendar or clock units: the manner in which a unit is expressed concerning an alphabetic, numeric, or graphic scheme; the manner in which a unit expression is expanded or contracted; or the style or design of a unit expression.

**arabic number representation** (0, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, etc.) of unitforms may concern:  
number of decimal places to be represented ‘01’ or ‘1’; or ‘05’ or ‘2005’.  
range of numbers for a clock unit ‘00–23’ or ‘12–11’, etc.  
range of numbers for day-of-month, month-of-year, etc.

**roman numeral representation** (i, ii, iii, iv, v, etc.) of unitforms may concern:  
customary expression of hours on a clock dial.  
customary expression of years in an era.  
distinguishing expression from arabic expressions.  
expression with upper- or lower-case characters.

**alphabetic representation** (a, b, c, etc.) of unitforms may concern:  
expression with upper, lower, or mixed-case characters ‘January’ or ‘JAN’.  
expression with long or short forms ‘January’ or ‘Jan’.  
expression of time meridian or year epoch ‘am/pm’ or ‘AD’.

**graphic representation** of unitforms may concern:  
expression of language or locale via national flag graphics.  
expression of day or night via sun or moon graphics.  
expression of day-schedule information.

**style or design representation** of unitforms may concern:  
use of tab-space, size, color, font, bold, italic  
use of character delimiters such as hyphens, commas, colons, etc.

In natural language contexts (everyday life), date and time information is commonly interchanged from one format (or form) to another. Sources of interchange include:

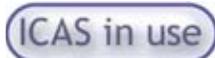
#### contextual focus

- what weekday is January 1st?
- what day-of-month is the first Wednesday?
- does this ‘05’ refer to ‘1905’ or ‘2005’? (a Y2K issue)
- if information is provided in the form of a web graphic, is there an accommodation for browsers that do not display graphics?  
(Read more in W3C WAI at <http://www.w3.org/TR/WAI-WEBCONTENT>).

formal and informal conventions, styles, or practices  
(language, locale, time zone, organization, etc.)

mode of communication  
(face-to-face, writing, telephone, etc.)

technological interface  
(numeric telephone keypad, computer keyboard, etc.)



ICAS in use conformance per the <http://www.aatideas.org/now/icas.html> now ICAS page.

**[www.aatideas.org](http://www.aatideas.org)**