

The MQM-Full Master File Instructions

Version March 27, 2024

Rows

The MQM-Full master Excel file contains the complete specification of the MQM Error Typology. The rows in the chart represent the seven top-level error dimensions, with their various error subtypes displayed below them in the spreadsheet.

Error Type Name	Error Type Description	Error Type Examples	Error Type Notes	Error Type ID	Error Type Parent
Terminology	Errors arising when a term does not conform to normative subject field or organizational terminology standards or when a term in the target content is not the correct, normative equivalent of the corresponding term in the source content.			terminology	
Inconsistent with terminology resource	Use of a term that differs from term usage required by a specified termbase or other resource.	1) A termbase specifies that the term 'USB memory stick' should be used, but the text uses 'USB flash drive'. 2) A French text translates English 'e-mail' as 'e-mail' but terminology guidelines mandated that 'courriel' be used. 3) The English musicological term 'dog' is translated (literally) into German as 'Hund' instead of as 'Schnarre', as specified in a terminology database.	<i>Discussion</i> —In some languages and for some text types and subject fields, terminological variety is acceptable and even desirable, but this must be clarified in job specifications.	termbase	terminology
Organization terminology	Error that violates company/organization-specific terminology guidelines as specified in a terminology resource.	Company-specific terminology guidelines specify that a product be called the "Acme Turbo2000™", but the text calls it the "Acme Turbo" or the "Turbo200".		terminology-company	termbase
Third-party terminology	Error that violates terminology guidelines as specified in a terminology resource from a third-party.	Specifications for translation of a software application specify that UI terms be translated according to the public glossaries provided by the developers of the platforms upon which it will be deployed, but certain terms are not translated consistently with these specifications.	<i>Discussion</i> —Typical third-party resources might include glossaries published by professional organizations or by major companies in a field.	terminology-third-party	termbase

Figure 1: Top rows, MQM Error Typology

The rows display in color reflecting their position in the hierarchy of the MQM Typology. Figure 2 provides a color chart explaining the color coding. In keeping with the chart, the seven top level dimensions appear in gold, with the 2nd level, MQM-Core error subtypes in beige. Yellow rows are children of items shown in beige, and pale blue, children of sub-level 3, as shown in Figure 2.

Some Level 2 items are directly dependent on top-level dimensions, but they are not themselves members of the Core. These items appear in tangerine, with their children displayed in pale green. (Indentation in the coding chart is for illustration purposes. Rows are not actually indented in the Excel file.)

Color Coding					
1	Top level dimension, Level 1, Core				
2	Error type, sub-level 2, Core, Child of Level 1				
3	Error type, sub-level 3, NOT CORE, Child of Level 2				
4	Error type, sub-level 4, NOT CORE, Child of Level 3				
2	Error type, sub-level 2, NOT Core, Child of Level 1				
3	Error type, sub-level 3, NOT Core, Child of Level 2, NOT Core				

Figure 2: MQM-Full Color Coding

Column headings

Error Type Name	Error Type Description	Error Type Examples	Error Type Notes	Error Type ID	Error Type Parent
Terminology	Errors arising when a term does not conform to normative subject field or organizational terminology standards or when a term in the target content is not the correct, normative equivalent of the corresponding term in the source content.			terminology	
Inconsistent with terminology resource	Use of a term that differs from term usage required by a specified termbase or other resource.	1) A termbase specifies that the term 'USB memory stick' should be used, but the text uses 'USB flash drive'. 2) A French text translates English 'e-mail' as 'e-mail' but terminology guidelines mandated that 'courriel' be used. 3) The English musical term 'dog' is translated (literally) into German as 'Hund' instead of as 'Schnarre', as specified in a terminology database.	<i>Discussion</i> —In some languages and for some text types and subject fields, terminological variety is acceptable and even desirable, but this must be clarified in job specifications.	termbase	terminology

Figure 3: Column headings

The column headings list:

- Error Type Name
- Error Type Description: a definition or explanation of the error type
- Error Type Examples: Illustrative instances of each error type
- Error Type Notes: ASTM-style *Discussion* notes further explaining the use of the error type

Programming elements include:

- Error Type ID: A historical reference to original DFKI/MQM Error Type Names, which may be needed for some applications involving older applications or algorithms
- Error Type Parent: Visible information in the table that is useful in some calculations or algorithms

The MQM-Full master Excel file contains the complete specification of the MQM Error Typology. The rows in the chart represent the seven top-level error dimensions, with their various sub-level error subtypes displayed below them in the spreadsheet.

- The rows display in color reflecting their position in the hierarchy of the MQM Typology.

- The color chart above explains the color coding. In the chart, the seven top level dimensions appear in gold (Level 0), with the MQM-Core error subtypes in beige (Sub-level 1). Levels 2 and 3 are Non-Core.
- Some Level 1 items are directly dependent on top-level dimensions, but they are not themselves members of the Core. These items appear in tangerine, with their children displayed in pale green. (Indentation in the coding chart is for illustration purposes. Rows are not actually indented in the Excel file.)
- Colors are useful for human readers, but the error type level numbers in column E are necessary for programming, and the non-mnemonic alphanumeric persistent identifiers in column F clearly disambiguate reference to core and non-core.