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Subject: How to represent open circulations in railML?

Posted by

on Fri, 17 Nov 2017 15:20:15 GMT

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Dear railML Timetable Community!

When defining an rostering with an open (non-cyclic) circulation of blocks, there are two different possibilities to model them in railML.

Either with an final open circulation Element at the end:

```
<circulations>
  <circulation blockRef="b00380" operatingPeriodRef="op0103" nextBlockRef="b00381"
nextOperatingPeriodRef="op0104"/>
  <circulation blockRef="b00381" operatingPeriodRef="op0104" nextBlockRef="b00382"
nextOperatingPeriodRef="op0105"/>
  <circulation blockRef="b00382" operatingPeriodRef="op0105" nextBlockRef="b00383"
nextOperatingPeriodRef="op0106"/>
  <circulation blockRef="b00383" operatingPeriodRef="op0106" nextBlockRef="b00384"
nextOperatingPeriodRef="op0107"/>
  <circulation blockRef="b00384" operatingPeriodRef="op0107"/>
</circulations>
```

So you can see in the example there is a final circulation with no nextBlockRef and nextOperatingPeriodRef attributes. But in my point of view this last circulation element is redundant and may be left out - like the following example depicts:

```
<circulations>
  <circulation blockRef="b00380" operatingPeriodRef="op0103" nextBlockRef="b00381"
nextOperatingPeriodRef="op0104"/>
  <circulation blockRef="b00381" operatingPeriodRef="op0104" nextBlockRef="b00382"
nextOperatingPeriodRef="op0105"/>
  <circulation blockRef="b00382" operatingPeriodRef="op0105" nextBlockRef="b00383"
nextOperatingPeriodRef="op0106"/>
  <circulation blockRef="b00383" operatingPeriodRef="op0106" nextBlockRef="b00384"
nextOperatingPeriodRef="op0107"/>
</circulations>
```

As well I have read the railML-Wiki entry on circulations

(<http://wiki.railml.org/index.php?title=TT:circulation>). There I found following section on this question:

"There exists a <circulation> element for every block on every operational day. Via the attributes nextBlockRef and nextOperatingperiodRef the blocks are connected to a chain and form a rostering. ..."

I am not quit sure how to interpret this phrase. Is it sufficient to refer the final block and operatingPeriod in an nextBlockRef and nextOperatingPeriodRef attribute, or do I have to add an additional circulation element at the end with a blockRef and operatingPeriodRef pointing to the last block and operatingPeriod?

Best regards,  
Leopold Kühschelm

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