Filling Out the File Area Text Class

The *<File_Area_Text>* is a specific flavor of the more general *<File_Area>* class, designed for pointing to text files (like *ReadMe* files) associated with things like Bundles.

Note that the text file described by this class must have carriage-return/linefeed line delimiters.

<File>

REQUIRED

This class is handled identically in all the *File_Area_** classes.

See document titled: File Area

For a video walkthrough of filling out a basic File Area class watch this video:

> Filling Out the File Area Class Video

To follow along use these XML documents and this FITS file:

> File Area XML

> File Area XML (empty)

<Stream_Text>

REQUIRED

This class provides metadata for the file referenced in the associated *File* class. There must be exactly one instance of this class in a *File_Area_Text*.

<name>

OPTIONAL

The name of the file itself is contained in the *file_name* attribute, which is required. So in general this attribute should only be used to provide something like a human-readable title for the contents of the file.

<local_identifier>

OPTIONAL

Use this if you need to create an identifier for this text data so you can reference it from other places in the label.

<offset>

REQUIRED

This is the offset, in bytes, into the file at which the text begins. This value should pretty much always be zero - talk to your PDS consultant if you have a case where you believe this isn't true. In any event, you must specify "bytes" as the unit for this attribute, thus:

```
<offset unit="byte">0</offset>
```

<object_length>

OPTIONAL

This is the length of the text, in bytes. If the *offset* is zero, this should be the length of the file. You must specify "bytes" as the unit for this attribute, thus:

```
<file_size unit="byte">1234567890</file_size>
```

<parsing_standard_id>

REQUIRED

The value identifies the text standard used in the file. It must be one of these:

*   **7-Bit ASCII Text** if the file contains *only* ASCII characters
*   **UTF-8 Text** if the file contains UTF-8 characters

7-bit ASCII is a strict subset of UTF-8. In either case, avoid non-printing characters other than the line delimiters and the blank characters, especially if your text file depends on a fixed-space font to display correctly.

> **Note:** You should be careful to ensure that your file actually contains only ASCII or UTF-8 characters. This can be a little tricky, especially on certain operating systems still using their own proprietary code pages as defaults for their popular office software. If you don't know for certain that your editor is operating in UTF-8 mode, please check your settings and read the documentation *before* submitting a file with potentially spurious characters in it. This is *really* annoying to chase down and correct after the fact.

<description>

OPTIONAL

This attribute provides a place for free-format text comments on the text file, if any.

<record_delimiter>

REQUIRED

This must have the value **Carriage-Return Line-Feed**. The corresponding text must also have carriage-return/linefeed delimited lines.