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| Character | Meaning in XDI |
| = | An identifier owned by a natural person |
| @ | An identifier owned by a group or organization or other legal entity |
| \* | An identifier owned by a thing |
|  |  |
| + | An identifier for a concept  (can be used as an entity or attribute or qualifier or relation) |
| $ | An identifier for a concept  (same as +, but defined by the XDI TC) |
|  |  |
| & | A value, or the literal arc (always go together) |
|  |  |
| [ ] | Identifies a collection of entities or attributes |
| < > | Identifies an attribute |
|  |  |
| ! | Unordered member of a collection |
| # | Ordered member of a collection |
|  |  |
| ( ) | Roots |
| { } | Variables |
| | | | Definitions |