

5JSC/AACR3/I/Chair follow-up/7
11 April 2005

To: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR

From: Sally Strutt, Chair, JSC

Subject: AACR3 - Part I - Review by other rule makers of December 2004 Draft

These are comments on the draft Part I of AACR3 received from Elizabeth Mangan on behalf of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Committee for Cartographic Materials.

To: Sally Strutt, Chair, JSC

From: Anglo-American Cataloguing Committee for Cartographic Materials

Subject: Cartographic materials and AACR3 Part I

Introduction. The modification of the definition of specific material designation eliminating the concept of content will have a tremendous impact on the way that cartographic materials are described and the resulting emphasis on the physical carrier in area 5 creates a confusing technical description for the users of the descriptions. The proposed changes for area 5 will include considerable additional work for cartographic materials catalogers because they will be required to, almost always, measure and record the dimensions of the sheet(s) as well as the map(s).

History. Following the original publication of AACR2 in 1978, under the leadership of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries, the Anglo American Cataloguing Committee for Cartographic Materials (AACCCM) was formed to unite this cataloguing committee, to ensure the applicability of these rules to cartographic materials, and to produce an interpretative manual to promote consistent application of the rules by elucidating and, where necessary, amplifying the rules. The AACCCM has representation from the national libraries and map-related organizations of the same countries as the JSC with the addition of New Zealand.

Through the years the AACCCM representatives have worked within their individual country's JSC constituent representative(s) to modify the rules so as to accurately reflect the cataloging practices for cartographic materials and to clarify the cartographic terminology used in the rules. These changes were codified in the 2002 revision to AACR2 in the extensive revision of chapter 3.

Dilemma.

- 1) Ever since the beginning of sheet map cataloging, following World War II, the focus for the description, areas 1-6, has been one or more primary maps, etc.^{*}, (excluding ancillary maps, etc., insets, text, illustrations, etc.) on the physical carrier. Changing the emphasis of area 5 to the physical carrier will create inconsistency between areas 1-4 and area 5 or will require a complete transformation in how areas 1-4 are applied to cartographic materials since everything on the sheet(s) rather than the cartographic content, as prescribed by ISBD(CM), would be included. Changing the focus from the primary map(s) to everything on the physical carrier, will require area 3 to also reflect the scale and coordinates for each cartographic element or, more probably, the use of "scales differ" as the scale statement without coordinates for most resources. Not describing the cartographic content will be a great disservice to the users of cartographic materials.
- 2) Changing the emphasis to the physical carrier in area 5 will require catalogers to take the time to measure and record the dimensions of the sheet(s) in addition to

^{*} Diagram, map, profile, remote-sensing image, section, view.

the dimensions of the map(s), etc. While this may seem like a minor increase in the time required to catalog a cartographic item, it will definitely impact the productivity of cartographic materials catalogers.

- 3) Currently the dimensions of the cartographic content precede the dimensions of the carrier, when given. Changing the emphasis of area 5 to the physical carrier will be confusing to users if the order of the dimensions is not also changed, i.e., carrier and then cartographic content, and both are not always clearly labeled. This will also increase the time to describe a resource.
- 4) While the physical carrier for the majority of sheet maps, etc., is a sheet of paper, many are presented on a variety of materials, such as cloth, vellum, plastic, transparencies, etc., for which the proposed SMD “sheet” is not appropriate and would be misleading to the user. There is no alternative in the rules when the carrier is not a sheet of paper.

Recommendation. Revise the definition of specific material designation and reinstate the current AACR2 chapter 3 specific material designations to area 5 for the various media, thus allowing for the continued emphasis on the cartographic content of the resource and consistency between areas 1-4 and area 5.

Specific material designation. A term indicating a specific type of carrier (e.g., sound disc) or a specific type of content (e.g., view). *See also* General material designation.

Submitted by Elizabeth Mangan, editor, *Cartographic Materials: A Manual of Interpretation for AACR2, 2002 Revision*