

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR

**From:** Canadian Committee on Cataloguing

**Subject:** **Editor's follow-up to constituency responses on focus of the description and sources of information**

The CCC comments primarily address those issues for which feedback has been requested (itemized on p. 7 of 5JSC/AACR3/I/Editor follow-up/1). As the reworked draft of guidelines and instructions on "setting up" the description incorporates the suggestions made by the Library of Congress in its proposal for A0 rules (5JSC/LC/1), we will not be formulating a separate response to 5JSC/LC/1. In general, we feel that the LC proposal is too stripped down and opens the need for rule interpretations. We support, however, some of the wording simplification proposed in the LC response to 5JSC/AACR3/I/Editor follow-up/1.

***Adequacy and clarity of the guidelines for "setting up the description" under 1.2***

- Given that the information found at 1.2.1 is repeated at 1.2.2, albeit from a different perspective, can information about a) what aspect of the resource to emphasize and b) what type of description to provide (comprehensive, analytical, multilevel) be combined?
- There are more headers but fewer specific rule numbers which makes the rules more difficult to reference for training. Suggest, for example, numbering the first set of bullets at 1.2.1 and bulleting i)-v) instead.
- The repetition of "produced and/or disseminated" at each point makes for cumbersome reading; can this be simplified/eliminated? For example,

**1.2.2. Comprehensive, analytical, and multilevel description**

Describe the resource in any of the following ways that are applicable, and appropriate to the purpose of the description:

- **Using a comprehensive description**

Any resource produced and/or disseminated in the following form may be described using a comprehensive description (i.e., one that describes the resource as a whole):

- i) a single physical unit containing one or more discrete units of content
- ii) a set comprising two or more physical units
- iii) a succession of physical units
- iv) two or more physical units that are added to or changed by means of updates, *etc.*

- We note that the use of examples within the text at 1.2.1 is helpful.

***Feasibility of simplifying and “homogenizing” the specifications for preferred and alternative sources set out in the table and footnotes under 2.0.2.2***

We prefer the specifications for preferred and alternative sources set out in the table under 2.0.2.2. Following are suggestions for simplifying and homogenizing the footnotes:

- Footnotes 5, 7, and 11, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence are the same and can be reduced to one footnote.
- Footnotes 5, 7, 11, and 12, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence; and 14 are covered by 2.0.2.1 and can, therefore, be deleted.
- Footnotes 1, 8 and 10 cover the same principle and can be combined into one footnote.

***Placement of instructions on preferred sources of information (at 2.0.2.2 or under 2.1.1.2)***

We prefer 2.0.2.2. Placing the instructions at 2.1.1.2 would imply that the sources of information applied only to the sources of the title proper.

***Changes affecting current practices for bracketing information in the description***

We support the change in practice for bracketing information in the description. However, we do note that there is some confusion (5JSC/AACR3/I/Editor follow-up/1/LC response) in what constitutes the “resource itself,” e.g., Additional comments 12 (p. 2) and 1.2.4. (p. 10).

***Order of preference for sources of information for edition, numbering, publication, distribution, etc., information, and series statement***

We suggest that no order of preference be given and that the wording of the second bullet for numbering, publication, distribution, etc., information, and series statements be the same as that for edition:

If numbering [*place of publication, publisher, etc.*] information does not appear in the source from which the title proper is taken, take it from another source within the resource itself.

**Other comments**

- **1.3:** Instead of “segment,” can we use “element”? For example,
  - c) the purpose of a particular element or specific sub-element within the description.

Follow the guidelines and instructions given in chapters 2-6 for choosing sources of information for particular elements of the description and specific sub-elements within an element.

- **2.0.2:** It is difficult to choose a preferred source of information without knowing what information is required for the identification of a resource. Although a list appears at 2.0.2.5 identifying information to be enclosed in square brackets, a section: Elements

required for identification of a resource (1.0B1) is needed at the beginning of Chapter 2 or a reference to Chapter 1 if that fits in more logically.

- **2.0.2.1:** The form “a source *or sources* of information” appears to add an unnecessary level of complexity at this point in the guidelines. Suggest using only the singular form of “source” where possible or “source(s)”
- **2.0.2.1 “Resource issued as a single unit”, etc.:** For clarity, suggest using captions such as “comprehensive description” and “analytical description”. As an example:

**Comprehensive description:** Choose a source of information identifying the resource as a whole (e.g., a textbook in one volume). If there is no separate source of information identifying the resource as a whole, use the sources of information identifying its individual units of content.

**Analytical description:** Choose a source of information identifying the discrete unit of content within a resource (e.g., one short story in a volume containing three stories).

- **2.0.2.1 “Resource issued in successive units” ii):** Units that are not sequentially numbered have not been addressed. Possible suggestions:
  - ii) a source of information identifying the earliest unit (i.e., the unit with the earliest date of publication, distribution, etc.), if the units are unnumbered or are not sequentially numbered

or alternatively, group all the types together if the result is the same:

- ii) a source of information identifying the earliest unit (i.e., the unit with the earliest date of publication, distribution, etc.) if the units are:
  - a) unnumbered
  - b) not sequentially numbered
  - c) unnumbered and the earliest unit is not available

**2.0.2.2, Printed serials:** Suggest that the preferred source be the title page (cf. 12.0B2) and the analytical title page be the first alternative source in the third column.

**2.0.2.2, Computer tapes, discs, etc.:** Suggest revising this category to: **Direct access digital resources**. Footnote 13 will also need to be revised to reflect this change.

**2.0.2.2, Remote access resources:** Suggest revising this category to: **Remote access digital resources**.

**2.1.0.2:** Is 2.1.0.2 necessary as it appears to be a summary of the subrules that follow? However, if retained, given that there is neither a preferred source nor a preferred order, suggest that it would be clearer for b) and c) to read as follows:

- b) For variant titles, take the information from any source.
- c) For an assigned title (e.g., a key title), take the information from any source.

**2.1.4.2:** Agree with LC proposed wording (cf. our comment at 2.1.0.2).

**2.1.5.2:** Agree with LC proposed wording (cf. our comment at 2.1.0.2).

**2.1.6.2:** Wording could be revised to be compatible with 2.1.4.2 and 2.1.5.2.

**2.1.7.2:** Agree with LC proposed wording (cf. our comment at 2.1.0.2).