

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR
FROM: Alan Danskin, British Library representative to JSC
SUBJECT: Additions to RDA based on MARC 21 elements

General comment

BL welcomes this proposal for ACOC and hopes that similar gap analysis will be carried out in respect to formats other than MARC 21.

263 Projected date of publication

“Projected” is a status for the date of publication. BL is not convinced that a separate element is required. Date of publication is just one element that cannot be authoritatively asserted in advance of publication. The whole description remains provisional (as is recognised by the MARC encoding level) until the resource has been received. BL recommends this element is not included in RDA without a more rigorous analysis of the inclusion of “events”.

507 Scale of graphic content

Scale is an attribute of graphic content and of cartographic material, but scale can also be an attribute of textual material. Scale can be a method of encoding real world information (maps; technical drawings). or an attribute of reproduction which affects use (or usefulness) of the resource. BL recommends that a general instruction relating to scale be included at a high level in RDA, to be supplemented by more specific instructions where necessary. There has not been time to prepare a more detailed recommendation of how this might be achieved.

518 Date / time & place of a specific event

Recommendation 1

BL endorses recommendation 1.

Recommendation 2

BL endorses the recommendation that JSC discuss the question of objects, but is concerned that RDA should not seek to cover specific aspects of materials for which content standards already exist.

524 Preferred citation of described materials note

BL is not convinced that this element is required. While it may be argued that the note is useful for the IDENTIFY task, it appears more relevant to the OBTAIN task. The revised scope of the element diminishes the value of the information for this purpose. If the element were to be adopted it should be with the proviso that the authority for the citation is also recorded.