

To: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR

From: Deirdre Kiorgaard, ACOC representative to JSC

Subject: **Rule revision proposals relating to technical description of digital media**

General comments

ACOC has found it difficult to comment on the specifics of the revision proposals, given that discussions on *5JSC/RDA/Part I/Chapter 3* are not yet complete, and discussions on *5JSC/RDA/Part A/Categorization* have not yet begun. Therefore our comments have been limited to the summary of recommendations.

As noted in ACOC's responses to other proposals which affect Chapter 3, ACOC requests that the JSC to release a draft of the whole of Chapter 3 for constituency review to enable proper evaluation of what is proposed.

ACOC is in general agreement with recording the format & duration of all types of resources, and the file size of digital media. We note ALA's comments that these attributes could be treated as separate elements, but support their treatment as sub elements of the extent.

Comments on the summary of recommendations

1. Formalize "File Format" as a data element within the technical description.

ACOC supports the inclusion of a general instruction on recording format which is applicable to a range of types of carrier (i.e. an instruction which is not limited to digital media). The instruction should provide examples which illustrate its broad applicability.

We would encourage JSC to discuss further the appropriate scope and placement of such an instruction: should format be treated at 3.4.0.10 as suggested by ALA, or as either a qualifier to the type of carrier at 3.3, or as a sub-element under the general instruction at 3.4.0.4?

2. Formalize "File Size" as a data element within the technical description.

ACOC notes that 3.4.4.1 in *5JSC/RDA/Part I/Chapter 3* has the same intent as the proposed new instruction at 3.4.0.11. We question the need for the instruction to be given in both places. We agree with ALA that the instructions on duration and file size should be placed together.

3. Apply "Duration" to digital media.

ACOC agrees with ALA that the existing instructions are applicable to digital resources, and that the addition of an example would illustrate this.

4. *Move the recording of disk and tape characteristics from “Other Technical Details” to “Notes on Other Technical Details.”*

ACOC would like JSC to discuss the rationale for the suggested placement of these instructions.

5. *Retain “Digital Representation of Graphic Images” as a separate element.*

ACOC agrees with the retention of this element.

To provide for future flexibility, ACOC would prefer that the lists given in 3.8.0.3 continue to be given as examples, rather than as closed lists. We support the ALA suggestion to replace the word “spatial” with “graphic” in that instruction.

6. *Generalize the instructions for recording “System Requirements.”*

ACOC is supportive of ALA’s recommendation to generalise this instruction, and to make it explicit that there is no need to record requirements which are normal and obvious for the medium.

ACOC notes that LC has also suggested an alternative to this instruction in 5JSC/RDA/Part I /LC response. ACOC would like JSC to discuss the two proposals together, with the aim of providing a less prescriptive instruction.