

To: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR
From: Canadian Committee on Cataloguing
Subject: Rule revision proposals relating to technical description of digital media

CCC has reviewed the rule revision proposals relating to technical description of digital media and offers the following comments:

3.1.4 b): The wording of this section does not make clear that a comprehensive description can be made by combining two different versions of a resource in one bibliographic record. If that is the intent, as is illustrated by the new example, then the instructions should address this directly. A definition of *version* would be helpful (e.g., PDF vs. HTML).

General recommendation on extent (3.4): CCC agrees that these attributes should be treated as sub-elements under extent. In terms of order within the extent, is there a parallel with “illustration”?

3.4.0.10 and 3.4.0.11: We do not feel that it is necessary to specify that file format and file size apply only to digital resources. The general instructions would normally be applied when it is appropriate to the type of resource. Definitions would be helpful.

Additionally, to parallel the level of detail given at the existing 3.4.0.10 (Duration), we suggest that the basic instructions are more appropriate at 3.4.0.10 and 3.4.0.11 as follows:

Record the file format following the number of units, if readily available and considered to be important.

Add the number or approximate number of files and/or records, statements, or bytes in parentheses, if readily available and considered to be important.

We note that there is still some confusion as to when instructions on the use of parentheses is considered a display convention (e.g., number of files at 3.4.4.1), and when it is not (e.g., duration at 3.4.0.12).

3.4.0.12: We agree to the addition of digital resource examples to the instruction on duration.

3.4.4.1 and 3.4.4.2: Delete the second and third bullets and refer to the new 3.4.0.10 and 3.4.0.11 respectively as follows:

Record the file format as instructed in 3.4.0.10.

Record the file format as instructed in 3.4.0.11.

Comments on Examples

Rule number	Comments
General comments	<p>5JSC/ALA/2 contains a number of examples of sound files stored on a CD-ROM that were considered digital media, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 CD-ROM (20 sound files, mp3) 1 CD-ROM (3 sound files, 58 mb) 1 CD-ROM (3 sound files, ca. 20 min. each) 1 CD-ROM (3 sound files, wav, ca. 20 min each) 1 CD-ROM (15 sound files, mp3, 60 min.) <p>Until recently these files could only have been accessed through a computer and it would have made sense to treat them as digital resources. The technology has changed, however, and now recent CD and even DVD players can also play MP3 CDs or WAV CDs. As they become more popular, the chance is that these CDs will be perceived by users more as sound recordings than as digital resources.</p> <p>We would therefore recommend that resources such as MP3 CDs and WAV CDs be treated as audio media and not as digital media. If this approach was taken, the file format could be given as a recording and reproduction characteristic in the technical description (rule 3.6.5.10, Draft of RDA, Part I), e.g. (in ISBD format):</p> <p>1 sound disc : digital, wav ; 12 cm.</p> <p>or, using common terminology:</p> <p>1 MP3 CD : digital, mp3 ; 12 cm.</p> <p>The addition of appropriate examples in chapter 3 of RDA would help clarify the treatment of such resources for cataloguers. In the event that 5JSC/ALA/2 is accepted, some examples would need to be revised, though, as the following comments indicate.</p>
3.4.0.10. File format	<p>Replace the first example:</p> <p>1 CD-ROM (20 sound files, mp3)</p> <p>with an example of a remote access resource, e.g.:</p> <p>20 sound files (mp3)</p>
3.4.0.11. File size	<p>Replace the first example:</p> <p>1 CD-ROM (3 sound files, 58 mb)</p> <p>with an example of a remote access resource, e.g.:</p> <p>3 sound files (58 mb)</p> <p>We also query the mix of having both MB and mb in the examples. Is this intentional? Will this be addressed by the Appendix Group?</p>
3.4.0.12. Duration	Replace the last example:

	<p>1 CD-ROM (3 sound files, ca. 20 min. each)</p> <p>with an example of a remote access resource, e.g.:</p> <p>3 sound files (ca. 20 min. each)</p>
3.4.4.1. Digital files contained on disks, cartridges, etc.	<p>Delete the last 2 examples:</p> <p>1 CD-ROM (3 sound files, wav, ca. 20 min each)</p> <p>1 CD-ROM (15 sound files, mp3, 60 min.)</p>