

To: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR  
From: Jennifer Bowen, ALA representative  
Subject: Change to AACR2 rule 5.5B1 (RDA 3.4.2.2.2) Extent of item for notated music, and Glossary definition of “Score”

At its Midwinter meeting, ALA endorsed the proposal rule revision received from the Music Library Association’s representative to CC:DA given below, and we now request that the JSC discuss it for possible inclusion in the first release of RDA.

Please note that the original proposal from the Music Library Association, as given below, was written to refer to a portion of the text of AACR2 Rule 5.5B1, which now appears as RDA 3.4.2.2.2. The proposed change would simply delete instruction 3.4.2.2.2 in RDA. An additional change is requested to the definition of “score” for the RDA glossary.

***Background:***

Within the Anglo-American cataloguing rule tradition, the rules have always made a distinction in the physical description area between scores and notated music not in score format. In AACR2, the terminology for the latter is “v./p./leaves of music.” ISBD(PM) and AACR simply call for the use of “v./p./leaves” when describing works for a single instrument or voice. While AACR2 adheres to a literal definition of “score” (i.e., notated music for more than one instrument or part with vertical alignment), most musicians refer to all such notated music as “scores.” OCLC and RLIN offer “scores” workforms and search qualifiers that apply to all notated music. Several dictionaries also support “score” as a more generalized term. For example, *Merriam-Webster Online* gives the following as its first definition of musical scores, “The copy of a musical composition in written or printed notation.” *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* has the following under the subheading “music”: “The notation of a musical work.” Although the *New Harvard Dictionary of Music* clearly prefers “score” for use with ensembles, the opening sentence of the definition does not restrict the broader use: “The notation of a work, especially one for ensemble, presented in such a way that simultaneous moments in all voices or parts are aligned vertically.” *Grove Music Online* also gives the narrower definition of score first; however, the second definition reads, “a page, volume, fascicle or other artefact containing a complete copy of a musical work.”

***Rationale:***

Eliminating the use of “v./p./leaves of music” in favor of using “score” for all notated music not in part format (and not in a more specific score format, such as vocal score, miniature score, etc.) is in keeping with the spirit of recent changes to AACR2 – the broader definition of score is a term in common use for our catalogue users. In addition, consistently referring to this type of notated music as “scores” would simplify the cataloguing rules as we move to RDA. We strongly recommend, however, retaining the current distinction between musical parts (not all

instruments/voices represented) and musical scores when describing carriers, as this information is well understood and heavily used.

***Assessment of impact:***

Given all of the changes expected with the publication and implementation of RDA, the impact of this change will be minimal, principally affecting music cataloguers and users interested in notated music. Information about instrumentation will still appear elsewhere in the cataloguing record, and cataloguers may continue to create notes describing unusual musical notation. If the change were implemented as part of the first edition of RDA, the disruption would be minimal. No retrospective conversion of legacy data is expected or necessary. To keep ISBD(PM) aligned with this proposed new practice, section 5.1.2.2 would need to be removed from that document. (ISBD (Consolidated), July 2006 draft, contains this same stipulation in the final paragraph of 5.1.6.1.)

***Proposed revision:***

**5.5B. Extent of item (including specific material designation)**

**5.5B1.** Record the number of physical units of an item by giving the number of scores or parts in arabic numerals and one of the following terms as appropriate:

score  
condensed score  
close score  
miniature score<sup>1</sup>  
piano [violin, etc.] conductor part  
vocal score  
piano score  
chorus score  
part

1 score

1 vocal score

4 parts

For special types of music, use an appropriate specific term (e.g., *choir book*, *table book*).

1 choir book

~~If none of the terms above is appropriate, use *v. of music*, *p. of music*, or *leaves of music*. If a general material designation (see 1.1C1) is used, optionally omit *of music*.~~

~~xx p., 55 p. of music~~

If the item is a manuscript, precede the term by *ms.*

1 ms. score

[footnote:] 1. Use for scores reduced in size and not intended primarily for performance.

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## Glossary

***Current definition:***

**Score.** A series of staves on which all the different instrumental and/or vocal parts of a musical work are written, one under the other in vertical alignment, so that the parts may be read simultaneously. *See also* Chorus score, Close score, Condensed score, Miniature score, Part (Music), Piano [violin, etc.] conductor part, Piano score, Short score, Vocal score.

***Proposed definition:***

**Score.** Graphical, symbolic, or word-based music notation representing all the parts of an ensemble, or all the sounds of a work for solo performer or electronic media, meant to be heard simultaneously. Do not confuse with Part (Music). *See also* Chorus score, Close score, Condensed score, Miniature score, Part (Music), Piano [violin, etc.] conductor part, Piano score, Short score, Vocal score.