TO: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR

FROM: Hugh Taylor, CILIP representative

SUBJECT: IME ICC 5.2.4 Forms of Uniform titles

CILIP feels that this paper has articulated the situation very well. Although in principle in favour of RDA alignment with other standards, in this case it is felt that should the IME ICC principle 5.2.4 be passed as currently worded, CILIP would not favour JSC and the Editor exploring the alignment.

1. The general feeling is that IME ICC approach is wrong and creates as many problems as it appears to solve. If ‘name’ or ‘subject’ were substituted for ‘title’ in the draft IME 5.2.4 text, the proposal would be unworkable.

2. It is important to approach this issue by considering the function of ‘uniform titles’, which are used to both collocate and differentiate resources.

3. RDA states that the title is transcribed from the title page (or equivalent) and other titles (which can include uniform title) are added as access points (see ch.7.1.4.0).

4. Since user search terms cannot be predicted in advance, access points for commonly known titles in more than one language might be required, e.g. in bilingual or trilingual cultures.

5. Cultural issues may also need to be considered, as in recent discussions regarding the Bible.

6. If catalogues are able to switch all headings into [English] from information in ‘data about data’ within a record – perhaps in Part C - then this becomes an encoding issue.