TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
FROM: Barbara B. Tillett, LC Representative  
SUBJECT: Proposed revision of RDA chap. 6, Additional instructions for musical works and expressions  

LC’s response to 5JSC/LC/12/LC follow-up was prepared in collaboration with LC’s music staff. Some of the comments relate to topics that could not be addressed by the May Group due to lack of time (see Background in the LC follow-up document).

Comments on the specific instructions are given in instruction number order. Comments on examples are given in a separate section at the end of this document.

Comments on instructions

6.15, core label: LC recommends deleting the statement here because the identification as “Core” applies at the element level (6.15.2); also, identifying elements as optional is not appropriate.

6.15.1.2.2: LC recommends the revised wording below to be consistent with the general instruction at 6.2.2.2.

Determine the title to be used as the preferred title for a musical work created before 1501 from modern reference sources. If the evidence of modern reference sources is inconclusive, use (in this order of preference):

6.15.1.9e: LC recommends the revised wording below to be consistent with the wording in the first sentence in the paragraph.

If the part is part of a larger part that has a distinctive title, record the title of the larger part preceding the title and/or designation of the smaller part. Omit the designation of the larger part if it is not distinctive. However, if an indistinctive designation of the larger part is required to identify the smaller part, record the designation of the larger part preceding the title and/or designation of the smaller part. Separate the title and/or designation of the larger part from the title and/or designation of the smaller part by a period.
6.15.1.15, caption: LC recommends the revised wording below to be consistent with the captions for 6.15.1.13 and 6.15.1.14.

Works of one type for one specific medium of performance or various media of performance

6.16.0.6.1: LC recommends the revised wording below for clarification.

When recording an individual instrument, use a term in the language preferred by the agency creating the data whenever possible. Use the following list of terms as a guide. When alternatives are given, choose a term best suited to the users and use it consistently when recording medium of performance.

6.16.0.6.5: LC recommends the revised replacement wording below submitted by ACOC in its response to 5JSC/LC/12 (double underlining and strike-out not used).

If a composer wrote works for or including various keyboard stringed instruments such as harpsichord, piano, or clavichord, use the one that predominates in the composer's works in all medium of performance statements for that composer, irrespective of what may be given in the resource or other source.

6.16.0.7.1: LC recommends the following changes:
(1) adding “general” for clarification;
(2) adding “of performance” for consistency;
(3) replacing “given” with “recorded” to clarify the cataloger’s action;
(4) deleting “in the preferred source of information” because the instruction on sources (6.16.0.2) says the medium of performance can be taken from any source; and,
(5) removing “[string, wind, etc.]” because those suggested terms to be used with “ensemble” are redundant with other terms already in the list (“strings,” “winds”).

Record one of the following general terms in the language of the cataloguing agency for a group of instruments with one performer to a part when no more specific medium of performance is recorded given in the preferred source of information.

- woodwinds
- brasses
- winds (for woodwinds and brasses)
- percussion
- plucked instruments
- keyboard instruments
- strings
- instrumental [string, wind, etc.] ensemble
- electronics

6.16.0.12, caption: LC recommends revising the caption as shown below to be consistent with the scope of the instruction.

Accompaniment other than a keyboard stringed instrument for solo songs for songs,
6.16.0.3.2: LC recommends the revised wording below to add missing text.

If, however, two or more works of indeterminate medium of performance by the same composer have the same title, record the number of parts or voices. Use voices in the medium of performance element to designate both vocal and instrumental parts.

6.17.0.3c.1, both footnotes: LC recommends giving the full citations for these two resources (double underlining not used):


6.19.0.4.1: LC agrees with a change recommended by ALA, in its response to 5JSC/LC/12, to add wording for a situation missing in this instruction. Suggested revised wording is given below.

Apply the instructions given below for an arrangement, transcription, etc., of one or more works of one composer (or of parts of one composer's works) or all or parts of a collaborative work that falls into one or more of the following categories:

6.28.1.3.4: LC proposes deleting this instruction. It is covered by the exception in the general instruction 6.27.1.5 (p. 153 in the Oct. 31, 2008 PDF of chapter 6).

6.28.1.2.4: If the adaptation is commonly cited by title, use the preferred title for the adaptation as the preferred access point representing the work.

Peter go ring dem bells
(An arrangement for voice and piano by Florence B. Price of the traditional Negro spiritual)

Comments on examples

6.15.1.4.1: LC suggests using the standard term “Orchestral music” rather than “Orchestra music” as used in AACR2.

6.16.0.12.1: LC recommends adding an example that reflects a modern medium of performance:

synthesizer accompaniment
(Preferred title: Songs)
6.28.1.3.4: LC recommends deleting the word “Negro” in the explanation:

Peter go ring dem bells

(An arrangement for voice and piano by Florence B. Price of the traditional Negro spiritual)