

To: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR
From: Deirdre Kiorgaard, ACOC representative
Subject: RDA: Resource Description and Access Part A – Constituency Review of March 2007 Draft of Chapter 3

PART 1: Responses to issues

ACOC has these comments on the issues identified in the background section of the cover letter.

1. *Punctuation within elements: The constituencies are asked to identify which cases warrant separation into sub-elements.*

Not all members of ACOC are convinced that it is necessary to segment data at such fine levels of granularity. However, if the constituencies wish to proceed along this path, these are our preferences.

(a) Treat as separate element/sub-element:

3.4.0.3b; 3.4.0.3c; 3.4.03d; 3.4.0.7.1; 3.4.0.10.4; 3.4.2.1.2; 3.4.2.1.2b; 3.4.2.2.1; 3.4.3.4.2; 3.4.4.13.2; 3.4.4.13.2; 3.4.4.14.2; 3.4.4.16.1; 3.4.4.17.2; 3.4.4.19.2; 3.4.5.2.1; 3.5.0.4b; 3.5.0.4c; 3.5.0.4i; 3.5.1.3.1; 3.5.1.4.1; 3.5.1.5.1; 3.5.1.6.1; 3.5.2.1.3; 3.5.2.2.1; 3.9.0.4.2.

Note: For situations which include text, e.g. “45 x 80 cm, **folded to** 21x 10 cm,” a way will need to be found to retain the integrity of that information which might otherwise be lost if it were recorded as:

Dimension of map : 45 x 80 cm

Dimension of sheet : 21x 10 cm

(b) Treat within one element:

3.11.0.6.2; 3.14.0.3.2; 3.16.0.3.2; 4.8.0.7.3.

Note: These are significant in terms of useability, but neither piece of information is sufficient on its own for that purpose.

(c) Leave as one element:

3.12.0.5.3

Note: We cannot envisage a situation where the data would need to be segmented.

2. *Use of square brackets: The JSC invites comments on the treatment of the specific instances that occur in this chapter, noting that the significance of square brackets may not be understood by all users.*

ACOC would prefer that the information be conveyed explicitly in preference to the use of square brackets. Unnumbered pages should be described as such, e.g. "93 unnumbered pages."

3. *Examples: The JSC invites comments on the examples provided.*

We appreciate that examples have been included which bring together different aspects of the description. We hope that future drafts for review contain such examples where possible.

4. *Media type, carrier type, and content type: The JSC invites constituency comment on the use of the term "volume."*

Some members of ACOC would prefer the use of the term "book." "Volume" is a fairly obscure term and is not likely to be clearly understood by users. "Volume" could perhaps be used only in cases where "book" is not appropriate, e.g. issues of serials (although "issue" may be a more helpful term in this case).

Not all members of ACOC agree that "book" is a term that denotes mode of issuance. "Monograph" has this connotation.

5. *Recording media type (3.2): If constituencies consider that Media type should not be included as an element in RDA, they are asked to indicate this in their response.*

The terms used to denote media type are too general to be of use in the catalogue. As it is not a required element it is unlikely that many cataloguers will assign them. It seems pointless to include an element that will not be universally assigned.

6. *Treatment of early printed resources: The JSC invites comments on the following revised instructions:*

3.4.4.2 *Unnumbered pages, leaves, or columns*

3.4.4.3 *Change in form of numbering within a sequence*

3.4.4.7 *Complicated or irregular paging*

3.4.4.8 *Leaves or pages of plates*

ACOC has no comments to make.

7. *Treatment of cartographic materials: The JSC seeks specific feedback on any issues related to the treatment of cartographic materials in this draft.*

ACOC has no comments to make.

8. *Specific questions for constituencies: In addition to commenting on the specific issues listed above under "Background", the constituencies are asked to respond to the following questions on specific instructions:*

3.5.0.4 Dimensions of carrier

The instructions for microfiche cassettes at 3.5.0.4.1c.4 are derived from AACR2 rule 11.5D3 for microfiches. AACR2 provides no explicit instructions on recording the dimensions of a

microfiche cassette. Should the instructions for microfiche cassettes reference the dimensions of the fiches *per se* or the dimensions of the cassette?

ACOC response: No comment.

3.5.1.0 Dimensions of maps, etc. - Application

The application of the instructions under 3.5.1 has been limited to the dimensions of maps, etc., on sheets. Is that an appropriate limitation?

ACOC response: Yes, depending on answer to next question.

3.5.1.1 Recording dimensions of maps, etc

The instructions at 3.5.1.1 only allow for the recording of one set of dimensions for a map. Should an additional instruction be given, paralleling the instruction at 3.5.2.1.3? This would allow more than one set of dimensions to be recorded, along with an indication of the area to which each set of dimensions apply.

ACOC response: Yes.

3.5.2.0 Dimensions of still images - Application

The application of the instructions under 3.5.2 has been limited to the dimensions of still images on sheets. Is that an appropriate limitation?

ACOC response: Yes.

3.5.3.3 Details of dimensions

The instruction at 3.5.3.3.2 on length of film or videotape, derived from AACR2 rule 7.7B10, has been modified to specify that the length be given in metres to the nearest tenth of a metre. Is that an appropriate substitution for giving the length in feet?

ACOC response: No comment.

PART 2: Other issues

1. *Extent for online resources*

ACOC seeks clarification of the instructions for recording the number of subunits for online resources that parallel print or graphic counterparts. 3.4.0.7.1e.1 indicates that that the recording of subunits is required, e.g. "1 online resource (68 pages)." However, in 3.4.4.0.3 it is presented as an option.

ACOC believes that the recording of subunits for these types of online resources should be required.

2. *Exceptions*

ACOC believes that the instructions are very complex and will require an experienced cataloguer to interpret them.

Some of this complexity arises from the exceptions to recording extent listed in 3.4.0.3. It is not entirely clear what the instructions are exceptions to. In some cases they are exceptions to recording the number of subunits followed by the number of subunits, and in others, to using one of the terms listed in 3.3.0.2.

Some members of ACOC believe that the exception for text (3.4.0.3.1d) could be brought into line with the general instructions by recording the number of units followed by the number of subunits, e.g. "1 volume [or 1 book] (327 pages)." This statement would be much more readily understood by users, who otherwise have to infer from the fact that a resource has pages that it is a book.

3. Carrier terms

ACOC accepts that in order to make the list of carrier terms fully comprehensive it has to contain terms for obsolete and rarely used material. However, it does create the impression that RDA is closely tied to the description of physical resources, and out-of-date ones at that.

4. Impact on Integrated Library Management Systems

The instructions in the chapter have the potential to have a significant impact on catalogue displays. ACOC encourages JSC to work closely with ILMS vendors to prepare them for the changes that will be needed, and thus ensure that information is presented clearly and unambiguously to catalogue users.