

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR

FROM: Alan Danskin, British Library representative to JSC

SUBJECT: RDA Part A Constituency Review of Chapter 3 Rev. March 2007

Subelements

The constituencies were asked to identify which elements should be separated into sub elements.

Category 1

BL affirms the JSC Decision.

Category 2

There is no strong feeling at the BL that subdivision is essential. The break down by NLA in its response corresponds closely with BL breakdown and we do not regard the differences as significant.

Category 3

There is an argument that only informed users will penetrate this deep into the description and therefore the use of square brackets is perfectly acceptable. The use of square brackets evolved in response to the requirement for economy of space in the context of a catalogue card or guard book entry. While economy of keystrokes is desirable it should not be at the expense of comprehension or usability. The BL would prefer an explicit explanation, e.g [93] pages = 93 unnumbered pages.

3. Abbreviations

The general rubric that abbreviations should be eschewed was adopted as an aid to user comprehension. It is acceptable to make exceptions to this in cases where the abbreviations do not present a barrier to comprehension and where expansion of the abbreviations may prove costly.

Treatment of early printed resources

No comments

3.5.0.4 Dimensions of carrier

Dimensions for both should be given. It should be clear what the dimensions refer to.

3.5.1.0 Dimensions of maps, etc. - Application

No comment.

3.5.1.1 Recording dimensions of maps, etc

BL view is that recording additional sets of dimensions, as per 3.5.2.1.3, would be desirable.

3.5.2.0 Dimensions of still images - Application

No comments

3.5.3.3 Details of dimensions

No comment..

3.12.0.3.1 Recording colour

Yes.