

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

FROM: Alan Danskin, British Library representative to JSC

SUBJECT: Addition of the Copyright holder relationship. Amendments to RDA 21.6.1.1 and Appendix I. BL response.

The British Library thanks ACOC for proposing this new relationship designator.

We agree that there is a use case for such a relationship as this is essential information for digitisation projects.

We do not think that the relationship is only at the manifestation level.

1 Copyright and copyright works.

(1) Copyright is a property right which subsists in accordance with this Part in the following descriptions of work— .

(a) original literary, dramatic, musical or artistic works, .

(b) sound recordings, films [F1 or broadcasts], and .

(c) the typographical arrangement of published editions. .

(2) In this Part “copyright work” means a work of any of those descriptions in which copyright subsists.

[Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988](#)

The UK Intellectual Property Office, offers the following guidance, “Copyright doesn't protect ideas. The work must be fixed (e.g. written or recorded).”

Once the “work” has been fixed or recorded, all subsequent manifestations of the work will be bound by copyright. We interpret this guidance and the provisions of the act to mean that, in FRBR terms, copyright applies to expressions of the work and to its manifestations. We note that rights owners at 1 a) may be different from the rights owners at 1 c)

We therefore believe that an additional relationship designator is also required in Appendix I at I.3.2, as suggested in 6JSC/ACOC/8/ALA Response, and that a new instruction may be required at 20.3.

EURIG also discussed this issue. EURIG acknowledged the significance of copyright information for digitisation projects and therefore strongly supports the addition.

EURIG debated at which levels of the WEMI model the relationship is required, but there was no consensus to limit it to either manifestation or expression.

EURIG also noted that copyright and IPR do not operate consistently around the world and RDA needs the flexibility to reflect this variation.