

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Barbara Tillett, LC Representative
Subject: Proposed revision of RDA instructions on Sources of Information (RDA 2.2.2.1-2.2.2.4)

LC (again) thanks ALA for undertaking the difficult task of revising these instructions—we are well aware that the application of the current instructions has been challenging.

A. Containers in RDA 2.2.2.1 and 2.2.4

RDA 2.2.2.1, fourth paragraph: agree to the ALA rewording.

RDA 2.2.4: While we appreciate the effort to resolve a difficult situation, our reviewers found that the proposed rewording of paragraph a) led to additional confusion. LC suggests a revision to the proposal that relies more heavily on the wording at 2.2.2.1:

a) accompanying material (e.g., a leaflet, an “about” file) that is not treated as part of the resource itself as described in 2.2.2.1.

LC agrees with the proposed change to paragraph c). We also wonder whether the paragraphs are in the correct order now -- we think that a published description of the resource (paragraph c)) may in fact be more authoritative than a container that wasn't issued with the resource (paragraph b)), and ask if other JSC constituencies feel the same.

B. Covers as sources of information

RDA 2.2.2, proposed revision

LC agrees with the addition at paragraph a) of the general instruction and paragraph b) of the exception. We would actually like to extend it to “a cover or jacket issued with the ...” in both places if the JSC is agreeable. We also note that the instructions for Title at 2.3.1.1 contain a “scope instruction” not appropriate for that instruction number because it implies that some things are not ‘in the resource;’ but that conclusion could only really be made in the context of 2.2.2.1. We suggest generalizing the second paragraph of 2.3.1.1 as follows:

More than one title may appear in sources of information (e.g., such as on a title page, title frame; as a caption title, running title; on a cover, spine; on a title bar); on a jacket, sleeve, container, etc.; or in material accompanying the resource.

Clean version:

More than one title may appear in sources of information, such as on a title page, title frame; as a caption title, running title; on a cover, spine; on a title bar; on a jacket, sleeve, container, etc., or in material accompanying the resource.

In addition, LC suggests that a glossary definition be given for “cover” in RDA, as we have received several questions about this. We offer the following:

Cover: The outer protective material attached to a volume, consisting of both sides of the front and back panels and the spine to which they are joined.

C. Priority of sources for moving-image resources (RDA 2.2.2.3) and other resources (RDA 2.2.2.4)

We can appreciate the challenge with re-organizing the statements in these instructions. The revisions proposed, for all intents and purposes, are designed to provide different guidelines for tangible resources and online resources. We agree with this approach, and propose wording below to make the approach clearer. Other than prescribing an order of sources at 2.2.2.4, we don't believe our rewording changes the result of the ALA proposal, just how it is presented.

LC suggested rewording for 2.2.2.3:

2.2.2.3 Resources Consisting of Moving Images

If the resource consists of moving images (e.g., a film reel, a videodisc, a video game, an MPEG video file), use the title frame or frames, or title screen or screens, as the preferred source of information. If the title frames or title screens only list the titles of the individual contents, and another source forming part of the resource bears a formally-presented collective title, choose the first applicable source bearing a formally-presented collective title.

Alternative

Use ~~an eye-readable~~ a label bearing a title that is permanently printed on or affixed to the resource (excluding accompanying textual material or a container) in preference to the title frame or frames, or title screen or screens.

If the resource does not contain a title frame or title screen, follow the guidelines below for tangible or online resources to choose use as the preferred source of information, ~~as applicable~~

Tangible resources: use as the preferred source the first of the following that bears a title:

either

- a) a label bearing a title that is permanently printed on or affixed to the resource, excluding accompanying textual material or a container (e.g., a label on a videodisc)

or

- b) ~~embedded metadata in textual form that contains a title (e.g., metadata embedded in an MPG video file).~~
- b) for a comprehensive description, a container, or accompanying material issued with the resource
- c) an internal source forming part of a tangible digital resource (e.g., a disc menu).

Online resources: use as the preferred source the first of the following that bears a title:

- a) textual content of an online resource
- b) embedded metadata in textual form that contains a title (e.g., metadata embedded in an MPEG video file)

If the resource contains neither a title frame or title screen nor a source of information as listed above for tangible or online resources, ~~falling into category a) or b) above~~, use as the preferred source of information another source forming part of the resource itself, giving preference to sources in which the information is formally presented.

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LC suggested rewording for 2.2.2.4:

2.2.2.4 Other Resources

For a resource other than one covered under [2.2.2.2–2.2.2.3](#), follow the guidelines below for tangible or online resources to choose the preferred source of information. ~~use as the preferred source of information,~~ as applicable

Tangible resources: use as the preferred source the first of the following that bears a title:

either

- a) a textual source on the resource itself (e.g., a slide) or a label bearing a title that is permanently printed on or affixed to the resource, excluding accompanying textual material or a container (e.g., a label on an audio CD, or a model)
- b) an internal source, such as a title screen, whose textual content formally presents the title
- c) for a comprehensive description of a tangible resource, a container or accompanying material issued with the resource

or

Online resources: use as the preferred source the first of the following that bears a title:

- a) textual content of an online resource
- b) embedded metadata in textual form that contains a title (e.g., metadata embedded in an MP3 audio file).

If the resource does not contain a source of information as listed above for tangible or online resources, ~~falling into category a) or b) above~~, use as the preferred source of information another source forming part of the resource itself, giving preference to sources in which the information is formally presented.

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