

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

FROM: Alan Danskin, British Library representative to JSC

SUBJECT: Colour Content (RDA 7.17). BL Response

British Library thanks ALA for these proposed clarifications. We have responded to each recommendation below.

1. Vocabulary vs. instructions. Cataloguers expressed a preference for the structured approach offered by Option 1. We think that as intended audience is cataloguers, this may be the better approach.
2. Vocabulary issues. We agree that a single vocabulary and single set of instructions for recording the colour content of all resources is desirable.
3. Definition of "colour". We support (our) proposed definition, but see note on discussions with CILIP below. We think this is more specific than polychrome or monochrome and has better backwards compatibility.
4. Spelling: colour vs. color. This is a fairly widespread issue in RDA, programme/program; authorised/authorized.
5. Grey scale: we agree with the exception.
6. Tinted and toned: we acknowledge the research that ALA has undertaken on this issue. We believe that the purpose of recording these terms is to inform the user's selection of specific resources, therefore we think that the association with colour content is correct.
7. Sepia. We agree to retention of this term.
8. Order of elements when recording both "colour" and "black and white": our current practice is to record "black and white, and colour", but this is specific to application in MARC 21; we agree that RDA should not specify a particular order.
9. Foreground and background colours. Agree.
10. Hand colouring. Agree.

The CILIP/BL Committee on RDA met on 28th August to discuss the proposals. This proposal provoked (an inconclusive) discussion regarding an alternative model based on monochrome and

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polychrome. In the absence of a proposal based on that approach we accept the current proposal as an enhancement.

EURIG members discussed this issue during the meeting on 19th September. There was general agreement with the provisions. Members expressed reservations about the usefulness of the definition of colour, but were unable to improve upon it.

There was no consensus among members on the choice of options.

A number of members felt that Hand colouring could apply to certain manifestations. EURIG will suggest some examples for consideration by JSC.