

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Bill Leonard, CCC representative

Subject: Instructions for Recording Relationships: discussion paper

CCC in its meeting on September 20, 2013, gave consideration to 6JSC/ALA/Discussion/3 and wishes to provide some general comments and feedback. We encourage further investigation of these questions. In general, we suggest that more investigation is required into whether all four relationship techniques are appropriate for all WEMI entities. Can a structured description be used to link to a work or an expression description? Can an authorized access point be used to link to a manifestation or item description? The answers to these questions could challenge some of the basic assumptions in this paper. From experience in giving RDA training, we recognize that more specific guidance on building structured descriptions would be helpful.

1. Add instructions to chapters 24 to 28

There is a high amount of repetition. It would be preferable to find a less repetitive means of adding these instructions taking advantage of general instructions.

2. Give basic guidance on what is a structured description at 24.4.3

RDA instruction 24.4 on relationship designators applies to all techniques so it is unnecessary to repeat the sentence "Include the specific nature of the relationship by including an appropriate relationship designator (see 24.5)."

Other than that, CCC generally agrees with the text and placement.

3. Use of Appendix J designators

Agree.

4. A structured description should consist of elements that apply to the relevant WEMI entity

We would like to be able to agree with this principle, but we think it is unlikely to be practicable. It is very likely true for the manifestation level, but probably not for the other three. As mentioned above, more investigation is warranted. Clearly, manifestations provide sufficient information for a structured description; access points are appropriate for works and expressions, and identifiers could apply to all four WEMI entities.

5. Specific instructions for contents, host and accompanying

Adding instructions to the designators proposed will be useful and will cover the most frequently encountered situations. CCC does not see the need to add instructions for all of the designators in Appendix J at this time. Instructions can be added when there is a specific need.

6. Instructions for contents of manifestation, expression and work

When one considers how to use a structured description to record contents of the expression, the difficulties illustrate the problems with the principle of only using elements that are attributes of that entity.

7. Instructions for accompanying material

It would be helpful if the proposed instructions at 27.1.1.3.2.3 were to make clear, perhaps by an example, that recording the title or identifier of a related manifestation is possible.

The instruction to “record the relationship designator *accompanied by (manifestation)*” breaks the principle of neutrality of display standards. ISBD records this relationship using the plus sign, not a textual designator. Instructing to record the WEMI level of the related entity is probably too explicit. Alternatives to this practice are being explored elsewhere so we would not recommend embedding such a specific instruction.

We also note two copy and paste errors in 28.1.1.3 where the word item should replace manifestation and one in 28.1.1.3.1 where the word items should replace manifestations.

Specific encoding systems should not be mentioned as a justification for changes to RDA instructions.

25.1.1.3.3.1, 27.1.1.3.2.1

It would be helpful to have a reference from these instructions to numbering of part, 24.6.1.3, as an example of one of the additional elements recorded if considered important for identification. We note that 25.1.1.3.3.1 has no examples of additional elements, but 27.1.1.3.2.1 has several.