

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Galen Jones, CILIPS representative
Subject: Colour content in RDA

Abstract

This proposal is designed to improve the clarity of the instructions by allowing the consistent recording of the elements **Colour Content** and **Details of Colour Content** for all types of expression and to assist users in identifying and selecting resources based on their colour content.

Introduction

In 2013 proposal ALA/26 (<http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/6JSC-ALA-26.pdf>) sought to address the inconsistent and problematic treatment of Colour Content identified in RDA 7.17.

The 2013 JSC Meeting minutes record there were differences in the constituency responses to the 2 options presented in ALA's Proposal (Section 432.3) and that a different approach, put forward in the CILIP response, should form the basis of a new proposal for the 2014 JSC Meeting (Section 432.4) (<http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/6JSC-M-398-461.pdf>)

The CILIP response (<http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/6JSC-ALA-26-CILIP-response.pdf>) discussed whether the instructions were intended primarily to distinguish monochrome (including black-and-white and tinted) from polychrome content, and the importance of retrieving content by its colour. <http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/6JSC-ALA-26-CILIP-response.pdf>

This proposal retains a simple, unambiguous binary indication that a resource has colour content or not, by using the two terms *monochrome* (for one colour, in addition to black and white) and *polychrome* (for two or more colours, excluding black and white). It takes into account specific issues raised in previous discussions and seeks to resolve them and provide greater clarity for the RDA Toolkit user.

The treatment of "black" and "white" as colours has long been problematic. They are treated as real colours in some contexts, and as "non-colours" in others. CILIP hopes to resolve, via this proposal, the ambiguity about whether a colour term is a noun ("the colour red") or an adjective ("red colour"). This is a particular problem with the term "black and white" (and its variants "black & white", "b&w", etc.) which is often used and understood to be an adjectival phrase. This proposal treats *black* and *white* as colour nouns, and the term "black and white" as a variant of *monochrome*.

The proposal accommodates:

- a) the use of local terms, including English spelling variants such as "colour/color" and local terms in other languages.

- b) the specific term "greyscale" in the element ***Details of Colour Content*** by treating it as information complementing or substituting the standard term *monochrome*.

- c) information on tinting and toning in the element ***Details of Colour Content***, by treating it as information complementing the standard term *monochrome*. The specific colours used for the tint and tone are recorded in the element ***Colour Content***.

Justification

The proposal assumes the existence of a ***Details of Colour Content*** element following the discussion of 6JSC/Chair/9 (<http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/6JSC-Chair-9.pdf>) and an anticipated proposal from the JSC Technical Working Group.

This proposal has been designed to allow the elements ***Colour Content*** and ***Details of Colour Content*** to be applied consistently to all types of expression where it is considered to be an important attribute to assist identification and selection.. CILIP further believes that this will assist in extending the application of RDA to all types of content.

Impact

Moderate yet positive impact is anticipated. The proposal accommodates legacy data.

Summary of changes

The proposed text replaces the existing section 7.17 of RDA, and adds two terms to the RDA Glossary.

No marked-up copy is given.

Clean copy

7.17 Colour Content

7.17.1 Basic Instructions on Recording Colour Content

7.17.1.1 Scope

Colour content is the presence of colour, tone, etc., in the content of a resource.

Colour content is also the specific colours, tones, etc., (including black and white) present in the content of a resource.

Colour content does not include matter outside the actual content of the resource (e.g., the border of a map).

For instructions on recording the broadcast standard used for colour in videos, see **3.18.3**.

7.17.1.2 Sources of Information

Use evidence presented by the resource itself as the basis for recording the presence of colour content in the resource. If desired, take additional evidence from any source.

7.17.1.3 Recording Colour Content

Apply these instructions to describe the colour content of:

- a) the resource itself

or

- b) the content of the resource, including illustrative content (see **7.15**).

Record the colour content if considered important for identification or selection.

Record the colour content by using one or more appropriate terms from the following list:

monochrome

polychrome

EXAMPLE

monochrome

A photograph in black and white

polychrome

A motion picture film in colour

Alternatives

Use another pair of concise terms with the same definitions to indicate the colour content.

EXAMPLE

black and white

A photograph in black and white

b&w

A motion picture film in black and white

color

A motion picture film in colour

Name the specific colour or colours if they are considered to be important for identification or selection. Apply this instruction instead of or in addition to using one of the terms from the list.

EXAMPLE

blue

red

An oil painting

blue

white

A porcelain bowl with blue figures on a white background

sepia

A photograph in sepia

Record details of colour content as instructed under [7.17.1.4](#).

7.17.1.4 Details of Colour Content

Record details of the colour content if they are considered important for identification or selection.

EXAMPLE

Colour maps, black and white photographs

Illustration which include colour maps and black and white photographs. Colour content recorded as: colour, black and white

Some colour

10 maps, some of which are in colour. Colour content recorded as: black and white

Chiefly colour

Illustrations, most of which are in colour. Colour content recorded as: colour, black and white

2 maps in colour

Resource containing 10 maps, 2 of which are in colour. Colour content recorded as: black and white, colour

Tinted

A photograph in black and white, tinted sepia

Toned

A motion picture film in black and white, toned green. Colour content recorded as: monochrome, green

Tinted and toned

A motion picture film in black and white, tinted yellow and toned green. Colour content recorded as: monochrome, yellow, green

Tinted blue

A photograph in black and white, tinted blue. Colour content recorded as: monochrome, blue

Yellow tint

A motion picture film in black and white, tinted yellow. Colour content recorded as: monochrome, yellow

Film tinted yellow, image toned green

A motion picture film in black and white, tinted yellow and toned green. Colour content recorded as: monochrome, yellow, green

Colour with black and white sequences

A motion picture film. Colour content recorded as: polychrome, monochrome

Black and white with colour introductory sequence

A motion picture film. Colour content recorded as: monochrome, polychrome

Title and headings printed in red

An early printed resource. Colour content recorded as: red

Displays in red, yellow, and blue

An online resource. Colour content recorded as: red, yellow, blue

Technicolor

Colour content recorded as: polychrome

Colourized

Colour content recorded as: polychrome

Greyscale

Colour content recorded as: monochrome

Blue text on yellow background

A resource designed for persons with visual impairments.

Colour content recorded as: blue, yellow

Glossary

Add:

monochrome

Colour content consisting of black and/or white and one other colour.

polychrome

Colour content consisting of two or more colours, excluding black and white.

Remove:

Colour of still image

Colour of moving image

Colour of three-dimensional form

Colour content of resource designed for persons with visual impairments