

**TO:** Verena Schaffner, Chair, EURIG

**FROM:** Barbara Tillett, Chair, JSC

**SUBJECT: Representing language of expressions in RDA - JSC Response**

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*Related Documents:*

[6JSC/EURIG/3 Language of expression — Revision of RDA6.11, 6.11.1.3, 6.11.1.4, 7.12.1.3 and 26.1.1.3](#)

The JSC thanks EURIG for submitting this paper. We discussed the paper at our meeting in Washington on 6th November 2013. There was general agreement that the use cases have high value, but the JSC did not support the suggested solutions.

### **Language in Which the Work Was Originally Expressed**

The JSC constituencies were not comfortable with the association between language and Work. There was a concern that this would create a precedent by which other attributes of the “original expression” would be associated with the work, resulting in duplication of data and adding complexity. The JSC also considered that there would be a requirement to provide guidance on how to identify the original expression and what to do if it could not be identified.

### **Language of Expression Statement**

Elements described as “Statements” in RDA contain self-describing data found on the resource and are closely related to ISBD. The term has thus been used in relation to the manifestation only and JSC does not wish to generalize its use. More importantly, as noted in the response to 6JSC/EURIG/4/Discussion, the JSC decided to review “aggregate elements” and, does not support the creation of new aggregate elements at this time. This issue will be referred to a new JSC Technical Working Group, which EURIG will be invited to join.

The JSC believes that certain of the attributes proposed as sub-elements would be better modelled as relationships between expressions; for example a dubbed version of a film would be a different expression of the work than a subtitled version. It was also suggested that it would be possible to propose a refinement of the “translation”/“translation of” to indicate that the translation is direct or indirect. The JSC would welcome proposals for such relationships.

### **Language of Content**

The JSC acknowledges that (with current technology) the proposed solutions may not fully satisfy the use cases. However, the JSC notes that *Language of the Content* element is provided to enable agencies to record additional information about the language content of the resource. RDA does not specify how this additional information should be recorded and, in the absence of any specific guidance, agencies are free to structure the data to meet their own needs, using their preferred schema.