

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA (RDA JSC) and ISBD Review Group (ISBD RG)

From: Gaëlle Béquet, Director of the ISSN International Centre, and the ISSN Review Group

Subject: Major and minor title changes for serials in languages which do not divide text into words: proposal for new wordings and instructions.

1. Background

The applicability of the “first five words instruction” (ISSN 2.3.1.a and RDA 2.3.2.13.1.i) to languages that do not divide text into words has been discussed within the ISSN and the RDA communities since the submission of a discussion paper to both the RDA JSC and the ISBD Review Group in 2012. The main outcomes of these discussions were:

- this instruction “cannot be applied to languages that do not divide text into words” and, consequently, it is not used by the ISSN Centre’s of China, Japan and Thailand;
- at the same time, it “served well the community for serials in languages that divide text into words”;
- any new instructions should be easily understandable and applicable by catalogers;
- any new instructions should not increase the need for new descriptions;
- to better take into account languages which do not divide text into words means also populating bibliographic records with data in original scripts and not only establishing new instructions for cataloguing;
- The harmonization with the Consolidated edition of ISBD (A.2.6.1) shall be maintained.

2. Presentation of the proposal of the ISSN Review group

This proposal is derived from the discussions held during the review of the ISSN Manual (to be released in fall 2014) and addresses the outcomes of the discussions with the RDA community (see the responses made to the discussion paper 6JSC/ISSN/2). Its main features are:

- The addition of a preliminary statement specifying that all the instructions related to title changes apply to the original forms of titles proper and not, when applicable, to the transliterated forms. This reflects the practice of the ISSN National Centre’s of China, Japan and Thailand.
- For the major changes, we propose now two subsections: one for the languages that divide text into words and another for the languages that do not divide text into words. The first one is identical to the existing ISSN 2.3.1. Consequently, nothing will change for the catalogers who

describe publications in languages that divide text into words while the second section will reflect the practices of our Chinese, Japanese and Thai colleagues. Enabling catalogers who describe publications in languages that divide text into words to keep exactly the same rules appeared to be very important in the discussions within the ISSN community.

- The new subsection for languages that do not divide text into words will not increase the need for new descriptions since it will just reflect the current practice of our Japanese, Chinese and Thai colleagues.
- This new subsection is harmonized with the corresponding ISBD instruction A.2.6.1.b (*“an addition, deletion, or change in the title proper that changes the meaning of the title or indicates a different subject matter”*) although the wording is slightly different. The wording is slightly different because we wanted to align it with the modifications made to the instructions for minor changes (see below).
- The wording for the minor changes instructions has been also reviewed with the same purpose: to better take into account languages that do not divide text into words.

Note: additional examples in Japanese, Chinese and Thai are to be supplied (some examples for Japanese script have already been incorporated below). In other respects, the update of the ISSN Manual to be released in fall 2014 contains an instruction regarding data in non-Roman scripts and we have already started to increase significantly the number of records with data in non-Roman script in the ISSN Register.

“0.7.3 Input to the ISSN Register

*[...] Records of continuing resources issued in non-roman alphabets or scripts are transliterated into the Roman alphabet by the National Centres before transmission to the International Centre in accordance with appropriate ISO transliteration standards, or other standards accepted by the ISSN Network. **When such transliteration is required, it is highly recommended to record additionally the key title, title proper, publication information (name and location of publisher), and issuing body in the original non-roman alphabet or script in accordance with MARC 21 or UNIMARC documentation [...].***

The proposed modifications are **in yellow**, we plan to incorporate them in the next update of the ISSN Manual (fall 2014). Any comments from both the RDA JSC and the ISBD Review Group are welcome.

2.3 Changes in continuing resources requiring a new ISSN assignment

When the wording of a title, as it appears in the title source, is changed, a new ISSN and key title may be assigned depending on whether the change is a major or a minor one. Other changes in continuing resources, like the physical medium are also considered as major changes.

A major change will result in a new ISSN and key title being assigned, whereas a minor change will not. In all cases each Centre will decide, so far as the continuing resources within its jurisdiction are concerned, whether a change in a continuing resource necessitates the assignment of a new ISSN and key title.

In case of doubt a title change should be regarded as minor and be recorded as a variant title.

All the instructions below apply to the original forms of titles proper and not, when applicable, to the transliterated forms.

2.3.1 Major changes in title proper of continuing resources

A new ISSN and a new key title are required in cases of major changes in the title proper. The following are to be considered major changes (exceptions are listed in 2.4.1).

2.3.1.1 For languages and scripts that divide text into words

- a) when the addition, deletion, change or reordering of any word occurs within the first five words (the first six words if the title begins with an article) of the title proper

[...]

- b) When the addition, deletion or change of any word occurs after the first five words (the first six words if the title begins with an article) and changes the meaning of the title proper or indicates a different subject matter.

[...]

(c) When a corporate body, named anywhere in the title proper, changes, except as indicated below (see 2.4.1);

2.3.1.2 For languages and scripts that do not divide text into words

- An addition, deletion, change or reordering of any component of the title proper that changes the meaning of the title or indicates a different subject matter.

[Example to be provided]

2.4.1 Minor changes in title proper of continuing resources

A new ISSN and a key title are not assigned in cases of minor changes in the title proper. In general, if a minor change occurs in the title proper, the later title is given as variant title.

The following are to be considered minor changes:

- a) The change is in the representation of a word or words (or a component or components of the title for those languages and scripts that do not divide text into words)

會報 → 会報 (change in the form of the character)

[...]

- b) The change involves an acronym or initialism vs. the full form;

生保 → 生命保險

[...]

- c) When applicable, the change is in the inflexion of a word, for example from singular to plural form,

[...]

- d) The change is the addition, deletion, or change of articles, prepositions, and conjunctions (or any « function elements »¹ for those languages which do not use these categories) anywhere in the title, provided that there is no significant change in the subject matter.

[...]

- e) The change involves the name of the same corporate body and elements of its hierarchy or their grammatical connection anywhere in the title (e.g. the addition, deletion, or rearrangement of the name of the corporate body or the substitution of a variant form, including an abbreviation)

[...]

¹ Function elements are part of the speech with little lexical meaning which serves to express grammatical relationships with other elements within a sentence, or specify the attitude or mood of the speaker.

- f) When applicable, the change is the addition, deletion, or change of punctuation, including initialisms and letters with separating punctuation vs. those without separating punctuation, anywhere in the title;

[...]

- g) The change is in the order of titles when the title is given in more than one language on the chief source of information, provided that the title chosen as title proper still appears as a parallel title;

[...]

- h) The change is the addition, deletion, or change of words (or components of the title for those languages and scripts that do not divide text into words) anywhere in the title that link the title to the numbering;

- i) Two or more titles proper are used on different issues of a continuing resource according to a regular pattern;

[...]

- j) The addition to, deletion from, or change in the order of words (or components of the title for those languages and scripts that do not divide text into words) in a list anywhere in the title, provided that there is no significant change in the subject matter;

[...]

- k) The addition, deletion or re-arrangement anywhere in the title of words (or components of the title for those languages and scripts that do not divide text into words) that indicate the type of continuing resource such as “magazine”, “journal”, “notebook”, or “newsletter”, or their equivalent in other languages;

研究実施概況報告集 → 研修実施概況報告書

[...]