

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
**From:** Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative  
**Subject:** Change in mode of issuance for online resources: proposal for a revised instruction

ALA thanks the ISSN International Center for this proposal to address the problems associated with a change in mode of issuance for online resources. We observe that issues regarding the definition of continuing resources and title changes are part of the harmonization agreement between RDA, ISSN, and ISBD. Therefore, ALA recommends that the JSC consult with the ISBD Review Group before making final decisions on changes to the text of RDA.

ALA was not unanimous in its support for this proposal; however, we are willing to support the change, with some suggested modifications to the wording of 1.6.2.1, *Change in Mode of Issuance of a Serial*.

During the ALA discussion, the following issues were identified:

- This proposal effectively presents the changes in mode of issuance between online serials and online integrating resources as a minor change; however, a similar change in mode of issuance for print resources was not proposed.
- If accepted, the revised instructions will increase complexity, not just in RDA, but also for training in serials and integrating resources cataloging.
- While we recognize that the nature of online resources means that changes in the mode of issuance can occur more quickly, the proposal assumes that a change in the mode of issuance would happen uniformly across all providers. We are not convinced that this will always be the case.
- ISBD is silent on whether a change in mode of issuance constitutes a major or minor change.
- Serials cataloging experts within ALA are unaware of a situation where an online integrating resource changed to an online serial.

The suggested wording for 1.6.2.1 is quite complex and hard to parse. To address this problem, ALA recommends casting the change in mode of issuance between online serials and online integrating resources as an exception to the main instruction. If desired, a similar exception could be added in 1.6.3.1 *Change in Mode of Issuance of an Integrating Resource*.

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**1.6.2.1 Change in Mode of Issuance of a Serial**

Create a new description if a serial changes to a multipart monograph or an integrating resource (see [2.13](#)).

Create a new description if a multipart monograph or integrating resource changes to a serial (see [2.13](#)).

***Exception***

Do not create a new description if an online serial changes to an online integrating resource.

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