

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

**From:** Marg Stewart, CCC representative

**Subject: Proposed revision to Glossary definition of vocal score**

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This CCC proposal was prepared by the Canadian Association of Music Libraries.

In **5JSC/RDA/Full draft/CCC response** (dated February 3, 2009), on page 23, CCC recommended changing the definition of vocal score to the following:

A score showing all vocal parts, with accompaniment arranged for one or two keyboard instruments or with accompaniment omitted.

This proposal was not approved by JSC (**5JSC/M/266-286**, comment 1156) because the proposed change would be a change from AACR2.

In **6JSC/Sec/1/CCC response** (dated June 30, 2010), CCC noted that changing the definition of vocal score as it had proposed would actually be in line with an existing LCRI. CCC expressed its intention to submit a proposal to align the RDA definition with existing AACR2/LCRI practice.

***Background:***

In AACR2, the term “vocal score” is one of the specific material designations that can be used in the extent of music (5.5B1). It can also be used as an addition in uniform titles for music (25.35D) when, as explained by LCRI 25.35D, a resource has been described as a vocal score in the physical description area. The term is defined in the Glossary of AACR2 as:

A score showing all vocal parts, with accompaniment, if any, arranged for keyboard instrument.

The relevant LCRI explains how the term “vocal score” is to be understood and used:

This term is used for works originally for chorus and/or one or more solo voices, with accompaniment. For this term to be used in the physical description area for a particular manifestation of a work, the item must include the solo voice(s) (if any). In addition, if the accompaniment is originally for other than keyboard instrument it must be either arranged for keyboard instrument or omitted; if originally for keyboard instrument it must be omitted. (Understand "if any" in the definition to mean "omitted or.") This term is not used for works originally unaccompanied or for any manifestation of an accompanied work with the original accompaniment.

The AACR2 definition of “chorus score”, which is a special type of vocal score, uses wording similar to the definition of “vocal score” with respect to mention of accompaniment:

A score of a vocal work showing only the chorus parts, with accompaniment, if any, arranged for keyboard instrument.

The related LCRI instructs the cataloguer to understand “if any” to mean “omitted or” and further instructs the cataloguer to use the term under the condition that “if the accompaniment is originally for other than keyboard instrument it must be either arranged for keyboard instrument or omitted; if originally for keyboard instrument it must be omitted.”

In RDA, the term “vocal score” can be recorded as part of the extent of notated music (3.4.3); as the format of notated music (7.20); as a distinguishing characteristic of the expression of a musical work (6.18.1.6) or as part of an access point (6.28.3.5).

The possibility that the accompaniment can be omitted is however not mentioned in the definition of “vocal score”, which has the following definition:

A score showing all vocal parts, with accompaniment arranged for one or two keyboard instruments.

By contrast, the definition of “chorus score” is in alignment with AACR2 because it includes the provision that the accompaniment can be omitted:

A score of a work for solo voices and chorus showing only the parts for chorus, at least in those portions of the work in which the chorus sings, with the instrumental accompaniment either arranged for one or two keyboard instruments or omitted.

The purpose of this proposed revision is to align the RDA definition of “vocal score” with existing AACR2/LCRI practice so that scores of works with accompaniment omitted can continue to be considered vocal scores. This will minimize disruption to existing catalogues, particularly in access points. This will also reconcile the definition of “vocal score” with that of “chorus score” in that both definitions will recognize the possibility that the accompaniment can be omitted.

***Proposed revision:***

Vocal Score

A score showing all vocal parts, with accompaniment arranged for one or two keyboard instruments or with accompaniment omitted.

***Clean copy:***

Vocal Score

A score showing all vocal parts, with accompaniment arranged for one or two keyboard instruments or with accompaniment omitted.