

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative
Subject: Revision to instructions for devised titles in RDA 2.3.2.11

ALA thanks LC for this proposal to offer greater flexibility in devising a title proper, which we generally support. We offer several additional suggestions.

Adding another category to the list of brief descriptive titles

ALA agrees with LC's proposed rewording of 2.3.2.11; however, we think an additional category needs to be added to the list of brief descriptive titles. This would address using the title, rather than the opening words, of a pre-existing work that is incorporated into the new, untitled work. This appears to be the situation with the new "I need a dollar" example for the choreography by Christopher Dean. The opening words of that song are actually: "I need a dollar dollar, a dollar is what I need". A more obvious example of the title vs. first words problem is the now famous dance choreographed to "Calling You," sung by Céline Dion. The opening words of the song are "A desert road from Vegas to nowhere" not "Calling you." Adding this category would also enable using the title of an incorporated work that has no text, such as Christopher Dean's figure skating choreography to Bolero by Ravel.

Thus, we propose the following text for a new category, which would be placed last in the list:

- e) for derivative or adaptive works, the title of the original work (e.g., the title of a musical work that is used in a choreographic work).

Examples

ALA believes that the existing examples should be re-evaluated in light of the revised instruction. We recommend that explanations be provided for all of the examples, so that catalogers can better identify which of the categories were used to create the devised title. Consistency should also be brought to whether or not the phrase "Devised title proper" is needed in the example explanations.

We find the proposed new second example problematic ("Typescript draft of chapters 3-20 of Natchez pilgrimage"). While including manifestation level information in a devised title is fine in the context of Chapter 2, what is the relationship of this instruction and examples to 6.2.2.6.2, *Devising Titles*? Would it be better to remove "typescript" from this devised title? After all, "typescript" could be included in a description as part of applying 3.9.2.3, *Recording Production Method for Manuscript*. Are more specific instructions needed here or in Chapter 6 to ensure that the devised title instructions can be applied appropriately for both a preferred title and a title proper?

We believe that the existing alternative would benefit from the addition of one or more examples that use an English language devised title for a work (or collection of works) that are not in English, such as a collection of correspondence in Russian.

Finally, we recommend adding a supporting example in **2.17.2.3, *Title Source***, such as “Title devised from opening words of text.”