

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative
Subject: Finnish Music Group proposed revisions for recording preferred titles of musical works

ALA thanks the JSC Music Working Group for preparing this proposal on behalf of the Finnish Music Group. Although we sympathize with the intent behind the proposal, we do not support the addition of the proposed alternative in 6.14.2.5.2.1. We do support the proposed alternative for 6.14.2.5.2.2, although we have suggestions for rewording.

6.14.2.5.2.1

ALA observes that currently RDA offers only a handful of alternative instructions in relation to selecting and recording preferred titles. They affect devising titles, the opportunity to select a title from a reference source when the title is in a non-preferred script, and an ability to identify multiple parts of a single work or a compilation as “Selections”. In the first two situations, there is no expectation that different cataloging agencies will create the same preferred title for any given work. In the latter situation, the identification of the “main” work should be the same for all agencies, although the additions to identify the parts may differ.

This proposed alternative would permit agencies to determine the preferred title for musical work named by type of composition based solely on the language preference of the agency. ALA does not believe that this is a principled approach; it certainly goes against the principle of representation. We continue to agree with 6JSC/Music/2/rev, which did not support instructing catalogers to always give names of types of composition in a language preferred by the agency creating the data. While we recognize the needs expressed by the Finnish Music Group, we suggest that they provide guidance for this situation through their own application profiles or policy statements.

6.14.2.5.2.2

ALA supports adding an alternative to this instruction which would offer flexibility for cataloging agencies to record the name of the type of composition consistently in either singular or plural form. However, the text of the proposed alternative here is too broad, since “form of the name of the type of composition” applies to the instructions in 6.14.2.5.2.1 – and not just the singular or plural form. Thus, we suggest the following wording for this alternative instead:

Choose either the singular or the plural form of the name of the type of composition and use it consistently.