

To: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR
From: Jennifer Bowen, ALA representative
Subject: RDA Part1 Internationalization (5JSC/LC/5)

ALA congratulates the Library of Congress on its excellent work towards the further internationalization of RDA part 1. We see many improvements in wording, simplified rules, more options, etc., that will enhance the possibility of RDA's global use.

In this response, ALA suggests some further revisions that we hope will support the work that has been done by LC. We will present general comments on LC's effort, followed by specific comments on each proposed rule.

General Comments

Instructions for supplying additions. Under the new LC proposal, we have many options to supply additions, either putting additional information into a single data element or adding entirely separate data element(s). However, there are no instructions on how to do this. We would like to see clear instructions and enough examples to ensure consistent application of the guidelines.

Non-Latin/non-English examples. Along with the clear instructions mentioned above, ALA believes that this internationalization effort would be facilitated by the inclusion of more non-English language/Non-Latin script examples in RDA. To adequately illustrate guidelines and instructions, especially for cataloger-supplied information (such as under 2.3.3.4, 2.3.7.3, 2.3.7.4, 2.4.0.8, 2.5.1.3, 2.6.3, 2.6.5, 2.7.0.4, 2.8.1.3 and 2.10.6.5), ALA requests that the JSC charge the Example Working Group with working on this task.

Guidance for consistent application. In addition, ALA is concerned about the possible variations between records that may result from applying the options in the LC proposal within RDA. The LC proposal is so flexible that catalog records for the same resource might end up varying quite significantly, which, in turn, would pose problems for easy and comprehensive retrieval. We hope that each cataloging community would choose the option(s) they prefer, and at least in the case of the U.S., that LC could take a leadership role in coordinating these preferences.

Review of standard transliteration schemes. ALA believes that RDA needs to provide at least references to appropriate methods or approved standards for transliteration in a Latin-script cataloging environment since 0.1.8 states that RDA's language preference is English. Even as we are moving more and more toward multiple-script, Unicode-compliant catalogs, transliteration is still very important to libraries in Anglo-American countries because we must continue to create authority headings (both established

headings and cross-references) in transliterated form. We hope that the JSC will encourage a coordinate review of standard transliteration schemes that are currently used and make links to these schemes in RDA. We also note that if we adopt the new rule 1.6.2.3 in the LC proposal, i.e. not to substitute Western-style Arabic numerals for original script numerals, some area studies cataloging communities will need more clear guidance on transliterating original script numerals.

Metadata on cataloging language and script. Now that the data elements within RDA are not dictated so closely by the ISBDs, ALA recommends that the JSC discuss the possibility of adding additional data elements for RDA to record the following:

- language of the catalog record
- script of the catalog record
- use of transliteration and its scheme

While the implementation of such additional data elements would certainly need to be coordinated with MARBI for implementation in a MARC21 environment, we believe that such data elements will make it easier to identify a need for further manipulation of records (or to add either original scripts or transliteration, to translate notes, or to revise access points in one's own language/script), and will make the sharing of records across language communities, especially in an automatic machine manipulation environment, much more likely and much more fruitful.

Specific Comments

I. Proposed revision, etc. of 1.6 instructions and related rules in Chapter 2.

1.6.2. Numbers expressed as words and numerals

1. ALA agrees that the proposed caption is an improvement. We also suggest adding "as" before the last word "numerals" for further clarification.
2. ALA agrees with removing the lists in parentheses in the first bullet from the original RDA draft. However, we suggest not adding "any", which is superfluous and may lead to confusion.
3. ALA welcomes the addition of the first option under the 2nd bullet to "add or substitute numerals in the script preferred by the agency preparing the description" to numeric data elements.
4. ALA members' response to the proposed treatment of "edition statement" and "statement relating to a named revision of an edition" has been mixed. If the LC proposal is implemented as proposed, we will not have the option to use "preferred numerals in script" for "Edition statement" and "Statement relating to a named revision of an edition". Thus, ALA recommends keeping "edition statement" and "statement relating to a named revision of an edition" in the list of the second bullet, "Follow the guidelines in 1.6.2.1-1.6.2.6...", rather than moving them to the first bullet as proposed by LC. In this way, we could still

have an option to use “numerals in the script preferred by the agency preparing the description”, and each cataloging community that shares bibliographic information could decide which practices to follow.

5. The second option on the second bullet has already been covered by the first option, and should be deleted.

See ALA’s suggested revision below. We have retained LC’s strikethroughs and underlines, and added our own changes with strikethroughs and underlines with highlighting.

1.6.2. ~~Numerals and n~~Numbers expressed as words and as numerals

- When transcribing any titles (title proper, parallel title, other title information, variant title, etc.) and any statements of responsibility (including statements of responsibility relating to an edition statement, etc., or to a series, etc.), and any statement relating to edition, transcribe numerals and numbers expressed as words and as numerals in the form in which they appear on the source of information.
- Follow the guidelines in 1.6.2.1-1.6.2.6 ~~1.6.2.5~~ below when recording ~~transcribing numerals and~~ numbers expressed as words and as numerals in the following elements:

Edition statement

Statement relating to a named revision of an edition

Numeric and/or alphabetic designation

Chronological designation

Date of publication, distribution, etc.

Numbering within series

- ◇ Optionally, add or substitute numerals in the script preferred by the agency preparing the description.
- ~~◇ Optionally, for early printed resources, transcribe numerals and numbers expressed as words and as numerals appearing in an edition statement, a statement relating to a named revision of an edition, or date of publication, distribution, etc., in the form in which they appear on the source of information.~~

[example]

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1.6.2. Numbers expressed as words and as numerals

- When transcribing titles and statements of responsibility, transcribe numbers expressed as words and as numerals in the form in which they appear on the source of information.
- Follow the guidelines in 1.6.2.1-1.6.2.6 below when recording numbers expressed as words and as numerals in the following elements:
 - Edition statement
 - Statement relating to a named revision of an edition
 - Numeric and/or alphabetic designation
 - Chronological designation
 - Date of publication, distribution, etc.
 - Numbering within series
- ◇ *Optionally*, add or substitute numerals in the script preferred by the agency preparing the description.

[example]

1.6.2.1. Roman numerals. ALA suggests deleting the second bullet and eliminating the exception of changing uppercase to lowercase. This would further simplify the instruction.

1.6.2.3. Script of numerals

1. ALA notes that the LC proposal is a great improvement on wording. It is more culturally sensitive, and more understandable.
2. ALA recommends extending the optional addition of allowing the cataloging agency to use their preferred script of numerals not only when a script appears on the source of information that is not used by the agency, but also when the agency simply prefers a different script of numerals.

See ALA's suggested revision below.

1.6.2.3. ~~Oriental~~ Script of numerals

- Transcribe numerals in the script in which they appear on the source of information.
- ◇ *Optionally*, ~~When describing Arabic alphabet, Far Eastern, Greek, Hebrew, Indic, etc.,~~ resources that present numerals in a script not used or preferred by the agency preparing the description, add or substitute the numerals in the vernacular script preferred by the agency preparing the description.

1.6.2.6. Calendar. ALA agrees that it is good to centralize all guidelines regarding calendar system into one place. However, we suggest that it be sectioned individually with a new number in 1.6 rather than as subsection of **1.6.2. Numbers expressed as words and as numerals.**

We also recommend supplying a calendar type when it is important for clarifying the date and it is readily available. Currently, this is not always clear for materials from Iran and India since the cataloger only transcribes the numbers without further clarification.

2.9.0.3. Transcription. ALA notes that the LC proposal, as well as the RDA part 1 draft, instruct

Transcribe the date ... in the form in which it appears on the source of information ...

This could have us transcribing month and day when present. ALA recommends transcribing year as mandatory, but month and day optional. This should be clarified under RDA **1.4. Mandatory Elements of Description.**

II. Proposed revisions of 1.5 and related rules in chapter 2

1.5. Language and script of the description

1. ALA welcomes that the LC proposal eliminates the term “romanization”. We would prefer that the term “transliteration” and “transliterated” be used consistently as proposed. However, since the term “transliteration” has multiple usages, as LC noted in their proposal, we suggest including our intended usage of the term in the RDA glossary.
2. ALA strongly agrees with the additional option to add transliteration when desired rather than only substituting the original script with transliteration when scripts are not available. Even in situations where recording data in the original script is possible, indexing, retrieval, and sorting of original script data may still be problematic, calling for data in transliterated form to ensure high precision and recall.
3. On the other hand, ALA finds the wording of the option about freely substituting transliteration in lieu of recording data in the original script to be too open. Complete substitution of the original script with transliteration should be a last resort. ALA prefers that the instruction somehow discourage exclusive transliteration unless it is technically not feasible to provide the original script. We propose restoring the option from the original RDA part 1 draft as the first option, and then adding the second option as proposed by LC to accomplish this.
4. ALA recognizes LC’s accomplishment in avoiding use of the confusing term “interpolations”. However, the wording of the proposed second bullet is still not clear enough as “plain English”, and we proposes some wording changes below.

5. We also prefer the added option under the second bullet in order to accommodate the cases where a cataloger does not have the expertise to do so in the language and script of the description.
6. ALA acknowledges LC's attempt to simplify the instructions for notes by deleting the fourth bullet and its exception. However, ALA prefers that name, title and quotation, including contents note, be transcribed in the script(s) on the source of information. Thus, we recommend adding "name, title and quotation incorporated into notes (including contents note)" to the list of the first bullet.
7. ALA suggests making references to other language/script related instructions such as 2.2.2, 2.3.1.3, 2.4.1, 4.11.0.3, etc. from 1.5. in order to find all guidelines on languages and scripts easily.

See ALA's suggested revision below:

1.5. Language and script of the description

- Record the following elements in the language and script in which they appear on the sources from which they are taken:

Title proper
 Parallel title
 Other title information
Parallel other title information
 Variant title
 Earlier/later title
 Key title
 Statement of responsibility
 Parallel statement of responsibility
 Edition statement
 Statement of responsibility relating to the edition
 Statement relating to a named revision of an edition
 Statement of responsibility relating to a named revision of an edition
 Numeric and/or alphabetic designation
 Chronological designation
 Publisher, distributor, etc.
 Place of publication, distribution, etc.
 Date of publication, distribution, etc.
 Title proper of series
 Parallel title of series
 Other title information of series
 Statement of responsibility relating to series
 Numbering within series
 Subseries
Name, title and quotation incorporated into notes (including contents note)

- ◇ Optionally, add or substitute the data element(s) If any of the elements listed above cannot be recorded in the script used on the source from

which it is taken, record it in a transliterated form using a standard scheme for the language and script.

- ◇ Optionally, add the data element(s) in a transliterated form using a standard scheme for the language and script.
- When adding supplying additional information to an element in the list Record interpolations into the elements listed above, record the addition in the language and script of the other data in the element unless the instructions for a specific element indicate otherwise.
 - ◇ Optionally, record the additions in the language and script preferred by the agency preparing the description.
- When supplying a missing data element in the list, record the additional data element in the most appropriate language and script.
- Record all other elements (including notes) in the language(s) and script(s) preferred by the agency preparing the description.

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1.5. Language and script of the description

- Record the following elements in the language and script in which they appear on the sources from which they are taken:
 - Title proper
 - Parallel title
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 - Variant title
 - Earlier/later title
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 - Statement of responsibility
 - Parallel statement of responsibility
 - Edition statement
 - Statement of responsibility relating to the edition
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 - Statement of responsibility relating to a named revision of an edition
 - Numeric and/or alphabetic designation
 - Chronological designation
 - Publisher, distributor, etc.
 - Place of publication, distribution, etc.
 - Date of publication, distribution, etc.
 - Title proper of series
 - Parallel title of series
 - Other title information of series
 - Statement of responsibility relating to series
 - Numbering within series
 - Subseries

Name, title and quotation incorporated into notes (including contents note)

- ◇ *Optionally*, if any of the elements listed above cannot be recorded in the script used on the source from which it is taken, record it in a transliterated form using a standard scheme for the language and script.
- ◇ *Optionally*, add the data element(s) in a transliterated form using a standard scheme for the language and script.
- When supplying additional information to an element in the list above, record the addition in the language and script of the other data in the element unless the instructions for a specific element indicate otherwise.
 - ◇ *Optionally*, record the additions in the language and script preferred by the agency preparing the description.
- When supplying a missing data element in the list, record the additional data element in the most appropriate language and script.
- Record all other elements (including notes) in the language(s) and script(s) preferred by the agency preparing the description.

2.5.1.3. Recording edition statements. As in our revision of 1.5 above, ALA recommends the term “supply” over “add” for cataloger-supplied information. We also suggest that this be made a question of judgment and that the sentence be reworded to “... supply an appropriate word or abbreviation if considered to be important”.

2.6.5. New sequence of numbering. ALA believes that LC’s addition has already been covered adequately by the instruction of the second bullet of 1.5, and thus recommends ending the instruction after “another appropriate term”.

See ALA’s suggested revision below:

2.6.5. New sequence of numbering

[first/second paragraphs with examples]

- If a new sequence with the same system as before is not accompanied by wording such as *new series*, supply [*new ser.*] or another appropriate term. ~~(or its equivalent in the language of the title proper) in the language and script of the new sequence of numbering. If this criterion does not apply, supply the term in the language and script of the title proper.~~

Proposed addition of new 2.10.6.4 and proposed revision of current 2.10.6.5 (as 2.10.6.6). ALA agrees with the addition of new 2.10.6.4. However, we believe, again, that the instruction of the second bullet of 1.5 has already covered in the proposed addition of 2.10.6.6.

See ALA's suggested revision below:

2.10.6.6. New sequence of numbering

- If a new sequence of numbering is accompanied by wording to differentiate the sequence, such as *new series*, include this wording. If a new sequence of numbering with the same system as before is not accompanied by wording such as *new series*, supply [*new ser.*] or another appropriate term. ~~(or its equivalent in the language of the title proper) in the language and script of the new sequence of numbering. If this criterion does not apply, supply the term in the language and script of the title proper of the series.~~ See also 2.6.5.

[examples]

2.6.3. Proposed revision for adding a missing data element. ALA agrees with LC's proposal to change the wording to "language and script".