

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

**From:** Marg Stewart, CCC representative

**Subject: Proposed revision to instruction 6.15.1.7, "Groups of Instruments"**

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

***Background:***

In AACR2, terms for groups of instruments (except terms for standard chamber music combinations) are used either to reduce the number of medium of performance elements to three or to designate an accompanying ensemble with one performer to a part. The eligible terms are given at rule 25.30B5.

**25.30B5. Groups of instruments.** Use one of the following terms for a group of instruments:

- woodwinds
- brasses
- winds (*for woodwinds and brasses*)
- percussion
- plucked instruments
- keyboard instruments
- strings
- instrumental [string, wind, etc.] ensemble (*for four or more diverse instruments*)

[Examples omitted]

For standard chamber music combinations, see 25.30B3.

Because of the apparent duplication existing between the first seven terms and terms incorporating the word *ensemble* (e.g., *winds* and *wind ensemble*), the Library of Congress provides guidance on which terms to use with LCRI 25.30B5. The terms incorporating the word *ensemble* are addressed in the last two paragraphs of the LCRI:

Do not use the phrases "string ensemble," "wind ensemble," etc., under this rule. For groups of four or more different instruments from a single family, use "strings," "winds," etc., as in the first example in the rule. But use the phrase "jazz ensemble," when appropriate.

[Examples omitted]

Use the phrase "instrumental ensemble" as a statement of medium that is added to a title in a uniform title only if the medium is a group of diverse instruments not already provided for by other terms in the list.

The practice for accompanying ensembles is explained in LCRI 25.30B7:

For an accompanying ensemble that has only one performer to a part, use the word "ensemble" preceded by the appropriate qualifying term (e.g., "string ensemble," "jazz ensemble," "wind ensemble") as a statement of medium that follows the statement for solo instruments in a uniform title.

The content of AACR2 25.30B5 was carried over in RDA instruction 6.15.1.7:

6.15.1.7 Groups of Instruments

For a group of instruments, record an appropriate term from the list below.

woodwinds  
brasses  
winds  
percussion  
plucked instruments  
keyboard instruments  
strings  
instrumental [string, wind, etc.] ensemble

Apply the terms listed as follows:

- a) Record *winds* for groups consisting of both woodwind and brass instruments.
- b) Record *instrumental [string, wind, etc.] ensemble* for groups consisting of four or more diverse instruments.

For standard chamber music combinations, see the instructions given under 6.15.1.5 .

While the list of terms remains the same, only the terms that are appropriate for accompanying ensembles are needed. RDA does not require medium of performance elements to be reduced to three. Additionally, in RDA instruments are named individually in groups of solo instruments or in groups of instruments with one performer to a part.

This proposal recommends renaming and rewording 6.15.1.7 to take into account the fact that the instruction is narrower in scope in RDA and covers only accompanying ensembles with one performer to a part. The suggested wording is based on that of LCPS for 6.15.1.9, which itself was adapted from LCRI 25.30B7.

The wording of 6.15.1.7 is also revised to remove the guidelines relating to the term *winds* and to adapt the instruction regarding *instrumental ensemble* to the RDA context.

The final sentence at 6.15.1.7 should be deleted since terms for standard chamber music combinations are not allowed for accompanying ensembles (except in the cases covered

by LCPS 6.15.1.12). For example, a string quartet acting as an accompanying ensemble for one or more solo instruments would be recorded as “string ensemble,” not as “string quartet.” The narrower scope of the instruction also makes the reference to 6.15.1.5 unnecessary. The reference to 6.15.1.7 at 6.15.1.13.1 should also be deleted.

***Proposed revision:***

6.15.1.7 Accompanying Ensembles with One Performer to a Part ~~Groups of Instruments~~

For an accompanying ensemble with one performer to a part ~~For a group of instruments,~~ record the appropriate qualifying term followed by the word *ensemble* ~~an appropriate term from the list below.~~

- ~~— woodwinds~~
- ~~— brasses~~
- ~~— winds~~
- ~~— percussion~~
- ~~— plucked instruments~~
- ~~— keyboard instruments~~
- ~~— strings~~
- ~~— instrumental [string, wind, etc.] ensemble~~
- ~~string ensemble~~
- ~~percussion ensemble~~
- ~~guitar ensemble~~

Record *instrumental ensemble* for an accompanying ensemble with one performer to a part consisting of instruments from two or more families when a more specific term is not available. ~~Apply the terms listed as follows:~~

- ~~a) Record *winds* for groups consisting of both woodwind and brass instruments.~~
- ~~b) Record *instrumental [string, wind, etc.] ensemble* for groups consisting of four or more diverse instruments.~~

~~For standard chamber music combinations, see the instructions given under 6.15.1.5.~~

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6.15.1.7 Accompanying Ensembles with One Performer to a Part

For an accompanying ensemble with one performer to a part, record appropriate qualifying term followed by the word *ensemble*.

- string ensemble
- percussion ensemble
- guitar ensemble

Record *instrumental ensemble* for an accompanying ensemble with one performer to a part consisting of instruments from two or more families when a more specific term is not available.