

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
**From:** Dave Reser, LC Representative  
**Subject:** Revision to 6.2.2.10 (Recording the Preferred Title for a Compilation of Works of One Person, Family, or Corporate Body) and 6.2.2.4 (Works created after 1500)

Thanks to the National Library of New Zealand for reviewing the issue of conventional collective titles in RDA. It is a complicated problem, and we do not believe that this proposal resolves the situation. We do not agree to the changes.

The use of conventional collective titles in the RDA context, and more specifically, the implementation decisions documented in LC training materials, has been a topic discussed with great intensity. The inclusion of the concept of compilations “commonly known” under a specific title came as an LC suggestion (6JSC/Sec/1/LC response/LC addendum) just prior to the publication of RDA, and was proposed with the idea of classic compilations in mind, such as Pablo Neruda’s *Veinte poemas de amor y una canción desesperada* or Walt Whitman’s *Leaves of grass*—essentially the same compilations published many times under the same title. Because these types of compilations were foremost in our mind, our implementation decision for “new compilations” was made to distinguish the “new” from the “classic,” a distinction that the cataloger could quickly identify.

After lengthy discussions at LC, fed by cataloger input and comments made on various cataloging-related lists, LC has agreed to re-evaluate the implementation decision we chose back in 2010. We regret that this re-evaluation is not yet at a stage that we can provide greater detail at this time, but agree with the “Note from the ALA Representative” in the ALA response that this is more a question of policy than changes in RDA.

Although the NLNZ proposal focuses on compilations with collective titles on manifestations, our analysis and comments we’ve seen suggest that even the presence of collective titles is not as simple as it seems. The complications include: collective titles on translations (where no compilation exists in the original language), compilations of previously published works vs. new works, and the issue of many different collective titles for the same compilation (with no one being commonly used). The impact of large legacy files with varying degrees of consistency also impacts the policies to be established.

For these reasons, we think it is premature to make the changes suggested by this proposal.