

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

FROM: Barbara B. Tillett, LC Representative

SUBJECT: Issues deferred until after the first release of RDA -- LC addendum to June 29, 2010 response

After we submitted our response to 6JSC/Sec/1, we realized there were two unresolved issues identified during the proofreading of the RDA text; we also identified an inconsistency regarding conventional collective titles while reviewing RDA practice records; and we want to raise our concern about the status of "Selections" in RDA. These 4 additional topics for JSC discussion are given below with a short explanation and an indication of our priority for resolution.

Could we have a JSC discussion about these and resolve them for an update to RDA content as soon as possible?

1. Date associated with the corporate body

RDA 0.6.4 and RDA 11.4 indicate that this date is a core element. That is true for "Date of conference, etc." (11.4.2). However, "Date of establishment" (11.4.3) and "Date of termination" (11.4.4) should have a conditional core status (if needed to distinguish) to match the instruction in RDA 11.13.1.5 which says to add a date to a corporate body if the names of two bodies cannot be distinguished by place or associated institution. Suggested revisions of the three core statements are given below.

LC priority assignment: high.

11.4 Date Associated with the Corporate Body CORE ELEMENT

Date associated with the corporate body is a core element for conferences, etc. (see 11.4.2). For other corporate bodies, date associated with the corporate body is a core element when needed to distinguish a corporate body from another corporate body with the same name.

11.4.3 Date of Establishment CORE ELEMENT

Date of establishment is a core element when needed to distinguish a corporate body from another corporate body with the same name.

11.4.4 Date of Termination CORE ELEMENT

Date of termination is a core element when needed to distinguish a corporate body from another corporate body with the same name.

2. Language of expression

RDA 0.6.3 indicates this element is a core element. However, the RDA 6.11 instruction gives it a conditional core status: when needed to differentiate an expression of a work from another expression of the same work. In RDA 6.27.3, this element is one of four that can be added as applicable to the authorized access point for the work. To be consistent with “Date of expression” and “Other distinguishing characteristic of the expression,” in 0.6.3 “Language of expression” should be moved from its present position to the next paragraph (“Record as many of the additional identifying elements ...”). Also, the core statement at RDA 6.11 should be revised to say what it means: the requirement to give language of expression when identifying translations and language versions. The records in the Complete examples posted on the JSC Web site reflect the assumption that the language of the expression is not being given for all expressions, but only for translations. All the examples at RDA 6.11.1.3 are for translations. Suggested revisions of the RDA 0.6.3 wording and the core statement at RDA 6.11 are given below.

LC priority assignment: high.

0.6.3 Section 2: Recording Attributes of Work and Expression

[five paragraphs]

When recording data identifying an expression, include as a minimum the elements listed below that are applicable to that expression.

Identifier for the expression
Content type
~~Language of expression~~

Record as many of the additional identifying elements listed below as necessary to differentiate one expression of a work from another. Record the elements either as additions to the access point representing the expression, as separate elements, or as both.

Date of expression
Language of expression
Other distinguishing characteristic of the expression

=====

6.11 Language of Expression CORE ELEMENT

Language of expression is a core element when needed to differentiate a translation or a simultaneous language version ~~an expression~~ of a work from ~~another~~ the original expression of the same work.

3. Relationship of RDA 6.2.2.4 and RDA 6.2.2.10

The instruction for works after 1500 at 6.2.2.4 says “choose as the preferred title the title in the original language by which the work has become known through use in resources embodying the work or in reference sources.” There is no reference in 6.2.2.3 or 6.2.2.4 for compilations directing a cataloger to see 6.2.2.10 for the preferred title for compilations. The instruction at 6.2.2.10 is not worded as an alternative to 6.2.2.4; 6.2.2.10 says “Record the preferred title for a compilation of works applying the instructions given under 6.2.2.10.1–6.2.2.10.3, as applicable.” A different preferred title would be assigned depending upon which instruction a cataloger read first: a commonly-known title (per 6.2.2.4) or a conventional title (6.2.2.10). A key word search for compilations would lead a cataloger to 6.2.2.10 but not to 6.2.2.4. Some compilations have become commonly known by a specific title; for example, there are 15 editions of the compilation *Trois contes* by Gustave Flaubert (the same three tales) and at least 11 translations of that compilation in various languages in LC’s collections. Below are suggested changes to RDA instructions for two different approaches depending upon which result JSC prefers.

LC priority assignment: high.

Approach #1: if the JSC wants all compilations to be identified according to the same instructions -- the fact of the resource being a compilation overruling the existence of a title in the original language by which it has become known ...:

6.2.2.3 General Guidelines on Choosing the Preferred Title

Choose the preferred title for a work applying the instructions given under 6.2.2.4–6.2.2.7.

For instructions on choosing the preferred title for special types of works, see 6.2.2.10 (compilations of works of a person, family, or corporate body), 6.14.2 (musical works), 6.19.2 (legal works), 6.23.2 (religious works), and 6.26.2 (official communications).

Approach #2: if the JSC wants only a compilation not having a title in the original language by which it has become known to be identified according to the instructions in RDA 6.2.2.10:

6.2.2.10 Recording the Preferred Title for a Compilation of Works

If a compilation of works has become known by a title through use in resources embodying that compilation or in reference sources, apply the instructions given under 6.2.2.4-6.2.2.5. For other compilations, r~~Record the preferred title for a compilation of works~~ applying the instructions given under 6.2.2.10.1-6.2.2.10.3, as applicable

4. Status of “Selections”

We are concerned about the discrepancy in RDA identifying “Selections” in the context of part of a work in some instructions (e.g., 6.2.2.9.2, 6.2.2.10.3) and in the context of an

expression in 6.12.1.4 and in numerous instructions in 6.27. We question tying 1) parts of works and 2) a subset of all known works with identification of the resource at the expression level. This comes from our brief experience in discussing examples with LC staff as we prepare for the US RDA Test. Because so many aspects of chapter 6 would be involved, we have not suggesting revised wording in this addendum. However, we are willing to write a discussion paper for use by the JSC in its consideration of this problem and possible solutions.

LC priority assignment: high.