

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Kevin Marsh, ACOC representative

Subject: **Qualifications after an identifier – Amendments to RDA 2.15.1.7**

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## **BACKGROUND**

At RDA 2.15.1.7 the cataloguer is instructed to record a qualification after an identifier. The instruction gives several examples where the qualifier has been abbreviated.

However, the identifier element is not a *transcribed* element but a *recorded* element. The abbreviation of information in recorded elements is only allowed under the terms of Appendix B, which does not permit abbreviations in the identifier element (covered by B.5.11) unless agencies are applying the *alternative* at B.1 to use in-house guidelines.

While qualifications often appear on the item in abbreviated form, this is not always the case. ACOC's feeling is that the examples should illustrate the principal instruction where the qualification is not abbreviated in the example. We also note that none of the examples include instances of 13-digit ISBNs or of electronic formats, and that there are no examples with more than two formats. ACOC seeks to broaden and annotate the examples to provide greater clarity to cataloguers in interpreting the instruction, while at the same time acknowledging the RDA principle that abbreviations may not be understood by catalogue users.

A Fast Track proposal on the part of this instruction relating to abbreviations was put forward in the April round, but rejected. ACOC puts forward the current proposal in order to facilitate further discussion.

If this proposal is accepted ACOC recommends that the examples be referred to the Examples Group for review.

## **PROPOSED REVISION OF RDA 2.15.1.7**

### 2.15.1.7

#### Qualification

If the resource has more than one identifier of the same type, record a brief qualification after the identifier.

#### **EXAMPLE**

ISBN 0-435-91660-2 (cased)

ISBN 0-435-91661-0 (pbk.)

ISBN 0-387-08266-2 (U.S.)

ISBN 3-540-08266-2 (Germany)

~~ISBN 0-684-14258-9 (bound)~~

~~ISBN 0-684-14257-0 (pbk.)~~

ISBN 978-1-4094-4206-6 (hbk)

ISBN 978-1-4094-4207-3 (ebk – PDF)

ISBN 978-1-4094-0374-5 (ebk – ePUB)

Qualifiers are given in abbreviated form on the resource

If the resource has only one identifier, add the type of binding, if considered important for identification.

**EXAMPLE**

~~ISBN 0-7225-0344-X (pbk.)~~

ISBN 978-1-107-66485-2 (paperback)

For updating loose-leaves, add the qualification (*loose-leaf*) to the identifier.

**EXAMPLE**

ISBN 0-86325-016-5 (loose-leaf)

If identifiers for parts of the resource are recorded (see **2.15.1.5**), follow each identifier with the designation of the part to which it applies.

**EXAMPLE**

ISBN 0-08-019856-2 (v. 1)

ISBN 0-901212-04-0 (v. 38)

ISMN M-001-11270-3 (partition)

**CLEAN COPY**

2.15.1.7

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