

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Dave Reser, LC Representative
Subject: Merging 3.6.1.3 Recording Base Material and 3.6.2 Base Material for Microfilm, Microfiche, Photographic Film, and Motion Picture Film.

Thanks to the British Library for combining the vocabularies for Base Material into a single list—we agree with the proposal, with a few additional comments:

1. BL asked if an example of a specific safety base was needed: we do not see the need for an additional example. *Archival Moving Image Materials: A Cataloging Manual*, Second edition, mentions “*acetate propionate*” as a more specific type of film base, but this term hasn’t been used in our moving image cataloging records, and there are already a number of terms for the category of “safety” bases (acetate, diacetate, polyester, triacetate) that should suffice.
2. BL asked if an example was needed for microforms, etc., under 3.6.1.4 (Details of Base Materials): we do not think this is necessary.
3. The final example proposed for 3.6.1.3 should be revised because (diacetate and triacetate are types of acetate film, not nitrate film). Revised version:

EXAMPLE

acetate

Base material for a motion picture film recorded as acetate because it was not possible to determine whether the base material is diacetate or triacetate

4. Commenters from several LC cataloging units noted that the vocabulary includes terms at more than one level of a hierarchy (e.g., *safety base* is in the list, as are several types of safety bases; *synthetic* is in the list, as are several types of synthetic bases). The concept of using a ‘broader’ term is now generally applicable via the final paragraph of 3.6.1.3 (“Record a more general term when the specific base material cannot be determined”). However, we wondered if it is also desirable to indicate this hierarchy by breaking up the list of terms with captions (e.g., 3.3.1.3)? Although these terms are all defined in the glossary, they are not linked so Toolkit users may be unaware of them. If a future version of the Toolkit links them directly, such captions seem less important. We note that terms at different levels of hierarchy were already present before BL’s proposed changes (e.g., vellum, leather, and parchment are all types of skin). Community-adopted best practice statements could help to clarify the level in the hierarchy as well.
5. Although terms such as *acetate*, *diacetate*, and *triacetate* are known and widely used by these shorthand forms, and thus good for the preferred labels in the vocabulary, we suggest that alternate labels be used in the registry for the more formal forms (e.g., cellulose acetate, cellulose diacetate, cellulose triacetate).