

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR
FROM: Alan Danskin, British Library representative to JSC
SUBJECT: **List of Specialist Cataloguing Manuals for RDA: Possible additional titles**

BL thanks ALA for its proposal.

1. Should manuals for authority control be included in this list, if they address authority control in general and not in relationship to a particular cataloguing specialization? If so, how should we distinguish a general text on authority control from a “manual”?

BL No. We assume that Authority Control will be covered by Part B and that such manuals/guidelines would therefore be redundant unless they were for a specific specialisation – although we are not sure how this could be reconciled with the syndetic purpose of authority control.

2. Should lists of difficult-to-establish authorized headings in specialized areas be included in RDA (e.g. African legislative and ministerial bodies, musical compositions)?

BL does not think such lists are a component of RDA. They could be a component of a product based on or linked to RDA.

3. What is the distinction between a “specialist manual” and a more generic text on how to catalogue a certain type of resource? Where should we draw the line for inclusion within RDA?

BL takes the view that the list is not a bibliography of cataloguing. It should be limited to:

- 1) those tools which would enrich the instructions for specific material types
 - 2) The resources must be recognised as standards within those specialist communities.
 - 3) normative documents referenced by the rules or which are necessary to apply specific rules – e.g. transliteration tables.
 - 4) There must a maintenance structure as otherwise the resources may move out of phase with RDA.
4. Should manuals intended for training, as opposed to reference, be included? (For example, the NACO training manuals; the list below includes only the NACO Series training guide but others should be added if they are considered within scope.) ALA would prefer that training manuals **not** be considered within scope.

BL – No.

5. How much of a resource should be devoted to descriptive cataloguing to warrant inclusion within RDA? Is a single chapter enough?

BL – See our answers to 3 & 4.

6. How are materials that are considered “standards” within various specialist communities be identified for inclusion and differentiated from those that are not? ALA would like to see the former included, but not the latter.

BL – Through contact with appropriate specialists.

How will a list of manuals in RDA be maintained? Could RDA link out to an external list of such manuals? Could a wiki or other technology to be used to allow specialist communities to maintain citations for resources in their areas

BL – The list is certainly not an integral part of RDA. It has to be referenced from RDA.