

2009-01-12

To: Elena Escolano Rodríguez
Chair, ISBD Review Group

From: Marg Stewart
Chair, Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

Subject: JSC response to proposals from the ISBD Review Group

The JSC reaffirms its support for the AACR/ISBD/ISSN harmonization agreement and thanks the ISBD Review Group for consulting with the JSC and ISSN Network on the two issues below:

1. Removal of the following exception at ISBD 1.1.4.1.1 (AACR2 12.1B2): If the title of a serial or integrating resource appears on the source of information for the title proper in full as well as in the form of an acronym or initialism, choose the full form as the title proper.

The JSC prefers to retain the exception. For serials and integrating resources, stability of the title proper is important. The exception provides explicit guidance regarding choice of title proper which has improved consistency and efficiency. In addition, it is not clear that the impact of removing the exception on the evaluation of major/minor title change situations has been considered. Finally, the JSC notes that the ISSN Network has indicated that it opposes the removal of the exception.

The JSC continues to support the goal of harmonization of the three standards and sees a clear lack of consensus to make the change proposed.

2. Address problem encountered for Chinese, Japanese, Korean titles when applying the rules for when to create a new description for serials based on changes in the title. Specifically, any change in the first five words (the first six words if the first word is an article) of a serial title is considered a major change (AACR2 21.2C2). This is difficult to apply to Chinese, Japanese and Korean titles given the difficulty of counting words in these languages and scripts.

The problem cited above has not been reported to any of the JSC constituencies and at this time, with the information that we have at hand, we do not recommend any change. If the ISBD Review Group wishes to pursue this issue, the JSC would welcome more information on the nature of the problem and specific proposals on how it might be resolved.