

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR

FROM: Hugh Taylor, CILIP representative

SUBJECT: GMD/SMD Working Group: Proposal for Content and Carrier Terms in RDA

CILIP is grateful to the Working Group, not only for undertaking this task, but more importantly for the quality of the resulting report. We regard it as a very impressive paper and agree with the need for what is being proposed. Section 2, in particular, demonstrates just why this amount of detail is so important in serving users' needs.

Comments on recommendations

CILIP agrees all the recommendations. We note that the lists of terms in 1.1 and 1.3 may be subject to change as work proceeds on RDA and as a result of consultation with other communities.

Comments on issues

6.1. We agree in principle, but note that none of the alternatives suggested is likely to meet with broad support. Nor, sadly, have we been able to come up with any more satisfactory term ourselves.

6.2. We agree that this issue needs further consideration, especially in respect of resources requiring the use of multiple terms.

6.3. The report makes a good case for recording multiple levels of carrier elements in order to assist retrieval and display.

6.4. CILIP agrees that more work may be needed on the list in Appendix B. We have concerns, though, about the sustainability of such a list – a pre-defined list will inevitably lag behind what is actually in use in the “real world” and what cataloguers actually require, therefore, to be able, accurately, to describe resources.

6.5. Agreed.