To: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR

From: Sally Strutt, JSC Chair

Subject: GMD/SMD Working Group: Terms of Reference

Related documents: 5JSC/Restricted/Chair/1

                        5JSC/AACR3/I
                        5JSC/AACR3/I/CCC response
                        5JSC/AACR3/I/LC response
                        5JSC/AACR3/I/CILIP response
                        5JSC/AACR3/I/ALA response
                        5JSC/AACR3/I/ACOC response
                        5JSC/AACR3/I/BL response

Background

The General Material Designation (GMD) has long been recognized as a problematic area in AACR2. One of the tasks in the JSC Strategic Plan (4JSC/Chair/79/Rev/3) is to resolve the problems associated with the class of materials concept and the related issue of GMDs.

In the December 2004 draft of part I of AACR3, the rules on the GMD were rewritten to allow the use of either a content designation, or a medium designation, or both. The terms used in the Specific Material Designation (SMD) were aligned with physical units. The constituency responses generally agreed that change was required to the GMD and SMD, but did not agree with what had been proposed.

At the April 2005 meeting, the JSC decided on a different approach for the new code (now titled *RDA: Resource Description and Access*). This approach will align the structure of RDA directly with the FRBR (*Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records*) model, and instructions for recording data will be presented independently of guidelines for data presentation. This new arrangement will allow use of terms for "type and form of content" and "type and form of carrier" to categorize resources without the current constraints imposed by display requirements. The "type and form of carrier" will also be considered a separate element from the "extent."

Charge

> 1. Terms
> Using the categories of categories of content (work, expression), medium, and carrier identified and defined in 5JSC/Restricted/Chair/1, the Group is asked to
>
> -   Identify terms to be used to indicate type and form of content.

- Identify terms to be used to indicate type and form of carrier.
- Provide a definition for each term.
- Articulate how the terms will be used.
- Ensure that all terms are intelligible to catalogue users.
- Propose guidelines for when more than one content term or more than one carrier term is applicable to a resource.

The Group should also refer to the December 2004 draft of part I of AACR3, and the constituency responses to the draft (sections 10, 12, and 14). However, it is not necessary (or desirable) for the Group to go beyond these documents in order to further deconstruct this terminology, although additional or alternative terms may be proposed if needed.

2. Display
The Group is also asked to:

- Make proposals on how both types of terms could be displayed in an ISBD display.
- Make proposals on how both types of terms could be displayed in an OPAC display.

3. Issues
Finally, the Group is asked to:

- Highlight any other relevant issues for consideration by the JSC.

Membership

- The Group should comprise members drawn from JSC constituencies and other appropriate bodies.

Timeline

- The Group is asked to prepare a "strawman" proposal in fulfillment of the charge by August 1, 2005 for consideration at the October 2005 JSC meeting. Further actions for the Group will be determined at that meeting.