

To: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR
From: Jennifer Bowen, ALA representative
Subject: 5JSC/LC/10, Numbering for serials: alternative instruction

ALA supports LC's proposal for an alternative instruction on the recording of numbering, which will allow for an unformatted note in cases that otherwise would have required a formatted element. This meets the needs of the new CONSER standard record guidelines with regard to the recording of numbering for serials.

We suggest some changes, to help clarify some points and correct what seems to be an error.

2.6.2.3. With the proposed rewriting of 2.6.1.3, separate bullets now address the situation of the designation being based on either 1) the first and/or last issue or part, or 2) an issue or part other than the first and/or last. We recommend that same structure be adopted in 2.6.2.3, breaking the first bullet of the alternative into two separate instructions (clean copy provided below):

2.6.2.3. Recording chronological designations

- If the first and/or last issue or part of a serial is identified by a chronological designation, record it following the basic instructions on recording numbering (see 2.6.0.3).
 - ◇ *Optionally*, if the chronological designation includes dates not of the Gregorian or Julian calendar, add the corresponding dates of the Gregorian or Julian calendar in square brackets.

Alternative:

Give the beginning and ending information in a note (see 2.6.7.3).

- If the description is based on an issue or part other than the first and/or last, do not record the chronological designation.
 - ◇ *Optionally*, supply the chronological designation of the first and/or last issue or part if they can be readily ascertained.

[remaining bullets as in LC proposal]

2.6.7.3. In the alternative, the rule number referenced is the same as that for the rule in which it resides; it appears that “2.6.1.3 and 2.6.2.3” was meant instead.

To make the alternative instruction more clear, it would help to add the word “even” after the word “note”. The reworded alternative would thus read as:

Alternative:

Give the beginning and ending information in a note even if the description is based on the first and/or last issue or part (see 2.6.1.3 and 2.6.2.3).

With enumeration and chronology being treated as separate elements in RDA, it is not clear how (or even whether) both may be presented together in a single note. If the intention is that the two can continue to be combined as in AACR2, it would be helpful to include an example giving combined enumeration and chronology, such as:

Began with vol. 1, no. 1 (Mar. 2006).

Such an example could appear within the text of the guideline, or within the Appendix on ISBD data presentation.