

Memorandum

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5JSC/LC/10/LC follow-up

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR DATE: August 2, 2007

FROM: Barbara B. Tillett, LC Representative

SUBJECT: Numbering for serials: alternative instruction

During the discussion of 5JSC/LC/10 at the April 2007 meeting, the JSC decided to create separate data elements for the following:

Numeric and/or alphabetic designation of first issue or part
Chronological designation of first issue or part
Numeric and/or alphabetic designation of last issue or part
Chronological designation of last issue or part

The Editor later notified the JSC that he had created the same set of data elements for subsequent sequences of numbering. The May 2007 Editor's draft of chapter 2 contains these eight additional data elements. The instructions do not refer to the issue used as the basis of description. They do include an optional addition in each of the 2.6 instructions to supply the data element, enclosed in square brackets, if it can be readily ascertained (i.e., if the cataloguer doesn't have the first and/or last issue but knows the information).

What the JSC didn't discuss in April 2007 was LC's proposal to add an alternative to give the beginning/ending information in a note instead of as an element (now separate elements). LC also proposed a related rewording of 2.6.7.3 to allow the use of a note even if the description was based on the first and/or last issue; these two proposals were made on behalf of the CONSER program for the CONSER standard record.

The counterpart to 2.6.7.3-2.6.7.5 in the May 2007 Editor's draft is 2.17.4.1. 2.17.4.1 is divided into two topics that are the same as the former 2.6.7.4 and 2.6.7.5: Complex or irregular numbering; Period covered. However, the topic of former 2.6.7.3 (Beginning and ending numbering not recorded in the numbering element) is lacking in new 2.17.4.1. It needs to be restored to 2.17.4.1 for the situations when a cataloguer does not apply the optional addition in the 2.6 instructions (i.e., if the cataloguer doesn't have the first and/or last issue but knows the information). LC would then restate its proposal to add an alternative that such information could always be given in an annotation.