

# Memorandum

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

5JSC/LC/10

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR      DATE: Feb. 5, 2007

FROM: Barbara B. Tillett, LC Representative

SUBJECT: Numbering for serials: alternative instruction

At the April 2006 meeting, the JSC decided that numbering for serials (currently area 3 in *ISBD* and in *AACR2*) should be recorded, rather than transcribed, data elements.

The style of numeric and chronological designations often changes over the lifetime of the serial. The most important aspect of the numbering is when the serial began or ceased, not how the information is presented on the resource.

The *AACR2* rule for situations when the description is based on the first and/or last issue calls for giving the numeric and chronological designations in a MARC formatted 362 field. (In *AACR2* appendices and in related documentation (LCRIs, CONSER documentation, etc.), there are detailed instructions on choice of designations, capitalization, and abbreviations for usual and unusual situations.)

362 0# Vol. 1, no. 1 (Jan. 2005)-

If the description isn't based on the first and/or last issue but information is known about the first and/or last issue, the *AACR2* rule says to give that information in a note (a MARC unformatted 362 field). Giving this information allows for more flexibility in presenting this information; two of the possible ways for expressing the information in the 362 0# example above are given below.

362 1# Began with v. 1, no. 1 (Jan. 2005).  
or  
362 1# Began with issue for Jan. 2005.

If a library is part of a cooperative cataloging program or uses bibliographic records from a shared database, the record in its own catalog for a serial may be based on the first and/or last issue even if that library's holdings don't include those issues. Users of such records are often confused by the formatted 362 field information; they think that such information represents the library's holdings of the serial.

LC proposes adding an alternative rule in *RDA* to allow giving the numbering information as a note even if the description is based on the first and/or last issue. In the proposed revisions to the *RDA* instructions below, please note the following:

-- LC has supplied tentative wording in 2.6.0.3 to reflect the April 2006 decision to

record, not transcribe, numbering (the Editor has not yet distributed a revised text to reflect that decision).

-- In 2.6.1.3 and in the last paragraph of 2.6.2.3, LC has incorporated the changes it proposed in 5JSC/RDA/Part I/LC response. The Oct. 2006 version of the Part I response table indicates that the JSC agreed to these changes. These changes are shown in blue in the text below.

### **2.6.0.3. ~~Transcription~~ Recording numbering**

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- ~~Transcribe~~ Record numbering as it ~~appears on the source of~~ information, following the general guidelines ~~on transcription~~ given under 1.6.

May/June 1981

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### **2.6.1.3. Recording numeric and/or alphabetic designations**

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- If the first and/or last issue or part of a serial is identified by a numeric/alphabetic designation, record it following the basic instructions on recording numbering (see 2.6.0.3).

**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 numeric and/or alphabetic designation.
  - ◇ Optionally, supply the numeric and/or alphabetic designation of the first and/or last issue or part if they can be readily ascertained.

- Follow the numeric and/or alphabetic designation of the first issue or part by a hyphen.

No. 1-

Issue no. 1-

Pt. 1-

- Precede the numeric and/or alphabetic designation by a hyphen when only the numbering of the last issue or part of a serial is given.

-no. 10

- If the sequence of numeric and/or alphabetic designation is continued from a previous serial, record the numeric and/or alphabetic designation of the first issue or part of the serial represented by the new description.

Vol. 1, no. 6-

*(Designation appears on last issue of previous serial as: vol. 1, no. 5)*

### 2.6.2.3. Recording chronological designations

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- 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). If the description is based on an issue or part other than the first and/or last, do not record the chronological designation.
  - ◇ *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).

- Follow the chronological designation of the first issue or part by a hyphen.

1975-

Jan. /Feb. 1964-

1961/2-

*(Designation appears on issue as: 1961-2)*

1999/2000-

*(Designation appears on issue as: 1999-2000)*

- Precede the chronological designation by a hyphen when only the numbering of the last issue or part of a serial is given.

-Dec. 31, 1999

- ◇ *Optionally*, if the designation consists of a year and a number that is a division of the year, record the year before the number.

97-1-

*(Designation appears on part as: 1-97)*

1998-1-

*(Designation appears on issue as: 1-1998)*

### 2.6.7.3. Beginning and ending numbering note not recorded in the numbering element

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- If the description is based on an issue or part other than the first and/or last, make notes on beginning and ending numbering.

Ceased with no. 25.

**Alternative:**

Give the beginning and ending information in a note if the description is based on the first and/or last issue or part (see 2.6.7.3).