

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR

FROM: Sally Strutt, British Library representative

SUBJECT: Rule proposals for musical format information (eliminating Musical presentation statement area (5.3))

The British Library agrees that there are deficiencies with the current rules concerning the Musical presentation statement area (5.3) but we do not agree with the proposal to delete the area and merge it with the edition area. Although the distinction between the musical presentation statement and the edition area has been rather confused and not helped by terminology, we would prefer a solution which better clarifies and preserves the intellectual distinctions between the two areas, rather than a solution which merges the two concepts into one area.

Comments from the British Library Printed Music department follow:

We note that use of the actual word ‘edition’ does not preclude the information being a presentation statement rather than an edition statement – e.g. ‘full score edition’. We think this should be clarified and the musical presentation statement retained.

We agree with LC that one of the deficiencies with the present rules is that the presentation statement information can only be taken from the chief source of information, yet it does not always appear there. We would prefer a solution whereby information for the presentation statement can be taken from outside the chief source of information. The rule could then be mandatory when the (correct) information appears somewhere on the item.

There are problems around the phrase ‘vocal score’ which LC touch on but which are, we think, more extensive. This phrase is analogous to the illustration of ‘chant et piano’ on page 2 of LC/4, where the proposal rightly says that ‘chant et piano’ is either (with some justification) treated as title information or edition/presentation information. The same can be said of ‘vocal score’. We think one possibility might be to state in the rules that a phrase indicating some arrangement of the intellectual content should be treated as a responsibility statement for the title proper, even when that statement is anonymous (which is another reason why bald “vocal score” statements are misunderstood – no-one is identified as the creator of this version). An example or two relating to vocal score would also be helpful.

If ‘vocal score’ is used as a merged edition/presentation statement, then we would have the anomaly with other statements that indicate some sort of arrangement, but may or may not be considered edition/presentation statements, e.g. ‘version for voices’, ‘chorus part’, ‘reduction for solo and piano’. What goes for the ‘vocal score’ should also be

consistent for any similar phrase, so what would we do with these? Would they go in the merged edition/presentation statement? Or would they go in Area 1?

A further consideration is that some of these phrases might not indicate an arrangement, but just the instrumentation of the item in hand, which happens to be the original version. For example, 'for high voice' simply indicates that this item, the original, is for high voice. This would therefore be other title information. However, if another version exists for low voice, then that same phrase could indicate that some arrangement has been done and that this phrase is actually an [anonymous] responsibility statement and should therefore really be given in area 1. Equally, the phrase 'for piano': was it originally for piano, or has it been arranged for piano? Of course, a reduction for piano could be a vocal score, which the proposal would have us put in the merged edition/presentation statement, not in area 1 at all.

If the prevailing view is to go with the LC proposal and merge the musical presentation statement with the edition, we think that the above points should still be addressed somehow. And plenty of examples should be given. Otherwise confusion will remain, but of a different order.

Finally, whatever we do here should, of course, be consistent with FRBR distinctions about work and manifestation.