

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR

FROM: Hugh Taylor, CILIP representative

SUBJECT: Breton initial articles (AACR2 E.1A)

CILIP has no specific comments to offer on the LC proposal. We lack expertise in Breton – geographical proximity being unrelated to linguistic knowledge and competence – but the evidence provided by LC seems more than adequate to support the proposal. As a member of the Brythonic branch of Celtic, there is much that applies equally to Welsh (but not in exactly the same forms), a language which is already covered in the AACR2 list of articles.

CILIP expects that this proposal, along with other proposals relating to initial articles due for consideration by JSC, will be considered in the context of any recommendations brought forward by the RDA Appendices Group. As currently worded, AACR2 aims to include articles only from those “languages most frequently encountered by cataloguers”. Even within France (and even within Brittany, too) Breton is not that often encountered.

There is no doubt that information on articles will be needed by those applying RDA, so having such a list and maintaining it are clearly desirable objectives, even for the less frequently-encountered languages. However, CILIP is unsure whether an (ever-expanding) appendix is the right way to hold and access this information – or, indeed, whether this sort of information should be held within a charged-for product. We suggest that the JSC revisit the principle of inclusion once the RDA Appendices Group has reported.