UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR   DATE: April 20, 2006

FROM: Barbara B. Tillett, LC Representative

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

The Library of Congress has been notified that articles for the Breton language are not included in the list of articles in AACR2 E.1A. The source of the request is an email to LC first forwarded to the Network Development and MARC Office and then forwarded to the Cataloging Policy and Support Office. The message is from Philippe Le Pape (Philippe.Le-Pape@biu.toulouse.fr) and states: "Dear LC, the Breton language articles are absent from the list (definite : an, ar, indefinite : eun, eur) – which leads to filing errors in LC's catalogue (for example, 740 __ $a Ar mên du should read: 740 3_ $a...)."

Sources for Determining Articles

A search based on Breton grammars in the Library of Congress does not result in a consistent statement with respect to articles. A composite list from consulting various sources results in the following definite articles: al, an, ar; and the following indefinite articles: ul, un, ur, eul, eun, eur.

The bases for this composite list are as follows:

1.   Galand, Rene – The Breton language : an introduction / Reun Ar C'halan ; prepared by the U.S. Branch of the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language – Plymouth Meeting, Pa., U.S.A. : The Branch, [1984], p. 8: "The definite article is **ar.** It changes to **al** before initial **l,** and to **an** before initial **t** or **d**). It corresponds to Gaelic **an** and to Welsh **y** (**yr**). The indefinite article is **ur** (**ul** before initial **l,** and **un** before initial **t** or **d**)."

2.   Conroy, Joseph F. – Breton-English/English-Breton : dictionary and phrasebook / Joseph Conroy. – New York : Hippocrene Books, c1997, p. 27: "The indefinite article ('a/an') also has three forms, *ur/un/ul*, which occur under the same circumstances as *ar/an/al* ... Remember that, for most speakers, the u of *ur/un/ul* is that found in the French word *tu*. Other speakers of Breton may use a sound like that of **eu** (as in French *peu*), and often spell the indefinite article as *eur/eun/eul*."

p. 88 under a section headed "Numbers":

"1   unan
Unan occurs alone, or before an adjective. Before a noun, we must use *ur/un/ul*."

3.   Trépos, Pierre – Grammaire bretonne / Pierre Trépos – Rennes : Ouest France, c1980, p. 86:

> "L'article breton ne s'accorde NI EN GENRE NI EN NOMBRE:
>
>> an peut signifier le, la ou les;
>> eun peut signifier un or une.
>
> Mais, selon l'initiale du mot que le suit:
>
>> l'article défini peut être
>>
>>> an, al, ar;
>>
>> l'article indéfini peut être
>>
>>> eun, eul, eur."
>
> p. 123 under a section headed "La Numération Les Nombres Cardinaux":
>
> "285 A. – De 1 à 10.
>
> 1 : – **eun** (**eur**, **eul**), 'article indéfini', lorsqu'il est suivi d'un 'nom':
>
> **ne brenin nemet eul lur avalou**, je n'achèterai qu'une livre de pommes
>
>> – unan, lorsque 'un' ('une') est pronom:
>
> kavet em-eus unan, j'en ai trouvé un ..."

4.   Press, Ian – A grammar of modern Breton / Ian Press. – Berlin ; New York : Mouton de Gruyter, c1987, p. 74 under a section headed "3. The Article":

> DEFINITE   INDEFINITE
>
> | | | |
> |---|---|---|
> | <u>an</u> | <u>un</u> | + n, d, t, h, vowel |
> | <u>al</u> | <u>ul</u> | + <u>l</u> |
> | <u>ar</u> | <u>ur</u> | + other consonants |

p. 86 under a section headed 5. The Numeral:

'5.2 Cardinal Numerals

Of the cardinals, <u>unan</u> "one" is pronominal; adjectivally, it takes the form of the indefinite article: <u>un</u>, <u>ur</u>, <u>ul</u>. Occasionally, <u>un</u> is found pronominally."

5.   http://www.kervarker.org/en/kentel03_04_yezh.html:

> "Y1. L'article

The definite article is al, an, ar (the).
The indefinite article is ul, un, ur (a, an).

Use:

al and ul before the consonant /L/ ...
an and un before the consonants /D, N, T/ ...
and before vowels and silent H's ...
ar and ur before other consonants ..."

6.   LC has records containing the following titles:

Al Lanv
An tri boulomig kalon aour
Ar garantez medish : hervez Molière

Eun toullad kontadennou
Eur veaj e Stadou-Unanet an Amerik

Ur galedenn a zen

Proposed revision of AACR E.1A

As shown below, LC is proposing the addition of eight Breton articles and the revision of the line for the article "un" to add Breton to the list of languages.

Article(s)	Language
al	Breton
an	Breton
ar	Breton
*eul	Breton
*eun	Breton
*eur	Breton
*ul	Breton
*un	Breton, Catalan, French, Italian, Provencal/Occitan, Romanian, Spanish
*ur	Breton