

5JSC/RDA/Part I/Chair follow-up/3
7 March 2006

To: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR
From: Deirdre Kiorgaard, Chair, JSC
Subject: RDA: Resource Description and Access Part I - Review by other rule makers of
December 2005 Draft - ISSN

These are comments on the draft Part I of RDA received from the ISSN International Centre.

Comments from the ISSN International Centre on the draft of RDA/Part 1

Françoise Pellé, Director, Alain Roucolle, Head of the Bibliographic Section

February 28, 2006

The International Centre thanks the JSC to give us the opportunity to submit comments on the draft of RDA, Resource Description and Access, Part 1.

The first and main comment is to regret the absence of the term and concept of “continuing resource”. No clause, no rule are indicated in the draft to treat the continuing resources. This category of resources is not retained to define the resources which are issued over time with no predetermined conclusion. The resources which compose the category of continuing resources, serials and ongoing integrating resources, are included, in this draft, in larger categories, the resources issued in successive parts and in the integrating resources.

As you know the concept of “continuing resources” was developed in the framework of the revision of AACR and was endorsed by the ISBD(S) and ISSN communities, in their cataloguing rules, at the end of the harmonization process. The cataloguing standards (ISBD(CR) and ISSN Manual) were expanded to treat all continuing resources. The application of these standards are widely implemented in the library world, documentation centers and by other users of bibliographic records. Furthermore, the publishing world is adapting to the concept of “continuing resource” to manage the identifiers, ISBN for finite resources and ISSN for continuing resources.

Moreover the new draft of standard, ISO 3297 (Information and documentation – International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)), which is receiving a large positive vote by the ISO members, expands its scope to encompass all continuing resources. This objective was designated as a main purpose for the revision of the ISO standard, in the results of the user survey made in 2004. The draft of new ISSN scope is also compatible and interoperable with the other ISO standard numbers.

The revision of ISO 3297 can be considered as the last step of the fundamental harmonization process of the three main international cataloguing standards. Unfortunately the giving up of the concept of “continuing resources” in the draft of RDA will threaten the harmonization status. It will generate again different practices in the bibliographic communities and of course difficulties to exchange bibliographic data.

The term “continuing resources” is replaced, in the RDA draft, by expressions such as “resources issued in successive parts”, “integrating resources” and sometimes by “serials”. The use of different expressions, which are so similar, like “resources issued in successive parts” and “serials” in different clauses (2.3.1.7 a and b) generates some confusion. The collective term of “continuing resources” would clarify the reading and the application of the rules.

The following comments deal with rules, which are also in relation with the ISSN standard.

Point 1.3 Changes requiring a new description

Both rules (major title changes and changes in responsibility) are in conformity with ISSN Manual and ISBD(CR) but a third condition is omitted in the RDA draft: the physical medium change of the resource. ISSN Manual and ISBD(CR) stipulate to make a new record when the

physical medium of the resource changes. The omission of this rule is prejudicial to reach another objective of the harmonization, which is the one record-to-one record correspondence.

Points 1.6.1.1 Capitalization of titles, and 1.6.1.2 Capitalization of other transcribed elements
It is indicated to “capitalize the first word”. Is it really the first word, or the first letter of the word, which has to be capitalized?

Point 2.12.1.3 Incorrect standard numbers

If the rule recommends to add “incorrect”, “cancelled” or “invalid” after the number it should be referred to an authoritative base of the numbers.