To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Deirdre Kiorgaard, Chair, JSC

Subject: RDA: Resource Description and Access - Review by other rule makers of
March 2007 Draft of Chapter 3 - France

These are comments on the draft chapter 3 of RDA received from AFNOR
CG46/CN357/GE6.

AFNOR CG46/CN357/GE6
"Evolution de la description bibliographique"

French comments on RDA Draft of chapter 3 revised

Comment category	Comments
General	Except for « Carrier type » (3.3) and « Extent » (3.4) all elements are mentioned as « optional ». But Consolidated ISBD in accordance with chapter 7 of the FRBR defines other elements as Mandatory according to the type of resource (for example mode of access for remote electronic resources , system requirements for direct access electronic resources). Why have these precisions not been mentioned in RDA?
General	The numbering of the different paragraphs and/or bullets is not clear: we don't know exactly at what level we are (for example, to what exactly refers Optional addition that follows 3.12.0.3.5, to this paragraph or to the whole set of paragraphs?)
General	Even in a web environment, too many cross references look more like a paper chase than a clear rule easy to follow, for example: 3.4.0.3.1b.1 it is stated "record the extent by giving the number … followed by the number of volumes and/or pages, etc. in parentheses, as instructed under 3.4.2". Then, in 3.4.2.1.2 the rule is "Specify the number of volumes . as instructed under 3.4.4, …"
	Background **General issues**
Background General issues **Alignment with FRBR – 1st comment**	The process is very interesting and praiseworthy. Anyway it has not been entirely completed. In a general way, as chapter 3 is intended to describe the "Manifestation" (that is to say the physical object) it should not any more contain information relating to the "Work", or to the "Expression" such as the terms "map", "score", "part", "drawing" which come under Expression
Background General issues **Alignment with FRBR – 2nd comment**	In other respects, in chapter 4, distribution between "Attributes of the work" and "Attributes of the expression" is arbitrary and wrong for certain elements. • 4.4 Intended audience applies to Expression (for example, an adaptation for young people) as well as to the Work • 4.11 Medium of performance of musical content and 4.18 Awards apply also to the Work. We suggest to delete the captions "Attributes of the work" and "Attributes of the expression" from Contents in chapter 4 and to specify for each element if this element applies to the Work and/or to the Expression.
Background General issues **Alignment with FRBR – 3rd comment**	4.12 Duration This element mixes information relating to Manifestation that should therefore appear in chapter 3, and information relating to Work or Expression. 4.12.0.3 describes the "carrier" and should appear in chapter 3 4.12.0.4 and 4.12.1 apply to Work or Expression and are rightly placed in chapter 4.
Background General issues **Representation of elements vs. notes**	We agree with this distinction. But, it should be better not to separate information of the same kind between principal information (that would be in a structured form) and information considered additional (that would be given in unstructured form as a note). According to this, all the techniques used for a still image should be given together and not separated as it is suggested by the example given in 3.9.1.3.
Background General issues **Use of**	The third indent refers to a number of sources but the reference to Annex C of Consolidated ISBD of IFLA should appear also.

Comment category	Comments
prescribed terms and terms in lists	
Background General issues **Elements and sub-elements**	We agree
Background General issues **Punctuation within elements**	Category 2 When the kind of information is different there should be two different elements. For example, the comma that separates the dimensions of a map and the dimensions of the sheet, as in "20 x 31 cm, on sheet 42 x 50 cm" separates data of the same kind that can stay in the same element. The parentheses in "1 volume (looseleaf)" separate different kind of information that should be treated as two distinct elements. **3.4.0.3b** Notated music 2 elements (specific form of content / extent). **3.4.0.3c** Still images 2 elements (specific form of content / extent). **3.4.0.3d** Text 1 element **3.4.0.7.1;** *a) Computer discs, cartridges, etc.* ***3.4.0.7.1a.1** If the resource consists of a file(s) in a format that parallels a print or graphic counterpart (e.g., PDF), …* 2 elements (extent / specific content) ***3.4.0.7.1a.2** For other types of files (e.g., audio files, video files, data files),…* 1 element ***3.4.0.7.1a.3** Optional addition.* 1 element *b) Filmstrips and filmslips* 1 element *c) Flipcharts* 1 element *d) Microfiches* 1 element *e) Online resources* ***3.4.0.7.1e.1** If the resource consists of a file(s) in a format that parallels a print…* 2 elements (extent / specific content) ***3.4.0.7.1e.2** For other types of files (e.g., audio files, video files, data files), …* 1 element ***3.4.0.7.1e.3** Optional addition.* 1 element *f)* Overhead transparencies 1 element

Comment category	Comments
	g) Stereographs 1 element **3.4.0.10.4;** If the resource is in a loose-leaf format*, …* 2 elements (extent / binding) **3.4.2.1.2;** Specify the number of volumes… 2 elements (specific form of content / extent). *Exceptions:* **3.4.2.1.2a** *a) Resource containing a set of parts* 2 elements (specific form of content / extent). **3.4.2.1.2b;** *b) Resource consisting of a score and part(s) in a single physical unit* 2 elements (specific form of content / extent). **3.4.2.2.1;** For resources other than scores and parts… 2 elements (specific form of content / extent). **3.4.3.4.2;** *Albums, portfolios, etc.* 2 elements (extent / specific form of content) **3.4.4.13.2;** *If the sheet is designed to be read in pages when folded...* 1 element **3.4.4.14.2;** *Single portfolio or case* 1 element **3.4.4.16.1;** *Continuously paged volumes* 1 element **3.4.4.17.2;** *Individually paged volumes, Optional addition* 1 element **3.4.4.19.2;** *More than one portfolio or case, Optional addition.* 1 element **3.4.5.2.1;** *Number of subunits* 2 elements (specific form of content / extent) **3.5.0.4b**; *Dimensions of carrier, b) Cartridges* 1 element **3.5.0.4c;** c) Cassettes 1 element **3.5.0.4i;** *i) Reels* 1 element **3.5.1.3.1;** *Map, etc., in segments designed to fit together* 1 element **3.5.1.4.1;** *Dimensions of map, etc., in relation to dimensions of sheet* 1 element **3.5.1.5.1;** *Map, etc., on folded sheet* 1 element

Comment category	Comments
	3.5.1.6.1; *Map, etc., presented on both sides of a sheet* 1 element **3.5.2.1.3** *If appropriate, give more than one set of dimensions…* 1 element **3.5.2.2.1;** *Dimensions of image in relation to dimensions of sheet* 1 element **3.9.0.4.2;** *Production method for manuscripts,* If the manuscript or manuscripts are copie… 2 elements (original / copy) **3.11.0.6.2;** *Layout of tactile text,* Specify *double line spacing*, in parentheses, if applicable… 1 element **3.12.0.5.3;** *Moving images* 1 element **3.14.0.3.2;** *Recording font size,* Optional addition 1 element **4.8.0.7.3.** *Tactile system of notation,* If the level of contraction is known… 1 element
Background General issues **Punctuation within elements**	Category 3 Square brackets must be kept for the reliability of information even if their use is not understood by all users ("Ask a librarian!"). Square brackets are essential to identification and necessary in catalogs.
Background General issues **Use of abbreviations**	We agree not to use abbreviations. However when abbreviations are maintained, international standardized abbreviations (ISO) should be used: for example to express a duration, "h"; "min" ; "s".
	Background **Specific elements**
Background Specific elements **Media type, carrier type, and content type**	To distinguish between « media type », « carrier type » in chapter 3 and « content type » in chapter 4 proves an excellent idea. From our point of view it would be necessary to see it through and, in chapter 4 to introduce an element more specific than "content type" (which is generic) in order to specify the exact representation of this content: for example "map", "remote sensing image", "profile" in the case of "cartographic image"; "globe", "relief model" in the case of "cartographic three-dimensional form". As a result there would be "media type"/"carrier type" in chapter 3 and, on the same model, "content type"/"representation type" in chapter 4.
Background Specific elements **Media type, carrier type, and content type**	Use of the term « volume »: we agree.
Background Specific elements **Recording media type**	To include « media type » is a very good initiative. The "media type" should be kept.

Comment category	Comments
Background Specific elements **Dimensions**	« an alternative to use the system of measurement preferred by the agency » is contrary to standardisation and therefore does not favour international exchange of bibliographic records. RDA should clearly indicate that this Alternative cannot be used by national bibliographic agencies.
Background Specific elements **Changes in carrier characteristics**	For continuing ressources, a change of carrier requires a new description (ISSN rule).
	Background **Specific questions for Consistuencies**
Background Specific questions for Consistuencies **3.5.3.3 Details of dimensions**	We agree to give the length in metres (ISO units).
Background Specific questions for Consistuencies **3.12.0.3.1 Recording colour**	We agree to add the term « colourized ».
	Chapter 3
Clarity	**3.0.1** The term « carrier » should be defined in the Glossary.
Clarity	**3.0.3** « Media type » could be already mentioned here.
Clarity	**3.2 Media type :** we think it would be better to write "mediation type" rather than « media type » because "media type" is very similar to GMD but for the time being the GMD is ambiguous as it mixes content and carrier.
Discrepancy with French rule	**3.2.0.2.2 Table 1, projected** and **stereographic :** We don't use this kind of distinction in French cataloguing.
Consistency	**3.3.0.2.2 terms listed : Unmediated carriers ;** This list seems to be limited to bidimential paper carrier ; where are the other types of carrier such as « globe, relief model, puzzle, etc. » ?
Clarity	**3.3.0.2.3** Concerning terms missing from 3.3.0.2.2…"… terms listed … Unmediated carrier", will it be necessary to use a mention such as : « Other unmediated carrier » ?
Consistency	**3.4.0.1.2 & 3.4.0.1.3** Why use « logical » when describing a « physical » object ? What is "logical" should be in chapter 4.
Consistency	**3.4.0.3.1** This general rule is contradicted by too many exceptions : in these conditions the rule exists no more.
Consistency	**3.4.0.3.1a.1** Examples show content.
Consistency	**3.4.0.3.1b.1** Examples show content.
Consistency	**3.4.0.3.1c.1** the first two examples show content.
Consistency	**3.4.0.3.1d.1** Why depart from the rule in the case of textual printed resource and not indicate "1 volume" in the extent? It is neither consistent with the other types of resources (for example, 1 sheet, 1 case) nor with multipart printed resources. In the case of one volume, according to the example, the unit consists of the pages even though they are explicitly indicated as "subunits" in Scope (3.4.0.1.3) and in the case of a multipart printed resource the unit consists of the

Comment category	Comments
	volume, and pages are considered as subunits. We consider that this choice is inconsisten.
Discrepancy with French rule	**3.4.0.4.1 Exact number of units…** This rule cannot apply to early printed resources : in the case of early printed resources, the number of pages is always given even if the printer had not given any.
Clarity	**3.4.0.5.1 Use a term in common usage …b)** Which criteria are used to determine that none of the terms listed under 3.3.0.2 is appropriate? Does it depend on the actual whim of the cataloguer?
Clarity	**3.4.0.5.1 Use a term in common usage …c) as an alternative …** It should be stated that this alternative should not be used by national bibliographic agencies because this alternative is possible only if the cataloguing is done outside a network or without exchanging records.
Clarity	**3.4.0.5.4 Record … in a note** when the trade name proves to be the only way to use the resource, in that case it should be indicated with the type of unit and not in a note (see Consolidated ISBD 5.11).
Consistency	**3.4.0.7.1a.. Computer discs, cartridges, etc** **3.4.0.7.1a.1** This rule mixes the material description of the resource and the kind of the content of the resource: "remote-sensing images" (first example), "maps" (2nd example), describe the nature of the content and therefore come under Chapter 4. In the case of electronic resources whether direct or remote access, the subunits should always be files. In the case of files, in a format that parallels a print or graphic counterpart, the extent of corresponding print or graphic resources would be added but not substituted to the real extent of the electronic resource.
Consistency	**3.4.0.7.1e Online resources** **3.4.0.7.1e.1** This rule mixes the material description of the resource and the kind of the content of the resource: "scores" (2nd example), "photographs" (3rd example) describe the nature of the content and therefore come under Chapter 4. In the case of files, in a format that parallels a print or graphic counterpart, the extent of corresponding print or graphic resources would be added but not substituted to the real extent of the electronic resource.
Consistency	**3.4.0.10.4 loose-leaf** « Loose-leaf » must be considered as a separate element : - when the loose-leaf resource is monographic this element nears the mention of binding - when the loose-leaf resource is integrating this element nears the mode of issuance.
Consistency	**3.4.0.11 Comprehensive description of a collection** **3.4.0.11.1b.1 Storage space, alternative** This alternative presents a real risk of inconsistency in a network of shared cataloguing.
Consistency	**3.4.1, Extent of cartographic resources ; 3.4.2 Extent of notated music ; 3.4.3 Extent of still images** As a general remark on these 3 sub-chapters, they mix material presentation and content of the resource. Content should be entirely treated in chapter 4.
Clarity	**3.4.1 Extent of cartographic resources** **3.4.1.0 Application.** Why not write this paragraph in the same manner as 3.4.2.0 and 3.4.3.0 are written ?
Consistency	**3.4.1.1.1** The list of terms lists types of cartographic content but not types of carrier of the content of the resource.
Consistency	**3.4.1.2.2** This paragraph mixes content and carrier.
Consistency	**3.4.1.4.1** This paragraph mixes content and carrier.

Comment category	Comments
Consistency	**3.4.2 Extent of notated music** This sub-chapter mixes content (score, part, etc. are content) and carrier. Content should be treated entirely in chapter 4.
Consistency	**3.4.2.1.1** The list of terms lists specific types of content for notated music but not types of carrier of the content of the resource.
Consistency	**3.4.2.1.2** To be consistent with the principles and the distribution between chapter 3 and chapter 4, the material description should be: " 1 volume (38 leaves)".
Clarity, consistency	**3.4.2.1.2b.2 alternative** This alternative is neither consistent nor precise and results in a misleading description.
Clarity, consistency	**3.4.2.2.2** This rule repeats what the GMD already says. In the present case, as shown by the example, it is sufficient to write in order to inform on the extent of the resource : " 2 volumes (14 pages, 55 pages) ".
Consistency	**3.4.3 Extent of still images** This sub-chapter mixes content and carrier. Content should be treated entirely in chapter 4.
Consistency	**3.4.3.1.1** The list of terms mixes typology of content and techniques but doesn't list types of carrier for this content.
Consistency	**3.4.3.2.2** This rule mixes content and carrier.
Consistency	**3.4.4 Extent of text** **3.4.4.1 Single volume** Why continue to except printed text from the general rule? Why continue to have implicit notions in a description? Why not describe the resource as « 1 volume » as it is done for other resources, for example « 1 disc », « 1 sheet », etc?
Clarity	**3.4.4.1.2 Exception** For **early printed resources** There should be an example of early printed resource.
Clarity	**3.4.4.1.5 ..pages … lettered…** This way of delimiting a sequence of pages seems odd: A-Z is not the sum of units that can be counted. A material description in the form of "pages A-Z" would be more understandable.
Clarity	**3.4.4.2.6 Exception for early printed resources** The possibility to indicate in a note "information about advertising, blank pages, etc." is less economic than to indicate it in the extent between square brackets: it is rare that this could not be "done succinctly". An example of note on the pagination should be given in 3.4.6.9.1, whereas examples given in 3.4.6.9.1 are actually not relevant to this specific rule.
Discrepancy with French rules	**3.4.4.3 Change in form of numbering…** **3.4.4.3.2 Exception for early printed resources** In France the general rule applies (176 pages) with the possibility to specify the detail of the pagination.
Consistency	**3.4.4.7 .1 c) 1 volume (various pagings)** Why not record "1 volume" in every case of printed text and not only in this case ?
Discrepancy with French rules	**3.4.4.7.2 Exception For early printed resources** The French rule for this case is "the sequences not numbered are counted in pages, except if the rest of the ressource is entirely numbered in columns or in leaves." In a French description the result would be: "[12]-74-[32] f., 62 col., [5] f.".
Consistency	**3.4.4.8.2.** It should be better to give an exact description in specifying the precise count of pages of plates and leaves of plates. Therefore the exception in 3.4.4.8.3 would be unnecessary as it would be compliant to the rule.
Consistency	**3.4.4.9.2 Exception For scores, parts, etc.**

Comment category	Comments
	We do not see the interest of this exception with regard to other types of resources. In French cataloguing the folded pages of a score are described. Besides, what does Notated music do in the sub-chapter 'Extent of text'?
Clarity	**3.4.4.10 Double leaves** We do not understand to what this paragraph refers .
Clarity	**3.4.4.13 Single sheet** The whole paragraph does not specify if the text is printed on one side or on both sides.
Clarity	**3.4.4.13.2** We do not understand the difference between 3.4.4.13.2 and 3.4.4.13.2b.1.
Consistency	**3.4.4.13.2a.1 Notated music** It should be better to maintain "1 folded sheet" as extent and to give elsewhere the detail of specific kind of content (chapter 4).
Clarity	**3.4.4.13.2b.1 Early printed resources** We do not understand this paragraph. Why count the panels on "one side"? Are we to infer that the 'sheet' is printed only on one side? Or that we arbitrarily choose one side or the other?
Clarity, consistency	**3.4.4.15.1a.1 Exceptions Serials** There is no reason to make an exception for serials and make the number of physical units coincide with the numbering. If this rule is intended to prevent the cataloguing agency to give as extent the number of units detained or the number of volumes resulting from the binding made by the cataloguing agency, then this should be stated as such.
Clarity, consistency	**3.4.6.8 Number of bibliographic volumes differing from number of physical volumes Exception Serials** There is no reason to make an exception for serials and give as the extent the number of bibliographic volumes instead of the number of physical volumes. The general rule applies to serials. If this rule is intended to prevent the cataloguing agency to give as extent the number of units detained or the number of volumes resulting from the binding made by the cataloguing agency, then this should be stated as such.
Clarity	**3.5 Dimensions** Dimensions are indicated as an optional element whereas *Consolidated ISBD indicates it as « Conditional ». Besides, this element is omitted when the dimensions of the resource are standardized. When is this element to be recorded and when not ? It is not clear.
Clarity	**3.5.0.3.2 Alternative** Although examples given from 3.5.0.4 show metric measures for dimensions, it would be much clearer to indicate in the wording that this alternative does apply neither to national bibliographic agencies nor to cataloguing agencies implied in international networks. This alternative does not quite suit exchanges of records.
Consistency	**3.5.0.3 Recording dimensions** and **Volumes 3.5.0.4.1n.1** The mentioned rule which is to give dimensions in metric units of measure should not be applied to early printed resources as it would result in creating artificial differences between identical resources (for example, in the case of large paper or in case of drastic guillotine trimming). An exception to the general rule should be justified in the case of early printed resources.
Clarity	**3.5.0.4.1n.4 Volumes** If this rule applies to a volume grouping separately issued texts bound together by the library, it should be clearly stated in the wording. If not, it appears peculiar in the case of a published volume.
Typo	**3.5.0.6.6** The correct cross-reference is 3.1.4.1b.
Consistency	**3.5.0.8 change in dimensions** **3.5.0.8.1a.1 Resource issued in successive parts**

Comment category	Comments
	The manner to note that dimensions are changing over time is the same as the manner to note dimensions that are different in the same time for the same resource (see 3.5.0.6.3). It should be more exact to give the information in the form: "27 then 32 cm".
Discrepancy with French rules	**3.5.1.1.1 Recording dimensions of maps, etc.** The French rule specifies to give only the dimensions of the sheet; however, if there is a very large difference between the dimensions of the map and the dimensions of the sheet, it is possible to record both sets of dimensions.
Clarity	**3.5.1.3.1 Map, etc., in segments …** We dont quite understand the subtle difference in the wording « on sheet » and « sheets » in the two first examples.
Clarity	**3.5.1.6 Map, etc. presented on both sides of a sheet** It would be useful to add a) a cross reference to 3.11.0.4 Layout of maps , etc. , b) a note on this case of maps in 3.5.3.3. Details of dimensions.
Clarity	**3.6.0.3 Recording base material** **3.6.0.3.3** Older photographs seem to have been forgotten: in the list of terms in 3.6.0.3.1 for example, albumenized paper, salted paper, etc. are missing. Is it intended to give information on the base material of older photographs in this element or elsewhere in a note?
Clarity	**3.7 Applied material** **3.7.0.3 Recording applied material** **3.7.0.3.2 Exception** It would be useful to add also the case of older photographs.
Consistency	**3.9.0.3 Recording production method** **3.9.0.3.1** The rule should apply also to printed resources (whether it be text, notated music, maps, etc.) and be mandatory or at least strongly recommended. It should be the same for tactile resources at least in multi media catalogues and in view of exchanging records (the purpose is to retrieve information given by the current GMD, for example Printed text, Braille text).
Consistency	**3.9.1.3.Details of production method** It is a pity to split the information in two different places. We repeat here our general comments as given in **Background – General issues Representation of elements vs. notes,** *it should be better not to separate information of the same kind between principal information (that would be in a structured form) and information considered additional (that would be given in unstructured form as a note).* *According to this, all the techniques used for a still image should be given together and not separated as it is suggested by the example given in 3.9.1.3.*
Consistency	**3.11.0 Basic instructions on recording layout** **3.11.0.1 Scope** It applies also to discs (sound discs, video discs, etc.).
Clarity	**3.13.0.3 recording foliation** In the list of terms, in-plano is missing. Why not use In-2, in-4, in-8, in-12, etc. instead of folio, 4to, 8vo, 12mo, etc. as is it done in the cataloguing of early printed resources?
Consistency	**3.17 Sound characteristics** **3.17.0.4 type of recording** The list of terms as given in 3.17.0.4.1 mixes the way in which the sound is encoded and what is relative to the carrier. "Analog" and "digital" are relative to the sound encoding whereas "magnetic" and "optical" are relative to the carrier. Another type of sub element would be necessary to make the distinction.
Consistency	**3.17.0.5.4 playing speed** Why make an exception for « analog tapes » and give measure of speed in

Comment category	Comments
	inches per second and not in meters per second as it is done for other types of resources (3.17.0.5.3.)?
Consistency, clarity	**3.17.1.3 Details of sound characteristics** Third example : is this information always to be given in a note ? When should the information on sound characteristics be given in the form of an element (see 3.17.0.4.1) and when in the form of a note? What are the criteria to choose one or the other?
Clarity, Consistency	**3.19.0.4 Video format** Add to the list in 3.19.0.4.1: U-matic SP, BVU, BVU SP, following what is done for Betacam.
Consistency	**3.19.1.3 Details of video characteristics** **3.19.1.3.2** The mention of "regional encoding" should not be in a note as it conditions the use of the resource. It should be a sub element and be placed in 3.19.0.5 in parallel with Broadcast standard.
Clarity	**3.20.0.5 encoding format** In the list of terms in 3.20.0.5.1, the categories « data » and « text » should not appear so distinct as for example XML is not reserved to « data » but can also be applied to « text » (TEI, EAD, etc.).
Clarity	**3.20.0.8 Representation of cartographic images** The paragraph 3.20.0.8.1 is not very clear. How is this information rendered in a bibliographic description? How to differentiate between "point" of "data type" and "point" of "object type"?
Clarity	**3.23.1.Item-specific carrier characteristics of early printed resources** Last example : " signed : Alex. Pope ": the formula "signed" is ambiguous as it is not evident whether the signature is that of a hand written ex-libris or the signature of the author acknowledging his work that was published anonymously.
	Addendum to RDA Part A – Chapter 4
Consistency	**Contents** **4.4 Intended audience** Applies also to Expression (adaptation for the young people, etc.) **4.11 Medium of performance of musical content** Applies also to Work **4.18 Awards** Applies also to Work (for example an award-winning film, or prize winning book…) See also our general comments in **Background General issues Alignment with FRBR – 2nd comment**
Clarity	**4.2.0.2 Recording content type** **Alternative 4.2.0.2.2 Table 1** Very interesting, but why multiply the entries in the list in repeating terms associated with "tactile"? It would be more economic to give a list of terms that could be repeated and could combine with one another. "Tactile" applying to all types of content should appear per se and be used in combination with the relevant terms in the list For example, "cartographic image" could combine with "tactile" as "still image" could combine also with "tactile".
Consistence	**4.12.0.3 Playing time, running time, etc.** What is measured in 4.12.0.3.1? Work, Expression or Manifestation?
Consistency	**4.12.0.3 Playing time, running time, etc.** **4.12.0.3.2 Alternative** The rule such as it is written applies to "carrier" and not to "Expression". Therefore it is not accurately placed in Chapter 4.