To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Kevin Marsh, ACOC Representative

Subject: Revision of RDA 3.19.7.3, Recording transmission speed

Background

Currently the instruction at RDA 3.19.7.3 says to record the transmission speed of the file in kilobytes per second (kbps). There is an inconsistency in this instruction between the term kilobyte and its abbreviation as kbps. Kilobytes per second is abbreviated as kB/s or kBps; whereas kbps is an abbreviation for kilobits per second (a lower case b refers to bits; an upper case B refers to bytes). This inconsistency is potentially confusing as both terms, bits and bytes, are used to characterize transmission speed.

Bit rate is the number of bits that are conveyed or processed per unit of time. The bit rate is quantified using the bits per second (or bps) unit, typically in conjunction with a metric prefix such as kilo- (kbps) or mega- (Mbps). Bytes (typically used to describe file size) are comprised of a number of bits (there is industry variation on the precise number of bits to the byte dependent in part on the conversion formula applied and on how the data being transmitted is packeted or framed). It is technically more correct, and helps to avoid confusion, to refer to bits when describing transmission speed.

The purpose of this proposal is to revise the instruction as it currently stands by deleting the reference to bytes replacing it with bits, and providing an additional example of a metric prefix.

Proposed revision

3.19.7 Transmission Speed

3.19.7.1 Scope

Transmission speed▾ is the speed at which streaming audio or video is designed to play.

3.19.7.2 Sources of Information

Use evidence presented by the resource itself (or on any accompanying material or container) as the basis for recording the transmission speed. If desired, take additional evidence from any source.

3.19.7.3 Recording Transmission Speed

Record the transmission speed of the file, in ~~kilobytes~~ <u>bits</u> per second (~~kbps~~) <u>applying an appropriate metric prefix</u>, if it can be readily ascertained and is considered important for identification or selection (e.g., for streaming audio or video).

EXAMPLE

32 kbps

<u>7.17 Mbps</u>

Clean copy

3.19.7 Transmission Speed

3.19.7.1 Scope

Transmission speed˅ is the speed at which streaming audio or video is designed to play.

3.19.7.2 Sources of Information

Use evidence presented by the resource itself (or on any accompanying material or container) as the basis for recording the transmission speed. If desired, take additional evidence from any source.

3.19.7.3 Recording Transmission Speed

Record the transmission speed of the file, in bits per second (*bps*) applying the appropriate metric prefix, if it can be readily ascertained and is considered important for identification or selection (e.g., for streaming audio or video).

EXAMPLE

32 kbps

7.17 Mbps