

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
FROM: John Attig, ALA Representative
SUBJECT: Revision of RDA 2.11.1.3 (Recording Copyright Dates)

ALA proposes the following revision to the instructions for recording Copyright Dates (2.11.1.3). This issue was identified as a high priority by the Canadian Association of Music Libraries/Library of Congress/Music Library Association's RDA Music Revisions Facilitation Task Force. The proposal was developed by the Bibliographic Control Committee of the Music Library Association, and has been endorsed by ALA.

Background

Unlike all other resources, audio recordings carry a special phonogram copyright symbol ℗, reflecting the copyright date of the recorded sound. While RDA permits recording the phonogram copyright date (2.11.1.3), the end of the instruction states "If the resource has multiple copyright dates that apply to various aspects (e.g., text, sound, graphics), record only the latest copyright date." This instruction thus does not permit catalogers to record a phonogram copyright date if the copyright date for textual or graphic material is later than the phonogram copyright date. Musical audio recordings are often reissued with new liner notes, and therefore bear both a phonogram copyright date ℗ (of great significance to catalogers and catalog users) and a more recent copyright date © (of secondary importance); recording the phonogram copyright date in addition to other types of copyright dates will help the catalog user confirm that the resource described is the resource sought.

Rationale

Audio recordings usually lack a statement of date of publication, but usually do present a copyright date, ℗ or ©, or both. U.S. copyright law distinguishes between sounds fixed on material objects that are not accompanying audiovisual works (i.e., motion pictures, etc.) symbolized by ℗, and accompanying material (liner notes, cover art, etc.) symbolized by ©, thereby eliminating confusion over what is referred to by these symbols. In order to more functionally support the user tasks of identifying and selecting a manifestation of an audio recording, the catalog record should give access to the copyright date of the primary intellectual/artistic content of the resource, i.e. the sound.

Historically, a © copyright date was used to infer a date of publication when the resource did not contain such a publication date. In RDA records it is still appropriate to estimate a publication date based on a copyright date or other available information. As text and graphics will typically be created after the sound, the "publication" of audio recordings generally will reflect a © copyright date that is later than the ℗ phonogram copyright date. Publication and copyright dates are different elements in RDA, and as such will reflect different information when viewed bibliographically. An examination of audio recording cataloging in OCLC reflects a strong preference to using a ℗ date in combination with other dates for this reason. This proposal is to provide an exception for audio recordings, instructing the cataloger to supply the latest copyright

date that applies to the sound (which is the primary content of the resource), optionally in combination with the latest of other copyright dates pertaining to text or graphics.

Assessment of impact

The impact of this change will be minimal but meaningful, principally affecting catalogers of audio recordings and catalog users interested in identifying, selecting, and obtaining a manifestation of an audio recording.

Proposed revision:

2.11.1.3 Recording Copyright Dates

Record copyright dates applying the general guidelines on numbers expressed as numerals or as words given under [1.8](#). Precede the date by the copyright symbol (©) or the phonogram copyright symbol (Ⓒ), or by copyright or phonogram if the appropriate symbol cannot be reproduced.

EXAMPLE

©2002

copyright 2005

Ⓒ1983

phonogram 1993

If the resource has multiple copyright dates that apply to various aspects (e.g., text, sound, graphics), record only the latest copyright date.

Exception

Audio recordings. If an audio recording has multiple copyright dates that apply to various aspects (e.g., sound, text, graphics), record the latest copyright date pertaining to sound (i.e., the phonogram copyright date) and, optionally, the latest copyright date pertaining to other aspects (e.g., text, graphics).

EXAMPLE

©2009

©2010

Optional Addition

Make a note giving the other copyright dates (see [2.20.10.3](#)) or record the other dates as copyright dates of related manifestations (see [27.1](#)).

Clean copy:

2.11.1.3

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