

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Bill Leonard, CCC representative

Subject: Subject Relationship Element in RDA Chapter 23

CCC thanks the American Library Association for this proposal which was discussed at the same time as 6JSC/TechnicalWG/3.

CCC supports this proposal and provides comments on the specific recommendations below. One general comment is that the proposed text uses the definite article throughout in reference to a subject, e.g., “the subject.” We suggest that RDA generally uses the indefinite article, e.g., “a subject.”

Recommendations 1, 2, 3

Agree.

Recommendations 4a to 4e

Generally agree, but CCC wishes to make the following suggestions.

CCC suggests adding a sentence to the revised 0.6.7 in order to reflect the intent of the second paragraph of 23.2 as below.

Recommendations 5, 6, 8

Agree.

Recommendation 7

Agree, and CCC suggests that Technical working group and the ALA task force could work jointly.

Proposal 1

CCC observes that the revision proposes a run-on sentence. Perhaps the final portion of the sentence within parentheses could become a separate sentence. CCC suggests the following addition to the proposed 0.6.7.

0.6.7 Section 7: Recording Subject Relationships

When recording relationships between a work and an entity that is ~~a~~ the subject of that work, include as a minimum at least one subject relationship element that is applicable and readily ascertainable. ~~If~~ if the work has multiple subjects, only a subject that applies to the work as a whole or to a predominant part of the work is required. However, data created using RDA should endeavour to reflect all significant subject relationships between a work and the entities that are the subject of that work, see RDA 23.2.

Proposals 2, 3

Agree

Proposal 4

We contend that the “depiction of” is within scope of chapter 23 and therefore propose this change to 23.4.1.1.

23.4.1.1 Scope

Subject refers to the relationship between a work and an entity that is the subject of that work, i.e., that identifies what the work is about or what it depicts.

CCC observes that the wording of the explanations of the examples in 23.4.1.3.1 implies that the entity that is the subject is the same thing as the term used to describe it in a particular subject system. FRSAD was careful to distinguish the Thema (the actual subject) and the Nomen of the Thema (the term, classification, etc.) that appears in library data.

23.4.1.3 Examples

CCC suggests adding the words “a term” to the subject heading examples in 23.4.1.3 following this pattern:

Library and Archives Canada control number: 0200B4753

Identifier for the Canadian Subject Heading Icelandic Canadians, a term for an entity that is a subject of the work: Selected resource material on Canadians of Icelandic descent

CCC suggests adding the words “recording the term” and “an authorized access point for” to the name authority examples in 23.4.1.3, following this pattern:

Library of Congress/NACO Authority File control number: n 79032932

Identifier for the Library of Congress/NACO authority record recording the term Wright, Frank Lloyd, 1867–1959, an authorized access point for an entity that is a subject of the work: Frank Lloyd Wright, his life and architecture

23.4.1.3.2 Examples

The explanation below each examples should use the indefinite article, e.g., “for an entity that is a subject of the work.”

Icelandic Canadians

Authorized access point in Canadian Subject Headings for an ~~the~~ entity that is a subject of the work: Selected resource material on Canadians of Icelandic descent

The 2nd and 5th examples are for the same resource and we agree with showing that different subject systems can be used. Perhaps the two examples could be placed together.

Proposal 5

Generally agree.

We question whether “set in” is really within the scope of subject. We suggest “locus of” is more accurate.

L2 Relationship Designators for Entities that are the Subject of Works

Record an appropriate term from the following list with the authorized access point or identifier representing an entity that is the subject of a work (see 23.4). Apply the general guidelines on using relationship designators at L.1.

depiction of An entity depicted or portrayed in a work, particularly a work of art

locus of set in An entity in which the activity or plot of a work takes place, for example, a place, a time period, a building, an event

Proposal 6

We contend that the “depiction of” is within scope of chapter 23 and therefore propose this change to the glossary definition of subject.

Subject

Subject refers to the relationship between a work and an entity thta is the subject of that worrk, i.e., that identifies what the work is about or what it depicts.