

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

FROM: Alan Danskin, British Library representative to JSC

SUBJECT: Revision of RDA 2.12.8 and 2.12.16, regarding recording ISSNs

BL thanks ALA for their proposal: We have some reservations concerning the proposed changes.

The current RDA instructions make it clear that information about the series/subseries ISSN should only be taken from the resource itself. However the Title Proper of Series may be taken from external sources when not on the resource itself (2.12.2.2).

The BL suggests that the order of sources given at 2.12.2.2 should also be followed for recording the ISSN of the series or subseries. We suggest that this would be a more consistent approach and would ensure that information on the item in hand is recorded.

2.12.8.2 Sources of Information

Take the ISSN of a series from the following sources (in order of preference):

a) the series title page

b) another source within the resource itself (see [2.2.2 RDA](#))

c) one of the other sources of information specified under [2.2.4 RDA](#)

BL also proposes an amendment to the text, to say “transcribe” rather than “record ... as it appears on the resource”

If Transcribe the ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) of a series ~~within the resource, record it as it appears.~~

If Transcribe the ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) of a subseries ~~in the resource, record it as it appears.~~

BL has discussed its response with EURIG members. ISSN IC and BNF expressed the following concerns, which have not been covered by the BL’s proposed amendment:

- 1) An ISSN taken from external sources can be recorded in the same manner as an ISSN taken from the resource itself. It would be better *either* to follow the same rule as for the Title proper of series or subseries, and add it to the list under 2.2.4 *or* to provide a note on the source of the ISSN of series or subseries when taken from external sources – possibly as an optional addition.
- 2) Besides, we think that in the case of the ISSN, it should be explicitly stated that the first external source to be used should be the International ISSN Register.

