

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Kevin Marsh, ACOC Representative

Subject: Machine-Actionable Data Elements in RDA: Discussion Paper (2013)

ACOC thanks the ALA Representative and the Task Force for continuing this discussion on machine actionable data elements in RDA.

ACOC's concerns re: [6JSC/ALA/17](#) were around maintaining the relationships between unit and sub-unit data, so that meaningful information display is maintained, and about the lack of overt argument supporting treating extent and dimensions as a single class. ALA/Discussion/1 alleviates these concerns, and ACOC is supportive of the proposed recommendations.

ACOC supports Recommendation 1, and considers the values for Extent of Expression should be based on the extended vocabulary for Content Type (as per Recommendation 3).

ACOC is less sure about Recommendation 2 in terms of its apparent extension of the FRBR definitions of extent, and would welcome discussion on this issue. ACOC agrees that although "Extent of item" is not defined in FRBR, there may be some advantage in being able to record extent of item in certain cases. The "bound-with" example may be one such use case. However, the other use case of copy-specific imperfections is about the *condition* of the item not its extent (as indicated in FRBR 4.5.6). ACOC notes that RDA lacks an element for "Condition of item", and perhaps this should also be addressed. The issue of dimensions of item is also problematic in terms of clarifying when differences in dimension of an "item" are about the extent of the item or its condition. Some instances may even be indicating a different manifestation (particularly with early printed resources).

ACOC is particularly supportive of Recommendation 3, favouring the establishment of a separate group to extend the vocabularies for Content Type and Carrier Type.

ACOC supports Recommendation 4 to modify the AUQ model to accommodate complex extent data, and stresses the importance of retaining "human-readable" forms of this data. ACOC also stresses that it is important for RDA to maintain the correct balance between driving system change, and not dictating how data should be encoded.