

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

FROM: Alan Danskin, British Library representative to JSC

SUBJECT: Machine-actionable data elements in RDA (Discussion paper 2013). British Library Response.

The British Library thanks ALA for this thorough analysis. We welcome and support the recommendations.

Comments on recommendations:

1. Add Extent of Expression to the RDA element set and consider making it core when the extent is readily ascertainable and considered important for identification or selection.

British Library: We agree with the recommendation. Separation of content from carrier will make it easier to explain extent. We support the proposal to make the new element core, subject to the usual qualifications.

EURIG: The recommendation was agreed. There was some concern about making the element core.

Question

Should values for Extent of Expression be based upon the RDA vocabulary for Content Type?

British Library: Yes, for consistency with manifestation level, but natural language labels, e.g. map rather than cartographic image should be permitted.

EURIG: Yes in principle.

2. Add Extent of Item to the RDA element set, to parallel Extent of Manifestation and the proposed Extent of Expression.

British Library: we did not feel there was a sufficient use case to justify an additional machine actionable element. It was felt that a note would provide sufficient information for the user.

EURIG: The following use cases were suggested: planning for digitisation of early printed materials for which the actual extent of the items may vary from the manifestation; automated differentiation/identification of early printed resources.

Question

Should an identical machine-actionable model be established for all three of these extent elements?

British Library: the machine-actionable extent elements (however many there may be) should be consistent.

EURIG: Yes.

3. Extend the RDA/ONIX Framework for Resource Categorization, in order to flesh out fuller sets of types for content and carrier.

British Library: We agree with the refinement of the RDA/ONIX terms. However, the purpose is to provide greater granularity; this should not be confused with the provision of user friendly labels. These are also important, but should be a separate issue from modelling the vocabulary.

EURIG: Agree in principle.

Questions:

- a. Should the RDA vocabularies for Content Type (RDA 6.9) and Carrier Type (RDA 3.3) be extended in order to establish more user-friendly terms for extents of expression and manifestation?

British Library: The vocabularies should be refined, but the object is to provide more granularity. User friendly labels will also be required, but these requirements should not be conflated.

EURIG: Agree British Library.

b. If so, should a separate group be charged to develop draft category tables, vocabulary values, and label construction patterns for RDA categorization terms?

British Library: The RDA/ONIX group should carry out the work, if possible.

EURIG: Agree British Library.

4. Modify the Aspect-Unit-Quantity (AUQ) model, as presented below, to accommodate complex extent data.

British Library: We welcome these suggestions for enhancement of the model. We acknowledge that some statements may be too complex for machine actionable representation.

EURIG: Welcomes the enhancements.