

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Bill Leonard, CCC representative

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

CCC thanks ALA for this interesting discussion paper. We appreciate the exploration of the extent of expression, as mentioned in CCC's response last year to [6JSC/ALA/17](#). CCC also sees the exploration in 6JSC/ALA/Discussion/1 goes further than the changes mentioned in [6JSC/CCC/14](#).

1. Extent of Expression

We note that FRBR 4.3.8 Extent of expression is a quantification of the intellectual content of the expression, e.g. the number of words in a text, statements in a computer program, images in a comic strip, playing time, etc. The total number of pages cannot be an extent of expression because it can vary depending upon font, page size, layout, etc., all manifestation characteristics.

It must be said that RDA does not clearly distinguish between transcribing the pagination printed on the carrier versus recording the actual number of pages in the expression. Introducing the extent of expression as a new element may clarify this distinction for cataloguers, and hopefully for users. CCC assumes that extent of expression would be added to chapter 7. With that said, CCC supports task group's recommendation to add extent of expression to the RDA element set.

We see that specialist groups will be very interested in ensuring their vocabularies are usable in the new extent of expression element. For this reason, we recommend further consultation with the specialist communities before making assumptions about the vocabulary to be used in extent of expression.

2. Extent of Item

CCC also supports the idea of adding extent of item to RDA for copy-specific characteristics. Consistency across the 'extent' elements would dictate that extent of item should also be machine-actionable although we could not devise any use-cases to support this.

3. RDA/ONIX Framework

CCC supports the recommendation to extend the RDA/ONIX Framework for Resource Categorization. There may be a need to re-evaluate and rationalize existing terminology.

Question a. Extension of RDA content type and carrier type vocabularies should await further rational re-evaluation and rationalization. It may be interesting to try using existing content type vocabulary in the extent of expression and then evaluate the results. From that, we may learn whether the content type vocabulary is appropriate for extent of expression, or whether a different approach is required.

Question b. The charge and authority of the suggested group is not entirely clear. Would that be an ALA group, or a JSC-mandated group? We thought there already was ongoing work with Editeur.

4. Aspect-Unit-Quantity Model

CCC supports the exploration of the aspect-unit-quantity model, particularly in regards to complex extent data.