

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative to the JSC
Subject: Note on Manifestation and Item

ALA thanks the former ALA representative for this proposal to update the RDA Element Analysis tables, the Registry and the text of RDA. We have the following comments and responses to the specific proposals and questions raised:

Changes to the RDA Element Analysis tables and the Registry

1. **Note on Manifestation or Item: labels and definitions**

We support the proposed changes (Proposal 1A and 1B), and believe that the duplication is justified, since different data is recorded in RDA Chapter 2 and RDA Chapter 3.

2. **Note on Manifestation or Item: element sub-types**

We recommend retaining these sub-types in the element set. They serve as a critical means to specify the nature of the data recorded in the element, allowing for much greater precision than just “Note on manifestation” or “Note on item.” This detail is vital in rare materials cataloging; the data will lose value if we can’t precisely articulate its nature.

Changes to the Outline of RDA

ALA prefers option 1, believing that a structure which groups instructions specific to notes on manifestation and groups together those on notes on item is more important than retaining the current instruction renumbering.

In response to the final sentence in this section (p. 5), we would support changing the terminology of notes in Chapter 3 to “Note on Carrier of Manifestation” and “Note on Carrier of Item.” This would add precision and avoid duplication of the language of the notes in Chapter 2.

Changes to the Text of RDA

We agree with the proposed text changes, but recommend that they be implemented following option 1, as noted in the section above.