TO: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR

FROM: Alan Danskin, BL Representative

SUBJECT: Note on Manifestation and Item

The British Library thanks John Attig for this proposal to update the RDA Element Analysis tables, Registry and RDA text.

Changes to the RDA Element Analysis tables and the Registry

Proposal 1A: Define the following elements in the Registry:

Note on Manifestation (Manifestation)
An annotation providing additional information relating to manifestation attributes.

Note on Item (Item)
An annotation providing additional information relating to item attributes.

Proposal 1B: Include the following in the Element Analysis table:

Note on manifestation	element	manifestation	literal?	plain	n/a	n/a
Note on item	element	item	literal?	Plain	n/a	n/a

The British Library believes that the proposals are acceptable, so far as they go, but we think that there is a deeper problem.   It should be possible to associate a note (or annotation) with any element and the note itself should have attributes, such as provenance.   The "details…" elements are examples of this.

Note on Manifestation or Item: element sub-types

Question: It is clear that these represent distinct sets of RDA instructions, but it is not equally clear that there is any advantage to treating them as formal element sub-types.

Should these be retained in the element set or deleted?

If the sub-elements are deprecated in favour of instructions, it would result in a loss of granularity for indexing and discovery, etc. which we do not support.   However, an annotation model (BIBFRAME & W3C are both developing models) could offer a more flexible and extensible approach. This would treat the annotation or note as an entity or class, which could then have its own attributes (such as provenance; applicability) and relationships.

Changes to the Outline of RDA

Option 1 makes a clean grouping of attributes of manifestation and item, but requires renumbering several sets of instructions.

Option 2 requires minimal renumbering, but does not include notes in the lists of attributes of manifestation and item.

We think option 1 is clearer, but the level of change it introduces would not be justified if it is perceived as an interim measure.   Option 2 might be seem as an incremental step towards an annotation model.

Changes to the Text of RDA

2.20: Agree

2.21: Agree

3.22: Agree

3.23: Agree