

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

FROM: Barbara B. Tillett, LC Representative

SUBJECT: Proposed revision to Glossary definition of vocal score

LC thanks the CCC for the proposed revision to the Glossary definition of vocal score, and its alignment with the definition of chorus score, for the reasons stated in the proposal. In consultation with LC music catalogers, LC agrees with the proposed revision but suggests an adjustment to it. Since this suggested adjustment also applies to the definition of chorus score, LC is accordingly including a proposed parallel revision to that term as well.

"Vocal score" has for a very long time (since before AACR) been used more broadly than for reductions of an instrumental accompaniment of a vocal work for one or two keyboard instruments. LC has used it, and still does, for accompaniments arranged also for accordion, for continuo, for guitar, and for harp. The principle exemplified is that the arrangement may be for any instrument on which chords can be played, i.e., a chordal instrument. Among numerous examples of bibliographic records where "Vocal score" appears in the uniform title to reflect reductions ("expressions") of this type are:

LCCN 82-7770096 (accompaniment arranged for accordion)
93-711534 (accompaniment arranged for guitar)
94-770624 (accompaniment arranged for continuo)
99-390278 (accompaniment arranged for continuo)
2007700856 (accompaniment arranged for harp)
2011564059 (accompaniment arranged for guitar)

We feel that, inasmuch as the definitions of both vocal score and chorus score were carried over to RDA from AACR2 even though the definition of vocal score was not being strictly applied, as demonstrated in actual practice, there is no reason for the inaccurate definition to be perpetuated. Rather, we suggest that vocal score be defined as practice demonstrates it needs to be, and that the necessary alignment of that term with chorus score also be done. We also note that a reduction of the accompaniment for three such instruments does occur. For that reason, we have omitted a specific number of instruments from the definitions.

Proposed revision to the CCC revision:

Vocal score

A score showing all vocal parts, with the instrumental accompaniment either arranged for ~~one or two~~ keyboard(s) or other chordal instrument(s) or ~~with accompaniment~~ omitted.

Clean copy:

Vocal score

A score showing all vocal parts, with the instrumental accompaniment either arranged for keyboard(s) or other chordal instrument(s) or omitted.

Proposed revision of RDA:

Chorus score

A score of a work for solo voices and chorus showing only the parts for chorus, at least in those portions of the work in which the chorus sings, with the instrumental accompaniment either arranged for ~~one or two~~ keyboard(s) or other chordal instrument(s) or omitted.

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Chorus score

A score of a work for solo voices and chorus showing only the parts for chorus, at least in those portions of the work in which the chorus sings, with the instrumental accompaniment either arranged for keyboard(s) or other chordal instrument(s) or omitted.