

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
From: John Attig, ALA Representative  
Subject: Proposed revision to Appendix B.1, General Guideline, to explicitly include the usage of units of measure expressed as symbols.

ALA thanks CCC for proposing this clarification to the general guideline on use of abbreviations (B.1). ALA agrees with the intent of the proposal, but is reluctant to introduce language that implies that the scope of Appendix B has been broadened to include symbols that are not abbreviations.

Appendix B does not contain instructions on the use of symbols (other than the reminders that symbols are not abbreviations); therefore, there is no reason for B.1 to give an option to follow any other guidelines on the use of symbols.

On the other hand, if the desire is to allow the use of metric symbols where this appendix prescribes non-metric abbreviations (e.g., the use of “s” instead of “sec.” for *seconds*), this could be done by revising the alternative to say “or the use of symbols instead of abbreviations”.