

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
**From:** Bill Leonard, CCC representative  
**Subject:** **Revision of RDA 3.5.3 (Dimensions of still images)**

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The instructions for recording the dimensions of graphic materials are intended to align with the instructions for cartographic materials description in regards to measurement of the pictorial area and the carrier. While the instructions for the dimensions of maps have provision for recording the measurement of the sheet, or sheets, parallel instructions for still images are not found in 3.5.3. The words “can” and “and/or” in 3.5.1.1 certainly hint at the possibility of recording one or the other, or both, but further guidance is difficult to find. CCC proposes to add an instruction to clarify the situations when the dimensions of the sheet, or sheets, carrying still image(s) may be recorded. Identification of a resource may be aided if the descriptions clarify when the dimensions refer to the pictorial area, and when they refer to the carrier.

CCC proposes:

1. adding the word shape to the first paragraph of 3.5.3.2 in order to clarify that the “what” refers to an image, not to a carrier;
2. adding an alternative to 3.5.3.2 allowing measurement of the sheet instead of measurement of the pictorial area;
3. adding new instructions, 3.5.3.3, 3.5.3.4 and 3.5.3.6 modeled on the treatment of maps in 3.5.2. These instructions will provide guidance on recording the dimensions of pictorial area of still images on multiple sheets of differing sizes, on folded sheets, and on multiple sheets intended to be viewed together. Instruction 3.5.3.3 *Dimensions of Image in Relation to Dimensions of Sheet* will be renumbered to 3.5.3.5 but its text will be unchanged.

## Proposed revisions:

### 3.5.3 Dimensions of Still Image

#### 3.5.3.1 Application

For a resource consisting of one or more sheets that contain one or more still images in the form of drawings, paintings, prints, photographs, etc., record the dimensions by applying the instructions at **3.5.3.2–3.5.3.6**.

*[no change to the remainder of 3.5.3.1]*

### 3.5.3.2 Recording Dimensions of Still Images

Record the dimensions of a still image by using the measurements of the pictorial area. Record the height × width, diameter, or other dimensions, as appropriate, and give the dimensions with reference to the position in which the image is intended to be viewed. When recording dimensions other than height × width of a rectangle, indicate what is being measured (e.g. shape).

#### EXAMPLE

33 × 25 cm  
6 cm in diameter  
7 × 5 cm oval  
41 × 36 cm irregular pentagon  
~~244 × 26 cm, folded to 30 × 26 cm~~  
Dimensions of a wall chart

#### Alternatives

Record the dimensions to the next tenth of a centimetre and use the metric symbol *cm*.

#### EXAMPLE

32.2 × 22.4 cm

Record the height x width of the sheet instead of the pictorial area.

#### EXAMPLE

sheet 110 × 85 cm

If appropriate, record more than one set of dimensions and indicate specifically the area to which each set of dimensions applies. Separate each set of dimensions by a comma.

#### EXAMPLE

6 cm in diameter, plate mark 8 × 7 cm

In some cases, it is difficult to determine the points for measuring the height and width of the pictorial area, etc., itself (e.g., when the shape is extremely irregular, or when it is printed without one or more of its borders). When this occurs, record the height × width of the sheet. Indicate that the dimensions are for the sheet.

#### EXAMPLE

sheet 48 × 27 cm

~~3.5.3.5 Dimensions of Image in Relation to Dimensions of Sheet~~ [move to 3.5.3.5]

#:

the measurement of either dimension of the image is less than half the measurement of the same dimension of the sheet on which it is presented

*or*

there is substantial additional information on the sheet (e.g., text)

*then:*

record the dimensions of the image followed by the dimensions of the sheet (exclusive of any frame or mounting). Separate the dimensions by a comma and precede the dimensions of the sheet by *on sheet*.

**EXAMPLE**

20 × 31 cm, on sheet 42 × 50 cm  
6 cm in diameter, plate mark 8 × 7 cm, on sheet 24 × 17 cm

### **3.5.3.3 Pictorial Area on More Than One Sheet of Differing Sizes**

If the pictorial area of an image or images is on sheets of two sizes, record both sets of sheet dimensions.

**EXAMPLE**

sheets 71 × 107 cm and 71 × 105 cm

If the pictorial area of an image is on sheets of more than two sizes, record the greatest height of any of the sheets followed by the greatest width of any of them, followed by *or smaller*.

**EXAMPLE**

sheets 80 × 79 cm or smaller

### **3.5.3.4 Pictorial Area on More Than One Sheet of the Same Size**

*If:*

the resource consists of an image spanning more than one sheet

*and*

all sheets are of the same size

*then:*

measure the total pictorial area, followed by the dimensions of the individual sheets. Separate each set of dimensions by a comma and precede the sheet dimensions by the words *on sheets*.

#### **EXAMPLE**

41 × 280 cm, on sheets 41 × 56 cm

Dimensions of 5 photographs forming 1 panoramic view

In some cases, it is difficult to determine the points for measuring the height and width of the total pictorial area, or to assemble the image for measuring. When this occurs, record only the height × width of the sheets. Indicate that the dimensions are for the sheets.

#### **EXAMPLE**

sheets 45 × 75 cm

sheets 50 × 70 cm or smaller

### **3.5.3.5 Dimensions of Image in Relation to Dimensions of Sheet**

*[formerly 3.5.3.3]*

*If:*

the measurement of either dimension of the image is less than half the measurement of the same dimension of the sheet on which it is presented

*or*

there is substantial additional information on the sheet (e.g., text)

*then:*

record the dimensions of the image followed by the dimensions of the sheet (exclusive of any frame or mounting). Separate the dimensions by a comma and precede the dimensions of the sheet by *on sheet*.

#### **EXAMPLE**

20 × 31 cm, on sheet 42 × 50 cm

6 cm in diameter, plate mark 8 × 7 cm, on sheet 24 × 17 cm

### **3.5.3.6 Pictorial Area on Folded Sheet**

If the pictorial area is presented on a sheet which is intended to be folded, record the dimensions of the pictorial area and add the dimensions of the sheet in folded form, preceded by a comma.

#### **EXAMPLE**

244 × 26 cm, folded to 30 × 26 cm

Dimensions of a wall chart

**Clean copy for 3.5.3**

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