

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: John Attig, ALA Representative
Subject: Proposed revision to instruction 6.15.1.12, “Accompaniment for Songs, Lieder, Etc.”

ALA thanks CCC and CAML for identifying this problem and proposing a solution. ALA acknowledges that the difference in the scope of this instruction between AACR2 and RDA leaves a gap that needs to be closed. “Lieder” or “Songs” need to be available as the preferred title for a collective work such as Edward MacDowell’s *Zwei Lieder, op. 12*, or Samuel Barber’s *Three songs, op. 10*, respectively. We thank CCC and CAML for this proposal to close this gap; ALA supports the intent of these revisions.

ALA also supports the replacement of the unsuitably colloquial term “the vocals” by “the voice.”

ALA’s response was guided by a recommendation from the Bibliographic Control Committee of the Music Library Association and its Descriptive Cataloging Subcommittee. We request that the following comments from MLA be taken into consideration:

- Some commentators thought it could be made more explicit that the instruction is meant to apply to a *class* of preferred titles, both for individual works and for groups named by a conventional collective title. One suggestion was to reword the first sentence to read: “If the preferred title for a work (other than one in a ‘popular’ idiom) consists solely of the name of one type of composition for solo voice (such as Lieder ...).” This would indeed bring the scope of the instruction in alignment with AACR2 25.30B10, which is CCC’s stated intent.
- Further, there are preferred titles that consist of two such terms, e.g. “Lieder und Gesänge,” which should be allowed under this instruction.
- The proposal does not explicitly allow for situations where the accompaniment is an ensemble and should be named as such, e.g. “orchestra accompaniment.”
- There remains an ambiguity (not limited to this instruction) regarding what constitutes the “popular idiom.” LC mentions this problem in its response, and we agree with their hope that the RDA Music Revisions Facilitation Task Force will successfully address this.
- One of the drafters of the CCC proposal has opined that the CCC’s proposed instruction could be applied to distinctive titles as well as non-distinctive ones. It’s not clear that the wording of the proposal would support that conclusion; given the use of non-distinctive preferred titles as parenthetical illustrations, it would take a creative use of the term “implies” to conclude that “Song of the Valiant” would come under this instruction. However, if the instruction *were* to apply to some sort of distinctive title, this would be extending the scope of the instruction beyond AACR2 25.30B10, in contradiction to CCC’s stated goal. 6.15.1.12 is an instruction whose principal utility is producing an “access-point-ready” medium statement for a particular class of preferred titles. MLA

has said it expects to offer a proposal to re-align 6.14–6.18 and 6.27–6.28 so that the former is solely concerned with recording data, with any instructions for manipulations needed for formulating authorized and variant access points moved to the latter area. Those instructions would likely include this one.