To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative

Subject: Colour content in RDA

ALA thanks CILIP for this follow-up proposal on colour content in RDA. We appreciate the development of a logically consistent approach, along with an alternative that continues to support legacy data and the use of more patron-friendly terms. We generally support the proposal, although we have various questions and suggested revisions, as detailed below.

General comments:

- 7.17 (in either its current or proposed form) demonstrates an ongoing problem with RDA: an inability for cataloguers to indicate relationships between elements describing the same resource in a machine-actionable way. This is exemplified by the first example in 7.17.1.4, *Details of Colour Content*. This sub-instruction is the only way to bring out that the maps are coloured and that the photographs are in black and white.

- ALA commenters expressed concerns about using the terms "monochrome" and "polychrome" for anything other than machine-actionable data. Many found these terms less informative than what is currently recorded, and certainly less user-friendly.

- While ALA appreciates the flexibility afforded by the Alternatives in 7.17.1.3, *Recording Colour Content*, we wonder how cataloguers and users will be able to distinguish between resources in monochrome (one colour) and monochrome (black and white) if the alterative to name the specific colour(s) is not applied.

- ALA observes that with this revision, statements such as "chiefly colour" and "some colour" will be considered details of colour content. This change could make this kind of information, which may be important for identification and selection, less obvious to users.

Proposed changes:

7.17.1.1, Scope

ALA recommends reinstating a paragraph containing a reference to appropriate instructions for hand-coloured items. We propose the following revision of the current 3rd paragraph in 7.17.1.1, which we recommend as the new 4th paragraph in the proposed revision:

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For instructions on recording item-specific colour information ~~on hand-coloured items~~, see 3.21.

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For instructions on recording <u>item-specific colour</u> information, see **3.21**.

7.17.1.2, Sources of Information

Although ALA proposed this wording in 6JSC/ALA/26, we now recommend removing "If desired" in the 2nd sentence. This means that the current 7.17.1.2 would remain unchanged:

Use evidence presented by the resource itself as the basis for recording the presence of colour content in the resource. Take additional evidence from any source.

7.17.1.3, Recording Colour Content

1. In the introductory paragraph, ALA believes that the distinction between the a) and b) conditions is one of primary vs. secondary content. We recommend revising those conditions to make that distinction clearer.
2. ALA suggests combining the proposed 2nd and 3rd paragraphs, both of which start "Record the colour content…." Our revision below mirrors the language used at 7.15.1.3, *Recording Illustrative Content*.
3. We recommend revising the Alternatives to address three concerns: a) "color" is not a pair of terms; b) the terms used in the examples do not have exactly the same definitions as "monochrome" and "polychrome" in RDA; c) the sentence referencing "the list" could be considered ambiguous.

We thus propose the following replacement of 7.17.1.3, working from CILIP's proposal:

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7.17.1.3 Recording Colour Content

Apply these instructions to describe the colour content of:

a) the <u>primary content of the</u> resource ~~itself~~

or

b) <u>selected</u> ~~the~~ content of the resource, including illustrative content (see **7.15**).

Record the colour content if considered important for identification or selection. <u>Use</u>

~~Record the colour content by using~~ one or more appropriate terms from the following list:

monochrome

polychrome

[examples unchanged]

Alternatives

Use another ~~pair of concise terms with the same definitions~~ <u>concise term or terms </u>to indicate the colour content.

[examples unchanged]

Name the specific colour or colours if they are considered to be important for identification or selection. Apply this instruction instead of or in addition to <u>recording *monochrome* or *polychrome*</u> ~~using one of the terms from the list~~.

Record details of colour content as instructed under **7.17.1.4.**

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7.17.1.3 Recording Colour Content

Apply these instructions to describe the colour content of:

a) the primary content of the resource

or

b) selected content of the resource, including illustrative content (see **7.15**).

Record the colour content if considered important for identification or selection. Use one or more appropriate terms from the following list:

monochrome

polychrome

[examples unchanged]

Alternatives

Use another concise term or terms to indicate the colour content.

[examples unchanged]

Name the specific colour or colours if they are considered to be important for identification or selection. Apply this instruction instead of or in addition to recording *monochrome* or *polychrome*.

Record details of colour content as instructed under **7.17.1.4.**

7.17.1.4, Details of Colour Content

There are cases in which all copies of a manifestation are hand coloured, or in which multiple hand-coloured copies constitute a distinct issue (manifestation). Therefore, we recommend including an additional example such as:

> hand coloured
> **Map issued with hand coloring. Color content recorded as:** polychrome

Glossary Definitions

While we support the use of the new terms, the proposed definitions present some problems. For example, ALA believes that the term "monochrome" should be used for a resource in black and white, although the proposed definition does not state that explicitly. In addition, this term should be valid for a monochromatic painting (for example, IKB 191 – Monochrome bleu by Yves Klein). ALA also notes that within the fine arts domain, "monochrome" is seldom used to describe the content of a work of art combining black and white, with the addition of one colour. We have also proposed an addition to the Glossary definitions to assist cataloguers in assigning the appropriate term for black and white content that has been tinted and/or toned.

We generally agree with the definition of "polychrome"; however, we believe using a see reference to "monochrome" would be clearer than the proposed "excluding" clause.

We note that even with these revised definitions, a computer game designed for a monochrome monitor could be described as "polychrome", if the cataloguer takes the background color into consideration.

We propose the following revised definitions for the Glossary:

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Monochrome
Colour content consisting of ~~black and/or white and one other colour~~ <u>a single colour, shades of a single colour, or black and white (including black and white content that has been tinted and/or toned)</u>.

Polychrome
Colour content consisting of two or more colours~~, excluding black and white~~. <u>For colour content consisting of black and white, and for black and white content that has been tinted and/or toned, **Monochrome**▼</u>

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Monochrome
Colour content consisting of a single colour, shades of a single colour, or black and white (including black and white content that has been tinted and/or toned).

Polychrome
Colour content consisting of two or more colours. For colour content consisting of black and white, and for black and white content that has been tinted and/or toned, **Monochrome**▼