

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: EURIG
Subject: Compilations of Works by Different Persons, Families, or Corporate Bodies (New 6.2.2.11)

EURIG thanks the National Library of New Zealand for this proposal to clarify the instructions relating to the use of conventional collective titles in Chapter 6.

During the discussion among EURIG members, it was not possible to reach a complete consensus for a common EURIG position on the proposal; however EURIG members agreed on some points for consideration raised by the proposal; disagreements occurred on the cases where a conventional collective title remains useful and should be recorded as the Preferred Title for a Compilation of Works of One Person, Family, or Corporate Body.

EURIG position on the proposal

EURIG thanks the National Library of New Zealand for having raised the use case of popular music albums which are in fact compilations.

We think a distinction should be made between collections of works made by the creator of the aggregated works and other compilations made up by an editor.

In the first case (collections of works made by the creator of the aggregated works), the compilation can be considered the creator's own work. It is a work made of multiple parts, i.e. the individual, commonly short works which have been collected and arranged in a specific order by the creator. Collections of poems (for example, "Les fleurs du mal" by Baudelaire), collections of short stories fall into that category; the case of popular music albums made up by the singer or group who created or performed the collected works can be considered another instance of this case (for example, "The times they are a-changin'" or "Highway 61 revisited" by Bob Dylan). In this case, EURIG supports the use of the collective title found on the resource and generally given by creator(s) and/or performer(s) rather than a conventional collective title.

This case should be distinguished from other compilations made up by an editor (for example "The best of Bob Dylan", "Bob Dylan - Greatest Hits" or even "The 30th anniversary concert celebration"). There is no agreement between EURIG members on what the preferred title for the compilation should be in this second case, either the collective title found on the resource or a conventional collective title.

EURIG thinks that such a distinction and the corresponding use cases should be more investigated and clarified in RDA.

More generally EURIG suggests the JSC creates a specialized working group focused on aggregates, as the topic is complex but very frequent in publications, in order to improve RDA's instructions on compilations and make them more comprehensive and consistent throughout the code.

EURIG discussion about the use of conventional collective titles

The German-speaking countries have come to a compromise in their planned policy statements which seems to cover all the most common cases in the most practical and useful way:

Proposed policy statement RDA 6.2.2.10:

For complete works and complete works in a single form of one creator, use the conventional collective title. All compilations of all the works or all compilations of all the works in a single form by a single creator basically embody a single work in many expressions (= The work consisting of the complete works or rather The work consisting of the complete works in the respective single form of one person, family, or corporate body).

Therefore, the German-speaking countries agreed upon assigning conventional collective titles as the option that makes sense in this context. Titles found in compilations can be adequately treated as variant titles (which is especially helpful when work authority records can be created).

Compilations of some, but not all works are always treated as known by their collective title, if there is one (in the original language if it is a translation of a previously existing compilation or in the presented language if it is not a translation of a previously existing compilation). Collections of short stories, poems or essays, alongside popular music albums, are known by their collective title. The basic RDA rule 6.2.2.10.3 states that all the works embodied would have to be recorded or, even worse, a content-dependent collective title with nominal meaning (like "Work. Selections") would have to be assigned - which should only be done in German-speaking countries when there is no collective title, but not in any other case.

Other countries are in favour of a more general use of the conventional collective title in the case of compilations of some, but not all works of the creator, if the compilation has not be made by the creator himself (see above), with the following arguments:

- The compilation can be made from translations in another language (for example, a compilation of selected works of Shakespeare in Spanish or French): the collective title will not be in the original language.
- Conventional collective titles remain useful in our current environment for collocation purpose.
- Conventional collective titles also remain useful for identification purpose, by distinguishing between works by the creator (including works built up by the creator through the collection of other individual works) and other compilations made by other persons, corporate bodies or families.

- One of the benefits of FRBR is to make a distinction between the Manifestation and the embodied Work(s). The Manifestation is searchable and identified by its title proper, i.e. the collective title when it exists; the preferred title for the embodied Work(s) is useful for precise identification of the content and for collocation. Having the same title for the Manifestation and the aggregating Work can generate some confusion and damage the retrieval and identification process.