To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Kevin Marsh, ACOC Representative

Subject: Date of expression – Revision of RDA 6.10.1.1 and 6.10.1.3

ACOC thanks EURIG for this proposal. We agree that it is difficult to choose a date of expression, that it is desirable for there to be consistency in how dates are chosen, that it is desirable to add additional guidance to RDA on how to choose a date of expression, and that the choice of the date to use will need to differ according to the type of resource.

Although we generally support additional guidance on how to choose a date of expression, we are unable to comment on the suitability of the types of dates mentioned and the order of preference given in the new Optional addition at 6.10.1.3. Further discussion on the detail of the Optional addition within the relevant cataloguing communities (experts in each format) may be worthwhile.

We support the recording of the type of date to actually be recorded as well as the date itself. This information is of most use to cataloguers, but it also has value for users of the catalogue.

We would prefer not to add type of date as a qualifier to the Date of expression but to find some other mechanism to record this information, e.g., as a sub-element.

The proposal also raises some questions about the process to be followed in assigning these dates. We presume that only one date of expression would be recorded, following the order of preference given in the instruction. If, at a later point in time, information becomes available about a more preferred type of date, that information would replace the previous information. For example for a textual item, if the type of date given is 'Date of publication of the earliest manifestation' but later the 'Copyright date' is identified, then both the Date of the expression and the type of date would be updated.