

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

**From:** Kevin Marsh, ACOC Representative

**Subject:** Language of expression – Revision of RDA 6.11, 6.11.1.3, 6.11.1.4, 7.12.1.3, 26.1.1.3

ACOC thanks EURIG for this proposal to revise the instructions regarding the language of expression. We support making the language of the expression a core element whenever it is applicable, but we're not completely in agreement with how this has been handled in the proposal.

In any one system there may be only one expression but in the larger context of, e.g., Libraries Australia or WorldCat there is likely to be multiple expressions in different languages, and records in different languages of cataloguing. Given the likelihood that a cataloguer won't know whether or not language is needed to differentiate between expressions in all of the systems in which the data may end up, we agree in making it mandatory.

We prefer the proposed revision of 6.11 Language of Expression to say 'if the resource includes language content' rather than 'if the resource includes some text', as the term 'text' is considered too constrained.

ACOC notes the way the examples are laid out in the proposed examples at 6.11.1.3 and 6.11.1.4 may not be as useful as it could be as they may be read as prescribing a preferred format for recording information, and inclusion of parenthesized information in catalogue records can be fraught when it comes to data interchange.

We support the optional addition to qualify the language of expression at 6.11.1.3 and 6.11.1.4; and the proposed changes to remove manifestation level information at 7.12.1.3. We are not clear why the examples have been removed at 26.1.1.3, and we support the intent of the revision of 26.1.1.4.