To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Barbara Tillett, LC 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

LC thanks EURIG for expressing their concerns about Language of expression and Language of the content.

Proposed changes to 6.11:

LC does not agree to the proposed change to add a qualifier to Language of expression to signify the character of the language—we feel that some of the proposed qualifiers are in fact better expressed as relationships between expressions (Chapter 26), or are already adequately covered by the Language of the content element (7.12) that is given as a reference from 6.11.1.3 and available to convey useful information to the user. We are also concerned about adding textual terms to attributes such as Language of the expression and the ability of machines to discern the meaning in a linked data environment.

Proposed changes to 7.12:

While LC understands the 'pure' approach of removing any manifestation details from a note on an expression attribute, we don't agree to the changes to the examples proposed.   We feel that the 'convenience of the user' is still a key principle, and that it is often quite useful to explain the relative scope of the information conveyed in the note when it is not applicable to the resource as a whole. It is sometimes useful to provide information such as page numbers from a manifestation embodying the expression to assist the user in identifying and selecting a resource (e.g., the presence of a 1 page bibliography vs. a 50 page bibliography).