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

**FROM:** Alan Danskin, British Library representative to JSC

**SUBJECT:** Illustrative content and other augmentations: Discussion Paper. British Library Response

British Library thanks EURIG for this very interesting discussion paper.

The paper highlights that the treatment of aggregate works and augmentations in RDA is complex.  We think that this paper provides some interesting use cases and that these could be developed further to consider impacts on the researcher's ability to find and relate resources and on the decision making of the cataloguer.

**3.1 Liberate illustrations and other 'secondary' contents**
**We agree that it should be possible to identify and describe illustrations and other "secondary" contents in their own right. RDA allows this, as any resource can be analysed and RDA also offers a rich vocabulary of relationships with which to link these components.**

This "atomic" approach may become more natural and more practical when the components are individually identifiable (e.g. as files in an electronic resource), but we take the view that for many resources and agencies, the atomic approach is unlikely to be affordable, therefore RDA must enable aggregate descriptions.

**3.2 The most relevant level to combine 'primary' contents with 'secondary' ones that are associated with them is the *Manifestation* level.**

We are not convinced that this is necessarily the case.  There are many works where the association between the text (primary) and the illustrations (secondary) is usefully conceived of at the expression level because the illustrations are reproduced with the text in many different manifestations.  There are many examples of such associations:  Lewis Carroll and Sir John Tenniel; Dickens and Phiz; A.A. Milne and E.L. Shepherd.

**3.3 If deemed useful, it should be possible to identify and describe illustrations and other 'secondary' contents as *Works* in their own right, and to do the same with *Expressions* of such *Works*.**

RDA already supports this.

# 4. Consequences on RDA's organization

### *7.15 Illustrative content*

"Dealing with illustrative content at the Manifestation level rather than at the Expression level would lead to a removal of current RDA 7.15 from chapter 7. It would seem logical to transfer it to chapter 3 *Describing carriers* as a new element. "

We are concerned that this will break the distinction RDA makes between the content and the carrier. Identification and description of the content belong in Chapter 7. We do not think that illustrations and other secondary content can be considered to be part of the carrier. However we do acknowledge that the aggregation of secondary content may take place in the manifestation and that relationships could be used to make this clearer.

**7.17 (Colour Content) should stay in chapter 7, but information on colour content should also be present at the Manifestation level**

We can see that colour could be an attribute of the carrier, but we are not sure how colour content can be an attribute of the carrier (Chapter 3).

### *20.2 [Persons, families, and corporate bodies associated with an expression] > Contributor*

As discussed above we think that resources may be aggregated at various stages in their development. We think that more flexibility in allowing relationships at the manifestation level would be useful, but we believe that there are advantages in aggregating at the expression level.