

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
**From:** Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative to the JSC  
**Subject:** Compilations of Works: Discussion Paper

ALA thanks EURIG for preparing this discussion paper exploring the issues surrounding compilations of works. We appreciate inclusion of the extensive examples to illustrate various aggregating works. We offer the following comments and observations:

### ***Need for flexibility***

ALA feels strongly that whatever solution is proposed, the following statement from the *Final Report of the Working Group on Aggregates* (p. 5) must be honored: “Although every aggregate manifestation also embodies an aggregating expression of the aggregating work, these aggregating expressions may, or may not, be considered significant enough to warrant distinct bibliographic identification.” We believe that different cataloging agencies may make different determinations about the need for bibliographic identification in relation to a single aggregate work; therefore, RDA needs to support this flexibility.

### ***Preferred title for the compilation and construction of the authorized access point***

As ALA mentioned in its response to 6JSC/ACOC/5: “Any RDA instruction that applies to “works” applies to compilations of works. Specifically, while recording the preferred title of compilations of works of one person, family, or corporate body are covered explicitly at 6.2.2.10, recording the preferred title of compilations of works by more than one person, family or corporate bodies is covered by the general guidelines on choosing the preferred title (6.2.2.3, etc.). Likewise, while there are specific instructions on constructing authorized access points representing a compilation of works by more than one person, family, or corporate body at 6.27.1.4, constructing an authorized access point representing a compilation of works by one person, family, or corporate body is covered by the general instructions at 6.27.1.2.” We would welcome a proposal to clarify the wording of the captions and instructions in Chapter 6 to address the differences between compilations of works by one person vs. compilations by more than one person. However, we do not see a particular need to add additional instructions about aggregating works to this chapter.

In particular, ALA does not accept the approach suggested in 1.2.2, optional addition (p. 5). If specific instructions are needed to record a preferred title for a compilation without a collective title, this should be incorporated into 6.2.2, and the detailed hierarchy of additions set forth in the paper should actually be addressed through recording additional elements per 6.3-6.7.

***Status of the compiler***

While we accept EURIG's assertion that compilers can serve as creators, we also believe that a compiler does not always have significant creative responsibility. As the *Final Report* notes (p. 5): "This effort may be relatively minor—two existing novels published together—or it may represent a major effort resulting in an aggregate that is significantly more than [i.e., than] a sum of its parts (for example an anthology)." We believe that RDA already supports both of these roles in Appendix I ("compiler" in I.2.1 and "editor of compilation" in I.3.1), and that both relationship designators need to remain available in RDA.

Consideration could be given to treating a performer as the compiler of the works on an audio recording. This would address an ongoing problem with applying RDA to compilations of popular music by different composers.

No additional instructions are needed in Chapter 6 to address the compiler as a creator, since instructions already exist about naming a work by the creator.

***Response to questions on p. 5***

1. Do you agree with this approach?  
Not really; we agree to developing missing instructions but believe that most of what is suggested is already addressed by RDA.
2. Should a controlled vocabulary be used for designating the form of the aggregated works and its subdivisions?  
We believe that designating the form of a work, including aggregate works, is addressed by RDA 6.3. That instruction does not require a controlled vocabulary at this time.