

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Bill Leonard, CCC representative

Subject: Alignment of ISBD and RDA Element Sets

CCC heartily thanks the ISBD Review Group for having given consideration to the comments from JSC at its meeting in November 2012.

It is CCC's view that there are challenges preventing alignment directly between all RDA and ISBD elements. Transformation of both element sets into RDF confronts some of those challenges improving the possibility for alignment.

Any mappings between RDA and ISBD would be subject to the qualification that accurate two-way reversibility is not possible. While it may be possible to find semantic similarity between an ISBD element and an RDA element, important differences remain in the syntactical practices governing these elements, such as constrained versus unconstrained, recording as free notes versus transcription, etc.

CCC noted some areas where further discussion is possible, e.g., some ISBD elements were mapped to RDA relationships, unconstrained ISBD elements were mapped to constrained RDA elements, etc.

We encourage the formation of a joint working group between JSC and ISBD RG tasked to investigate the development of a joint application profile and to manage the mappings between RDA and ISBD. The group could examine more closely the differences where the actual form or method of recording differs between RDA and ISBD and how this impacts the actual data being recorded. One group managing the mappings would be more likely to achieve consensus through collaboration and discussion than would two independent groups.