

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Kevin Marsh, ACOC Representative

Subject: Major title changes for serials in Chinese, Japanese and Korean (RDA 2.3.2.13.1, ISBD A.2.6.1 And ISSN 2.3.1), discussion paper about the “first five words” rule

ACOC thanks the ISSN International Centre for this discussion paper. We acknowledge that the ‘first five words’ cannot be applied in any meaningful way to languages that do not use word segmentation (or where the transliterated word segmentation is artificial). We also note that there are non CJK languages, e.g., Thai, where it can’t be applied, and would welcome the inclusion of generic guidance for all such languages in RDA and the ISSN centre rules.

The ‘first five words’ is a useful rule of thumb for those languages where it can be applied. We are therefore not certain that it is best to create a single set of fully generic instructions. It may be better to keep the existing instructions for the languages where the ‘first five words’ can be easily determined, and to have another generic instruction for other languages.

We support an instruction which refers to content elements and function elements rather than words, and would be happy for that instruction to mention the first five content elements. However, we acknowledge that even a change in prepositions can significantly alter the meaning of a title, e.g., a change from ‘Community Development in Australia’ to ‘Community Development outside Australia’. Therefore we would prefer that the instructions made it clear that any title changes that change the meaning or indicate different subject matter should be treated as major changes requiring a new description.

We would greatly appreciate the inclusion in RDA of examples to illustrate these instructions.