

TO: JSC

FROM: Françoise Pellé, ISSN International Centre

SUBJECT: Response to JSC response on the ISSN discussion paper/2

The ISSN Directors have discussed the paper 6JSC/ISSN/2 sent to the RDA JSC regarding major title changes during their annual meeting held in October 2012.

Several decisions or statements have been made:

1) To strongly encourage the recording of data in non-roman scripts (field 880 in MARC 21) in addition to Romanized forms in ISSN records, for titles proper/key titles but also for publishing information and issuing bodies when possible. For such purpose, the new version of the ISSN Manual, to be released in autumn 2013, comprises an additional chapter dedicated to providing these elements in non-roman scripts.

Several ISSN Centres have already started to create ISSN records with data, at least titles, in both non-Romanized and Romanized forms in 2012 and 2013: Korea, Iran, Georgia, Bulgaria, Morocco, Algeria...

The Chinese Centre will start sending records with data in both forms in the forthcoming months. We are currently discussing with the Japanese Centre.

Finally, it has been the practice of the ISSN IC for many years to create, as ISSN Centre, records with both forms (for Russian publications for instance) and we plan to provide these forms systematically in the future.

2) We prefer to not replace the current "first five words" rule (ISBD A.2.6.1.a; ISSN 2.3.1.a; RDA 2.3.2.13.1 a) but to provide an alternative rule for those languages which do not divide texts into words: this rule would be expressed using "generic grammatical terms" (distinguishing between content and function elements for instance) and would not be based on counting. We think also that it could be useful to add to the rules for minor changes (ISBD A.2.7.1.d; ISSN 2.4.1 d; RDA 2.3.2.13.2 b) which refer to "articles, prepositions and conjunctions" the same kind of generic grammatical terms (ancillary or function elements for instance) that would make it more "general" and applicable to non Indo-European languages while keeping the existing wording.

For instance, ISSN 2.4.1d could be augmented as follows: "The change is the addition, deletion, or change of articles, prepositions, conjunctions [**or any grammatical function element**] anywhere in the title".

This change could be made provided, of course, that an agreement is reached about the generic terms to use and their definitions.

3) To include Thai in the scope of the project.

4) To discuss the results of the tests during the next ISSN Directors meeting to be held at the end of October 2013 in Bucharest.

These tests, which aim to compare the number of major changes obtained following the proposed alternative instruction (see point 2) and following the current ISBD, ISSN and RDA instructions will be run in August 2013.

The results of these tests, the outcomes of the discussion and any proposals from the ISSN Directors will be then sent to the RDA JSC and to the ISBD RG from November 2013.