

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Barbara Tillett, LC Representative
Subject: Serials and changes in mode of issuance—is a new description always needed?

LC thanks the ISSN International Centre for the discussion regarding changes in mode of issuance. We encourage the Centre to develop a proposal for further consideration. It would be extremely beneficial if the proposal includes ‘before’ and ‘after’ examples of descriptions that apply the proposed solution, especially to show how attributes relevant to the resource under one mode of issuance would be recorded in a description for another mode of issuance. We would also encourage examples that would illustrate the differences in ‘basis of identification’ as the mode of issuance changes. These examples may illustrate whether changes to RDA instructions other than 1.6.2 and 2.13 may be necessary to accommodate the proposal. We would also encourage the Centre to consider whether all changes in mode of issuance should be treated the same, or whether the decision to create a new description would only be applicable to certain types of resources.

LC notes that the Background section of the discussion paper does not mention all of the situations where a new description may be required by one or more of the three cataloging instructions (e.g., some changes in responsibility, issuing body, and edition). We recognize that harmonization in these other areas would be dealt with in separate proposals, if necessary.