TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

FROM: Alan Danskin, British Library representative to JSC

SUBJECT: Change in mode of issuance for online resources: proposal for a revised instruction.

The British Library thanks ISSN for its proposal, which has provoked considerable discussion concerning the practical implications for inventory management in the context of our ILS and our Digital Store. We would have welcomed more supporting evidence.

We note that changing a serial record to a record for an integrating resource implies a comprehensive revision of the record and the relegation of much of the descriptive data (based on earliest issue) to notes.   We are concerned that this work may need to be reversed should the change of format prove unsuccessful and the mode of issuance revert to serial.

Data that has been ingested into our Digital Store cannot be changed; therefore issues received as part of e-journals will remain in our inventory when a mode of issuance changes. We anticipate that we may have to retain our serial records (for internal purposes) and create new descriptions for the integrating resource.

We acknowledge that in a world in which access to electronic journals/databases is outsourced to aggregators ours may be minority concerns, but we feel that this issue would benefit from more discussion and research.

We agree with ALA's comment that the wording of 1.6.2.1 is complex. We support their recommendation to reword as an exception.