

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA DATE: June 8, 2012

FROM: Barbara B. Tillett, LC Representative

SUBJECT: Adjustment to exception for recording acronym/initialism titles in favor of base instruction (2.3.2.5, exception)

Background

RDA 2.3.2.5 has an exception for serials and integrating resources to always record the full form of a title as the title proper when it also appears in the form of an acronym or initialism. This instruction is harmonized with ISSN practice.

The exception also says to (always) record the acronym or initialism form as other title information, which is in conflict with the base instruction given after the exception that allows for the recording of titles not selected as the title proper as *either* other title information *or* as variant titles.

LC believes that catalogers should be allowed to choose **whether** and **where** to record the acronym/initialism form not selected as the title proper following the base instruction after the exception. This flexibility would also support closer harmonization with ISSN (under ISSN guidelines, the acronym form is given as a variant title).

Proposed revision

Exception

Serials and integrating resources. If the title of a serial or integrating resource appears on the source of information for the title proper in full as well as in the form of an acronym or initialism, choose the full form as the title proper. ~~Record the acronym or initialism as other title information (see [2.3.4 RDA](#)).~~

If the other title or titles are considered to be important for identification or access, record them:

either

a) as other title information (see [2.3.4 RDA](#))

or

b) as variant titles (see [2.3.6 RDA](#)).

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