

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

FROM: Dave Reser, LC Representative

SUBJECT: Recording dates in more than one calendar (RDA 2.6.7.1, 2.6.9.1, 2.7.6.3, 2.8.6.3, 2.9.6.3, 2.10.6.3)

### Background

RDA has “optional addition” instructions at 2.7.6.3 (Recording Date of Production), 2.8.6.3 (Recording Date of Publication), 2.9.6.3 (Recording Date of Distribution), and 2.10.6.3 (Recording Date of Manufacture) to add a date or dates of the Gregorian or Julian calendar when the date as it appears on the resource is not of the Gregorian or Julian calendar. RDA does not provide instructions for recording a Gregorian/Julian date *and* a non-Gregorian/Julian date when *both* appear on the resource, nor does it provide instructions when dates in multiple non-Gregorian/Julian calendars appear on the resource.

Under AACR2, *Library of Congress Rule Interpretation* (LCRI) 1.4F1 said “If the item gives both the Gregorian and non-Gregorian dates, record only the Gregorian date”—while this instruction is too biased to the U.S. environment for RDA, the concept does need to be covered, as the situation arises with some regularity. In addition, the *International Standard Bibliographic Description* (ISBD) 2011 Consolidated Edition provides an instruction at 4.3.4: “When dates in different calendars appear on a resource, all dates are given, separated by a space, equals sign, space.” LC proposes to add a similar instruction to RDA, bringing closer alignment with ISBD. LC’s catalogers dealing with materials where this occurs have requested that only a date in one calendar be ‘core’ in these cases. This is because of the added difficulties inputting dates in scripts that vary in directionality (e.g., left-to-right, and right-to-left). The acknowledgment that multiple calendar dates can be recorded, but only one is core, requires amendments to the “CORE ELEMENT” statements for the date instructions. LC notes that CORE ELEMENT statements in RDA that limit the requirement to a single occurrence of the element act as ‘optional omissions’ but are not marked as such in the instructions themselves. This has been a difficult concept to explain in training, and we wonder if using both a CORE ELEMENT statement and an Optional Omission would be more useful to catalogers applying the instructions? Both approaches have been used in this proposal, and we welcome the JSC’s comments on this issue.

The issue of multiple calendars is also encountered in chronological designations (RDA 2.6). Like the dates discussed above, RDA does have “optional addition” instructions (at 2.6.3.3 and 2.6.5.3 ) to add a date or dates of the Gregorian/Julian calendar when the date as it appears on the resource is not of the Gregorian/Julian calendar, but no obvious instruction for when dates in more than one calendar appear on the resource. When discussing a proposed solution, it was unclear to us if the instructions for “Alternative Chronological Designation of First Issue or Part of Sequence” (RDA 2.6.7) and “Alternative Chronological Designation of Last Issue or Part of Sequence” (RDA 2.6.9)

was the method that RDA would use for dates in different calendars. After consulting ISBD, we see that ISBD 3.3.6 (Alternative numbering system) makes a clearer statement that chronological designations appearing in different calendars are covered under the “alternative” rubric, so we also propose “scope” changes to make this clearer in RDA. We did not propose corresponding changes to the glossary definitions, but they may need to be updated as a result of JSC decisions on the glossary definitions and scope statements.

## Proposed Changes

### *Change 1: Date of Production*

## **2.7.6 Date of Production**

### **CORE ELEMENT**

*Date of production is a core element for resources issued in an unpublished form. If the date of production appears on the source of information in more than one calendar, only the date in the calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description is required.*

### **2.7.6.3 Recording Date of Production**

[first paragraph, example, and Optional Addition unchanged]

If dates appearing on the resource are represented in different calendars, record the dates in the order indicated by the sequence, layout, or typography of the dates on the source of information.

#### Optional Omission

If the dates appearing on the resource are represented in different calendars, record only the date in the calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description.

If the date as it appears in the resource is known to be fictitious or incorrect, make a note giving the actual date (see [2.20.6.3 RDA](#)).

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### 2.7.6.3 Recording Date of Production

[first paragraph, example, and Optional Addition unchanged]

If dates appearing on the resource are represented in different calendars, record the dates in the order indicated by the sequence, layout, or typography of the dates on the source of information.

#### *Optional Omission*

If the dates appearing on the resource are represented in different calendars, record only the date in the calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description.

If the date as it appears in the resource is known to be fictitious or incorrect, make a note giving the actual date (see [2.20.6.3 RDA](#)).

#### *Change 2: Date of Publication*

### 2.8.6 Date of Publication

#### CORE ELEMENT

If the date of publication appears on the source of information in more than one calendar, only the date in the calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description is required.

#### 2.8.6.3 Recording Date of Publication

[first paragraph, first example box, Optional Addition, and second example box unchanged]

If dates appearing on the resource are represented in different calendars, record the dates in the order indicated by the sequence, layout, or typography of the dates on the source of information.

#### EXAMPLE

5772

2012

Date of publication appears in both the Jewish and Gregorian calendars

1377 H.Sh.

1419 H.Q.

Date of publication appears in both the Hijri Shamsi (solar) and Hijri Qamari (lunar) calendars.

Source of information reads: 1377 H.Sh. 1419 H.Q.

2485 BE

1942

Date of publication appears in both the Thai (Buddhist Era) and Gregorian calendars. Source of information reads: 2485 BE, 1942

*Optional Omission*

If the dates appearing on the resource are represented in different calendars, record only the date in the calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description.

If the date as it appears in the resource is known to be fictitious or incorrect, make a note giving the actual date (see [2.20.6.3 RDA](#)).

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## 2.8.6 Date of Publication

### CORE ELEMENT

*If the date of publication appears on the source of information in more than one calendar, only the date in the calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description is required.*

### 2.8.6.3 Recording Date of Publication

[first paragraph, first example box, Optional Addition, and second example box unchanged]

If dates appearing on the resource are represented in different calendars, record the dates in the order indicated by the sequence, layout, or typography of the dates on the source of information.

#### EXAMPLE

5772

2012

**Date of publication appears in both the Jewish and Gregorian calendars**

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**Source of information reads:** 1377 H.Sh. 1419 H.Q.

2485 BE

1942

**Date of publication appears in both the Thai (Buddhist Era) and Gregorian calendars. Source of information reads:** 2485 BE, 1942

*Optional Omission*

If the dates appearing on the resource are represented in different calendars, record only the date in the calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description.

If the date as it appears in the resource is known to be fictitious or incorrect, make a note giving the actual date (see [2.20.6.3 RDA](#)).

### *Change 3: Date of Distribution*

## 2.9.6 Date of Distribution

### CORE ELEMENT

*Date of distribution is a core element for a resource in a published form if the date of publication is not identified. If the date of distribution appears on the source of information in more than one calendar, only the date in the calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description is required.*

### 2.9.6.3 Recording Date of Distribution

[first paragraph, example box, and Optional Addition unchanged]

If dates appearing on the resource are represented in different calendars, record the dates in the order indicated by the sequence, layout, or typography of the dates on the source of information.

#### Optional Omission

If the dates appearing on the resource are represented in different calendars, record only the date in the calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description.

If the date as it appears in the resource is known to be fictitious or incorrect, make a note giving the actual date (see [2.20.6.3 RDA](#)).

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*Date of distribution is a core element for a resource in a published form if the date of publication is not identified. If the date of distribution appears on the source of information in more than one calendar, only the date in the calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description is required.*

### 2.9.6.3 Recording Date of Distribution

[first paragraph, example box, and Optional Addition unchanged]

If dates appearing on the resource are represented in different calendars, record the dates in the order indicated by the sequence, layout, or typography of the dates on the source of information.

#### *Optional Omission*

If the dates appearing on the resource are represented in different calendars, record only the date in the calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description.

If the date as it appears in the resource is known to be fictitious or incorrect, make a note giving the actual date (see [2.20.6.3 RDA](#)).

#### *Change 4: Date of Manufacture*

### 2.10.6 Date of Manufacture

#### CORE ELEMENT

*Date of manufacture is a core element for a resource in a published form if neither the date of publication, the date of distribution, nor the copyright date is identified. If the date of manufacture appears on the source of information in more than one calendar, only the date in the calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description is required.*

#### 2.10.6.3 Recording Date of Manufacture

[first paragraph, example box, and Optional Addition unchanged]

If dates appearing on the resource are represented in different calendars, record the dates in the order indicated by the sequence, layout, or typography of the dates on the source of information.

#### Optional Omission

If the dates appearing on the resource are represented in different calendars, record only the date in the calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description.

If the date as it appears in the resource is known to be fictitious or incorrect, make a note giving the actual date (see [2.20.6.3 RDA](#)).

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## 2.10.6 Date of Manufacture

### CORE ELEMENT

*Date of manufacture is a core element for a resource in a published form if neither the date of publication, the date of distribution, nor the copyright date is identified. If the date of manufacture appears on the source of information in more than one calendar, only the date in the calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description is required.*

### 2.10.6.3 Recording Date of Manufacture

[first paragraph, example box, and Optional Addition unchanged]

If dates appearing on the resource are represented in different calendars, record the dates in the order indicated by the sequence, layout, or typography of the dates on the source of information.

#### *Optional Omission*

If the dates appearing on the resource are represented in different calendars, record only the date in the calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description.

If the date as it appears in the resource is known to be fictitious or incorrect, make a note giving the actual date (see [2.20.6.3 RDA](#)).

### *Change 5: Add reference to different calendars in the scope of Alternative Chronological Designation of First Issue or Part of Sequence*

#### 2.6.7.1 Scope

**Alternative chronological designation of first issue or part of sequence**▼ is a second or subsequent system of numbering (see [2.6.1.1 RDA](#)) presented in the form of a date (e.g., a year; year and month; month, day, and year) on the first issue or part of a sequence of numbering for a serial.

An alternative chronological designation may include a date in a different calendar.

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**Alternative chronological designation of first issue or part of sequence**▼ is a second or subsequent system of numbering (see [2.6.1.1 RDA](#)) presented in the form of a date (e.g., a year; year and month; month, day, and year) on the first issue or part of a sequence of numbering for a serial.

An alternative chronological designation may include a date in a different calendar.

*Change 6: Add reference to different calendars in the scope of Alternative Chronological Designation of Last Issue or Part of Sequence*

### 2.6.9.1 Scope

**Alternative chronological designation of last issue or part of sequence**▼ is a second or subsequent system of numbering (see [2.6.1.1 RDA](#)) presented in numeric and/or alphabetic form on the last issue or part of a sequence of numbering for a serial.

An alternative chronological designation may include a date in a different calendar

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### 2.6.9.1 Scope

**Alternative chronological designation of last issue or part of sequence**▼ is a second or subsequent system of numbering (see [2.6.1.1 RDA](#)) presented in numeric and/or alphabetic form on the last issue or part of a sequence of numbering for a serial.

An alternative chronological designation may include a date in a different calendar

### Change 7: Appendix D.1.1

Add three new rows to the table at D.1.1 section 4.4 (Date of publication, production, and/or distribution)

Additional calendar date

≡

2.7.6 Date of Production

2.8.6 Date of Publication

2.9.6 Date of Distribution

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Additional calendar date  = 2.7.6 Date of Production  
2.8.6 Date of Publication  
2.9.6 Date of Distribution

***Change 8: Appendix D.1.2.5***

Add a new paragraph, following “Precede the date of publication, production and/or distribution by a comma.”

Precede the date of publication, production and/or distribution by an equals sign when giving a date appearing on the resource in more than one calendar.

Add a new paragraph, following “Precede the date of manufacture by a comma.”

Precede the date of manufacture in a different calendar by an equals sign when giving a date appearing on the resource in more than one calendar.

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Add a new paragraph, following “Precede the date of publication, production and/or distribution by a comma.”

Precede the date of publication, production and/or distribution by an equals sign when giving a date appearing on the resource in more than one calendar.

Add a new paragraph, following “Precede the date of manufacture by a comma.”

Precede the date of manufacture in a different calendar by an equals sign when giving a date appearing on the resource in more than one calendar.