

Memorandum

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

6JSC/LC/7

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR DATE: Aug. 3, 2011
FROM: Barbara B. Tillett, LC Representative
SUBJECT: Changes in content characteristics

Background

RDA chapter 7 lacks an instruction for changes in content characteristics over time. Content characteristics (e.g., language, script, presence of illustrations, presence of supplementary content) do change from one issue/part to another issue/part of multipart monographs and serials and between iterations of integrating resources. Not all changes in content characteristics are important enough to note but some changes do affect the user tasks of identification and selection.

LC shows below two different ways to add content to chapter 7 to clarify that such changes over time are accommodated by revising the existing description rather than by creating a new description.

Possible revision #1

Add a new instruction to RDA 7.1 patterned after instructions in RDA 1.10.* There is not a comparable instruction in the general chapter 5 for Section 2: Work & Expression. The examples group may want to add examples for 7.1.2.

7.1 General Guidelines on Describing Content

7.1.1 Sources of Information

Take information used to describe content from the resource itself. In certain cases the information may be taken from sources outside the resource as well.

For further guidance on sources of information for describing content, see the instructions under specific elements in this chapter.

7.1.2 Changes in Content Characteristics

If it is known that the characteristic does not apply to the entire resource, identify the applicable part or iteration for that characteristic if considered important.

Proposed change in Index

Content, description of *See also* Cartographic content
accessibility content, 7.14
artistic and/or technical credit, 7.24
aspect ratio, 7.19
awards, 7.28, A.20
changes in characteristics, 7.1.2
colour content, 7.17

* LC will be submitting the correction below via the fast-track process. Because the title of chapter 1 is “General Guidelines on Recording Attributes of Manifestations and Items,” RDA 1.10 should not refer to chapters 5-7.

1.10.1 General Guidelines on Notes

When the instructions in chapters 2–~~4~~7 specify making a note, apply the general guidelines on capitalization, quotations, references, etc., given under 1.10.2–1.10.5.

Possible revision #2

Add a new element sub-type “Note on changes to content characteristics” to RDA. The proposed RDA 7.29 is patterned on the general approach in RDA 3.22.1 and 3.22.6 rather than on the chapter 2 handling of change at each element, etc., because it is not known how many of the chapter 7 elements could change over time. The element analysis table (5JSC/RDA/Element analysis/Rev/3) and the element set view on the Tools tab in the RDA Toolkit will need updating as well. [All content is new; double underlining has not been included.]

7.29 Note

7.29.1 Basic Instructions on Making Notes

7.29.1.1 Scope

A note ▼ is an annotation providing additional information relating to data recorded in another element.

7.29.1.2 Sources of Information
Take information for notes from any source.

7.29.1.3 Making Notes
When making a note, apply the general guidelines on notes given under 1.10.

7.29.2 Note on Changes in Content Characteristics

7.29.2.1 Scope

A note on changes in content is a note on changes in content characteristics that occur in subsequent issues or parts of a resource issued in successive parts or between iterations of an integrating resource.

7.29.2.2 Sources of Information

Use evidence presented by the resource itself (or on any accompanying material or container) as the basis for making notes on changes in content characteristics of the expression. If desired, take additional evidence from any source.

7.29.2.3 Changes in Content Characteristics

Make notes on changes in content characteristics as instructed under 7.29.2.3.1 (multipart monographs and serials) or 7.29.2.3.2 (integrating resources), as applicable.

7.29.2.3.1 Multipart Monographs and Serials

If a content characteristic is changed in a subsequent issue or part, make a note if the change is considered important for identification or selection. If the changes have been numerous, a general statement may be made.

EXAMPLE

Volumes 1-3 in French, volumes 4-7 in German.

Armenian, 1999-2007; Cyrillic, 2008-

Volumes 3-5 lack illustrations.

Volumes 1, 4, and 8 lack indexes.

7.29.2.3.2 Integrating Resources

Make notes on content characteristics no longer present on the current iteration if the change is considered important for identification or selection. If the changes have been numerous, a general statement may be made.

EXAMPLE

In French and English, 2002-2009

Web site now only in French

Proposed new entry in Glossary

Note on Changes in
Content Characteristics

A note on changes in content characteristics that occur in subsequent issues or parts of a resource issued in successive parts or between iterations of an integrating resource.

Proposed change in Index

Notes, 1.10, 2.20

abbreviations in, B.5.11

basis for identification of the resource, 2.20.13

capitalization, 1.10.2, A.8

carriers, 3.22

content, 7.29

copyright date, 2.20.10

currency of contents, 2.20.12.3