

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
**From:** Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative  
**Subject:** Revision proposal for RDA 3.4.3.2 and RDA 3.21.2.5

ALA thanks the JSC Music Working Group for this proposal which seeks to clarify the instructions for describing a resource in a single volume that contains a score and one or more parts, or multiple parts. We support some parts of this proposal. Our comments and suggested revisions follow.

### **General comments**

Because of the ongoing work by ALA's Machine Actionable Data Task Force on re-envisioning RDA Chapter 3 and creating an Extent of Expression Element, ALA recommends minimizing changes affecting carrier and extent until their proposal has been completed.

A shorter-term approach to the immediate problem would be simply to remove the 1<sup>st</sup> conditional clause in 3.21.2.5. We concur with the JSC Music Working Group's assessment that this is phrased as if the "exception" in 3.4.3.2 is an "alternative".

ALA observes that RDA uses both "physical unit" and "physical volume" in various instructions. We recommend that the JSC select a single term to represent this concept.

### **Specific comments**

#### *3.4.3, Extent of Notated Music, 2<sup>nd</sup> Exception*

- ALA does not agree with the modification of the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph or with the example changes related to the 2<sup>nd</sup> exception. While the rationale for the revision is a more principled way to differentiate content and carrier, we believe the proposed changes would compromise fulfilling the FRBR User Tasks. If the proposal is accepted and no single notated music term is adequate to describe the volume, then cataloguers will have to use "\_\_\_ pages"; this favors the sub-units of the volume over the fact that the resource contains notated music. Presumably the latter is much more important for identification and selection.

ALA would welcome an approach that added "in 1 volume" for clarification; this could produce something like:

1 score and 3 parts (in 1 volume (19 pages))

However, we were unable to come up with a concise, principled instruction that allowed for this result.

While we recognize that parts may be printed in a single volume, just as a score and parts may be, we believe that the current instructions, along with the proposed revision to 3.21.2.5, will adequately address this situation.

Stepping back from the music-specific problem addressed by this proposal, ALA wonders if a textual work with extensive illustrations also presents a similar problem. If so, the approach used for these resources could be extended to a single volume containing a score and parts.

- We support adding the new paragraph after the examples; however, we recommend the following wording instead:

Make a note to explain the extent, if considered important for identification or selection (see **3.21.2.5**).

- If the JSC prefers the proposal's wording here, we recommend adding the term "of" before "multiple parts" in both the bold name of the exception, and in the instruction itself: "...a score and one or more parts or of multiple parts ..."

#### *3.21.2.5, Score and One or More Parts, or Multiple Parts in a Single Physical Unit*

- ALA agrees with the proposed change to the title for this instruction, although we recommend adding a comma before "or Multiple Parts" as shown above.
- ALA supports the rest of the proposed changes for this instruction.