

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

FROM: Dave Reser, LC Representative

SUBJECT: Revision to instructions for devised titles in RDA 2.3.2.11

ABSTRACT: This proposal recommends providing greater flexibility for the general instructions on devising a title proper.

Justification

The current RDA instructions for devising a title proper need greater flexibility to assure that common practices in certain cataloguing communities (e.g., rare materials) are covered in RDA.

Issues requiring resolution

The instructions for devising titles should be made more flexible.

Impact of the revisions

Creating greater flexibility for devising titles will accommodate practices used in the rare materials community. Revised instructions will also provide guidance for types of resources (e.g., those without linguistic content) that are not adequately described using the basic instructions or specific sub-instructions. There are some examples for choreographic works in 6.2.2.6.2 (Devised Titles) that existing instructions at 2.3.2.11 do not adequately cover because there is no “subject” to include as part of a devised title.

Background

In July of 2014, the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek proposed a new example for RDA 2.3.1.4, Optional Omission to illustrate abridgment via Fast Track. Some JSC members commented that the example was technically for a “devised title” (using the first words of text as a title proper), and that the example should be located at 2.3.2.11 (Recording Devised Titles). However, it was also noted that the instructions currently at 2.3.2.11 would not allow for a devised title of this type (first words of text, etc.), even though this has been a typical approach for devising a title proper for rare and archival materials. Later in the year, when providing guidelines for devising a preferred title as part of 6JSC/LC/30, instruction 6.2.2.6.2 (Devised Titles) was developed, with a reference to 2.3.2.11 for instructions on devising a title. It was noted that the guidelines in 2.3.2.11 needed greater flexibility to devise some titles (e.g., for choreographic works and art), and LC volunteered to write a proposal for 2015 to provide this flexibility.

Recommendation: Revise the general instructions at 2.3.2.11

2.3.2.11 Recording Devised Titles

If:

the resource itself has no title (see [2.3.2.10](#))

and

a title cannot be found in any of the other sources of information specified at [2.2.4](#)

then:

devise a brief descriptive title that ~~indicates either~~ includes one or more of the following:

a) the nature of the resource (e.g., map, literary manuscript, diary, advertisement)

or

b) its subject (e.g., names of persons, corporate bodies, objects, activities, events, geographical area and dates)

or

c) ~~a combination of the two, as appropriate.~~ the opening words of a text, etc.

d) a brief descriptive phrase that characterizes the resource.

Use the language and script appropriate to the content of the resource being described, except where instructed to use specific terminology. If this criterion does not apply, record the title in the language and script preferred by the agency preparing the description.

EXAMPLE

Anarchist bombing, Union Square, New York City, March 1908

Typescript draft of chapters 3-20 of Natchez pilgrimage

~~Pleasure boat on the Murray River, Mildura, Victoria~~

Sydney Bicycle Club badge

Dance poster collection

~~Posters of World War I~~

Portrait of General Emiliano Zapata and his staff, Puebla, Mexico

English language title devised for a painting

Letters from Don Banks to Suzanne Gleeson

Ich bin gern allein

Opening words of an unpublished poem

I need a dollar

Devised title proper for an untitled choreography by Christopher Dean that was used as the short program of figure skater Patrick Chan in multiple figure skating competitions; Chan skated the program to the song I need a dollar

Alternative

Devise a title in a language and script preferred by the agency preparing the description.

If the resource is a type that would normally have identifying information (e.g., a published book), make a note to indicate that the title has been devised (see [2.17.2.3](#)).

Apply these additional instructions for special types of resources, as applicable:

music (see [2.3.2.11.1](#))

cartographic resources (see [2.3.2.11.2](#))

moving image resources (see [2.3.2.11.3](#))

archival resources and collections (see [2.3.2.11.4](#)).

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