

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative
Subject: Simplification of the Medium of Performance Instructions (6.15)

ALA thanks the JSC Music Working Group for this discussion paper exploring further simplification of the Medium of Performance instructions in 6.15. ALA noted the potential for further reorganization of 6.15 as part of developing our response to 6JSC/MusicWG/14. As mentioned in our response to 6JSC/MusicWG/14, ALA wonders if the revision of 6.15 suggested in that proposal should wait until there is agreement about how to proceed as a result of this discussion paper.

As to our preference for Version A or Version B, ALA respondents were divided in their support and could not reach a consensus.

Comments preferring Version A

- The specific guidance and examples are helpful, particularly for generalist catalogers.
- The result of applying Version A would result in more consistency.
- This approach offers greater clarity and has a smaller impact on catalogers, while not being detrimental to web-based communities.

Comments preferring Version B

- While more radical than Version A, this seems like a more principled approach.
- It is better to remove our AACR2 practices completely from RDA, with the AACR2-related content currently in 6.15 (and 6.28) moved to the Tools tab and/or an application profile.

Specific suggestions about Version A

6.15.1.4:

- The title of this instruction is incorrect in the draft. The word “instrumental” should be removed so it reads: “Music Intended for One Performer to a Part”.
- ALA believes that the exception for continuo should not be moved here; it still belongs in 6.15.1.3 because continuo is not necessarily realized with “one performer to a part”.
- Likewise, ALA does not agree that the exception for percussion should be reworded and moved here; we think it still belongs in 6.15.1.3 with the current wording. This is a more complex situation than with continuo, but it certainly is possible to have multiple parts and multiple performers for percussion, with some fluidity about which part is played by which percussionist during the course of performing the musical work.
- The exception for accompanying ensembles needs to be phrased to indicate that this only applies to ensembles with one performer to a part. Alternatively, this exception

could be rephrased as a regular paragraph that refers to 6.15.1.7, so that the details of this particular alternative would only appear once.

6.15.1.8:

- ALA recommends retitling this instruction as “One or More Solo Instruments and/or Voices ~~and~~ with Accompanying Ensemble or Ensembles”. This rephrasing helps indicate the subordinate nature of the accompanying ensemble(s). Of course, if the title of the instruction is updated, the language of the instruction would also need to be changed to match.

Specific suggestions about Version B

6.15.1.5.1:

- ALA recommends adding guidance so catalogers know when to supply these numbers, such as recording them “if considered important for identification and access”.
- ALA wonders if the a)-d) list should be separate elements. Otherwise, it appears that only numbers would be recorded, instead of associating the number with a particular term. For example, recording this information for a work for 2 pianos (8 performers, 16 hands) would result in:

<i>4</i>	[6.15.1.5.1.a]
<i>16</i>	[6.15.1.5.1.b]
<i>8</i>	[6.15.1.5.1.d]

6.15.1.7:

- In the alternative, ALA recommends changing “and” to “and/or” in the phrase “... record each instrument and/or voice of the ensemble...”.

6.15.1.11:

- ALA wonders if it is still appropriate to suggest an internal vocabulary term (“unspecified”) when the instructions point to exclusive use of an external vocabulary.
- ALA respondents had some difficulty understanding the Exception, since it mentions ascertaining the number of parts, recording a general term for them, and then recording the number of parts. Adding an appropriate example would likely help clarify what is meant.

6.15.1.11.3:

- ALA questions the removal of this instruction, since RDA would then lack guidance for situations where part of the medium of performance is known, but part is unspecified.