To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Dave Reser, LC Representative

Subject: Revision of RDA 2.2.2.2 Sources of Information

Thanks to the Rare Working Group for their analysis of sources of information for early printed resources. We agree with the general goals of the proposal, and offer the following comments and suggested changes.

Issue #1 (flexibility for choosing sources)

The instructions for identifying the preferred source of information are intended to represent a consistent approach that would lead to the same decision by any cataloger examining the same manifestation. As sometimes happens, the title proper selected according to priority order may not always seem to be the "best" title in a particular context, but RDA allows for a number of techniques to record *all* titles associated with a manifestation that may be meaningful to users (variant title, parallel title proper, etc.) as well as the preferred title for the work and variant title for the work.

We're also sympathetic to the findings of the working group that "early printed resources" represents a wide swath of materials that may not benefit from a single order of priority, so we agree that some flexibility is needed.

We also recognize that some RDA users may, for various reasons, choose to apply general instructions to **all** resources, even early printed resources (see comments at RSC/RareWG/1). To allow for this flexibility, we would prefer that the 2.2.2.2 instructions for early printed resources be converted from an **Exception** to an **Alternative**.

With flexibility comes responsibility, so we would encourage agencies to specify when they would apply the alternative, and what priority order they might follow (e.g., identify specialist manuals such as the *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials* suite that might provide distinct priority sources for different categories of material (e.g., incunabula, hand-press resources from different countries, early serials)).

We would also like to propose a slight change of wording in the Alternative to avoid the concept of "most formally presented." This seems problematic without providing guidelines to the cataloger for determining the *most* formal presentation. The glossary defines "formally presented" as "An element appearing in isolation, as opposed to appearing embedded in text, and in a prominent location." The key to this question of "most" formal seems to be the choice between two or more "prominent locations," which implies there would be a source list for choosing the most formal/prominent source.

Also, because the Alternative instruction would apply to a broad range of types of resources, we don't think it would be appropriate to single out a single type of resource in the instruction.

Proposed revision (mark-up based on the working group's proposal)

> ~~Exception~~*Alternative*
>
> ***Early printed resources.*** If an early printed resource (or a reproduction of it) lacks a title page, title sheet, or title card (or an image of it), use as the preferred source of information the <u>most appropriate</u> source within the resource in which the information is ~~most~~ formally presented (or an image of it). ~~For resources printed before 1501, the source will frequently be a colophon (or an image of it).~~

Clean copy

> *Alternative*
>
> ***Early printed resources.*** If an early printed resource (or a reproduction of it) lacks a title page, title sheet, or title card (or an image of it), use as the preferred source of information the most appropriate source within the resource in which the information is formally presented (or an image of it).

Issue #2 (final paragraphs in 2.2.2.2)

We agree with the working group that the two final paragraphs could be combined. We prefer Option 2.

Issue #3 (add reference paragraph to 2.17.2.3)

We agree that it would be helpful to the cataloger to provide the suggested reference at 2.2.2.2. Since the guidelines at 2.17.2.3 apply to both 2.2.2.2 and 2.2.2.3, we would suggest a new final paragraph for 2.2.2.3 as well. Because the instruction at 2.17.2.3 is for recording the source of the title proper, we suggest making this clear in the reference as well.

> 2.2.2.2
>
> If a source other than a title page, title sheet, or title card (or an image of it) is used as the preferred source of information, make a note on the source <u>of the title proper</u> (see 2.17.2.3).
>
> 2.2.2.3
>
> <u>If a source other than a title frame or title screen is used as the preferred source of information, make a note on the source of the title proper (see 2.17.2.3).</u>