

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
CC: Anne Welsh, Secretary, RDA Steering Committee
From: Jessica Grzegorski, RDA Examples Editor
Subject: Proposal to revise guidance chapter section **Introduction to RDA: Examples**

Abstract

This proposal recommends the addition of a new paragraph in the guidance chapter section [Introduction to RDA: Examples](#) to clarify how and when string encoding schemes are used in examples in the RDA Toolkit.

Background

Although RDA is neutral regarding the choice of encoding scheme, some examples in the Toolkit are presented using a string encoding scheme (SES) for clarity. These examples include access points and other types of structured descriptions. Examples in Official RDA have followed previous practice from Original RDA (section 0.10) regarding the use of punctuation that conforms to [ISBD \(Consolidated edition\)](#) for structured descriptions, generally, and [AACR2](#) for access points, specifically. Although the [RDA Examples Editorial Guide](#) (chapter 5) articulates the circumstances under which ISBD punctuation, in particular, is used in examples, those circumstances are not explicitly stated in the Toolkit.

Justification

Particularly with the formation of the new task-and-finish String Encoding Scheme Working Group, the RSC continues to clarify guidance on the use of SES while facilitating the ability of different communities of practice to use the SES that suits their needs. Revisions and additions to the base RDA text related to SES will likely require changes to guidance chapters in the Toolkit, and the section on examples is no exception.

The purpose of the recommendation in this proposal is twofold. First, it recognizes the ongoing interoperability between RDA and ISBD and the importance of the latter to many communities of practice, while acknowledging the cataloging traditions of AACR2 on which RDA is built. Second, it makes clear that ISBD is one option among many SES options. As communities develop other SES, RDA examples may reflect these developments and will clearly specify when other SES are used.

Impact

There will likely be no negative impacts from this proposed revision. Because the revision applies to informational text that does not include instructions, it will not affect legacy data or change cataloging outcomes. The changes will have no effect on policy statement writers, since there are currently no policy statements associated with the “Examples” section of the “Introduction to RDA” guidance chapter.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Add a new paragraph in the guidance chapter section [Introduction to RDA: Examples](#) to clarify how and when string encoding schemes are used in examples in the RDA Toolkit.

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Examples

There are four types of examples in RDA.

- *Basic examples* illustrate an element using an applicable recording method. Basic examples may contain explanatory notes.
- *Recording methods examples* show multiple recording methods applied to the same instance of an element.
- *View as relationship examples* provide a linked data visualization of an element using [RDA registry](#) labels and IRIs.
- *View in context examples* contain a set of elements repeated throughout RDA to demonstrate how elements identify an entity. When a view in context example appears on an element page, that element name appears in blue. View in context examples use [RDA registry](#) labels.

Examples illustrate elements as appropriate for the language version of RDA in which they appear. A systematic transliteration may be used in examples for some elements when appropriate. For example, the [ALA-LC romanization tables](#) are used in the English RDA.

Examples may employ string encoding schemes for clarity. Unspecified string encoding schemes found in examples conform to [ISBD international standard bibliographic description. Consolidated edition \[PDF\]](#) or [Anglo-American cataloguing rules. 2nd edition \(AACR2\)](#). When other string encoding schemes are used in examples, they will be specified.

The data are correct in the context of the instruction, and may not necessarily reflect the forms found in databases of agents using RDA.

Clean copy:

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Summary of recommendations

Recommendation 1: Add a new paragraph in the guidance chapter section [Introduction to RDA: Examples](#) to clarify how and when string encoding schemes are used in examples in the RDA Toolkit.