

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
From: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
Subject: Decisions on Proposal to revise the preferred order of recording sources for early printed resources in Data provenance: Recording a source of metadata that is a manifestation that is being described

The text below sets out decisions taken by the RSC at their meeting in July 2026.

[RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1](#) was published on 30 April 2026. Written responses were received between 30 April and 17 July. [RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/summary](#) was published on 17 July.

In the Public Session of the July Meeting (RSC/Minutes/599-615¹ Item 610), the Examples Editor thanked everyone for their feedback, especially the work that the Technical Team Liaison Officer had done to look into the history of the list in RDA. [RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/TTLO](#) stated:

“In exploring the history of this list in the Official RDA Toolkit, we noted that the current preferred order comes from Original RDA 2.2.2.2. This issue was discussed in 2016 in RSC/RareWG/6 and RSC/Rare WG/6/rev, in which the RSC Rare Materials Working Group stated that, *“For early printed resources...it does not benefit the user to choose between...sources based on a prescribed order. The best source of information for materials of the hand-press period will vary considerably, compared to later materials... In the absence of a title page, the user is best served by choosing the source in which the information is most formally presented.”* According to the minutes of the November 2016 meeting, the proposal was ultimately withdrawn in order to facilitate further work in the 3R project, but with regards to listing a preferred order of sources of information, *“the trend seems to be what the Rare Materials Working Group has indicated in this proposal”*.

The Examples Editor also acknowledged the issue raised in [RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/EURIG](#):

“EURIG would like to note the continued absence of other preliminaries besides the title page and title sheet as a source of information. More broadly, we note the absence of guidance on the use of a title page verso amongst the sources of information which RDA includes as sources of transcription. If title page verso is encompassed by the term title sheet, then this could be brought out in the glossary definition (as a scope note) and in the vocabulary encoding scheme for recording source.”

After the opportunity for RSC Members and observers to share their views verbally, the Examples Editor shared her screen and showed a DRAFT proposal to add another option to “Choose the source in which the information is most formally presented.” This option would

¹ Decisions document published ahead of Minutes; search “RSC/Minutes/599-615” to retrieve them on ALAIR (<https://alair.ala.org/home> once they are published and archived).

provide the opportunity to select information from the title page and other preliminaries, and potentially solve the issue raised by EURIG, as well as enacting the recommendation from [RSC/RareWG/6](#) and [RSC/RareWG/6/rev](#) surfaced by [RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/TTLO](#).

In the context that the Examples Editor will present the addition of this option in RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/3, members of the RSC voted unanimously to approve the recommendations in RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1 as follows.

Recommendation 1: Revise the preferred order of recording sources for early printed resources in condition option [80.40.48.28](#) of the [Data provenance: Recording a source of metadata that is a manifestation that is being described](#) section.

Marked-up copy:

CONDITION

The source of a *metadata work* is a manifestation that is being described.

A manifestation consists of one or more pages, leaves, sheets, or cards.

A manifestation is an *early printed resource*.

CONDITION OPTION

Prefer the following recording sources, in this order:

1. A *title page*, *title sheet*, or *title card*
2. A colophon
3. A ~~cover or jacket issued with the manifestation~~ *caption*
4. A ~~caption~~ *cover or jacket* issued with the manifestation

Clean copy:

CONDITION

The source of a *metadata work* is a manifestation that is being described.

A manifestation consists of one or more pages, leaves, sheets, or cards.

A manifestation is an *early printed resource*.

CONDITION OPTION

Prefer the following recording sources, in this order:

1. A *title page, title sheet, or title card*
2. A colophon
3. A *caption*
4. A *cover or jacket* issued with the manifestation