

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
From: Trina Soderquist, NARDAC representative
Subject: Formal response to RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2 – Proposal for Manifestation: extent of unitary structure

Recommendation 1.1. Create the element Manifestation: extent of unitary structure. Associate the **RDA Carrier Type** vocabulary encoding scheme and the new **RDA Unitary Structure** vocabulary encoding scheme with this element.

NARDAC approves of the recommendations, with suggested amendments below.

Include a definition for *unitary structure* in the RDA Glossary. Or, change the element label to Manifestation: extent of carrier or Manifestation: number of carriers.

Revise the proposed definition.

Revised proposed definition: A number of units of the same ~~kind~~ category of carrier in a manifestation.

Other suggestions for revising the proposed definition follow:

- A number of units of the same ~~kind~~ of carrier type in a manifestation.
- A number of units of the same ~~kind~~ type of carrier in a manifestation.

Rephrase the options under **Recording a structured description** (page 12) to match other Toolkit instructions. Specify that the terms should be recorded in the singular or plural as applicable.

Revised OPTION

Record ~~a quantity with~~ the number of units and an appropriate term from the **RDA Carrier Type** vocabulary encoding scheme.

Record the term in the singular or plural, as applicable.

Revised OPTION

Record ~~a quantity with~~ the number of units and an appropriate term from the **RDA Unitary Structure** vocabulary encoding scheme.

Record the term in the singular or plural, as applicable.

Add instructions for recording an unstructured description. Manifestation: extent of manifestation provides three conditions for recording an unstructured description that seem relevant to the proposed new element:

- An appropriate term is not in the list at Manifestation: carrier type.
- An alternative to a term listed at Manifestation: carrier type is preferred.
- None of the terms in a *vocabulary encoding scheme* is appropriate or sufficiently specific.

Recommendation 1.2. Refer the issue of using terms from the vocabulary encoding scheme **RDA Format of Notated Music** for a possible source of values for Manifestation: extent of unitary structure to the RSC Music Working Group.

NARDAC approves of the recommendation, and we suggest that other specialized cataloging communities be consulted for additional terms.

Recommendation 2.1. Create a new vocabulary encoding scheme, **RDA Unitary Structure**, in accordance with the details that follow, with several terms moved from **RDA Carrier Extent Unit** and definitions updated. When all the terms have been moved or removed, delete the vocabulary encoding scheme **RDA Carrier Extent Unit**. Some of those terms are proposed to be moved to other extent vocabularies encoding schemes.

NARDAC rejects the recommendation. Change the element label to Manifestation: extent of carrier and update the definitions for terms in the **RDA Carrier Extent Unit** vocabulary encoding scheme.

Recommendation 2.2. Adopt the following list of recommended terms for **RDA Unitary Structure** derived from the current **RDA Carrier Extent Unit** vocabulary encoding scheme.

NARDAC rejects the recommendation. Suggested amendments to proposed definitions are below.

Recommendation 2.2.1. activity card

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 2.2.2. coin

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 2.2.3. collage

NARDAC rejects the recommendation and suggests the following amendments.

Revised proposed definition: A unit of unitary structure that is a sheet embodying a still image created by affixing paper, fabrics, photographs, or other materials to a flat surface.

Another suggestion for revising the proposed definition follows:

- A unit of unitary structure that is a sheet embodying a still image ~~by affixing paper, fabrics, photographs, or other materials to a flat surface~~ created by forming a flat or low relief surface to which paper, fabrics, photographs, or other materials are affixed.

Recommendation 2.2.4. diorama

NARDAC rejects the recommendation and suggests removing the word “painted” from the proposed definition.

Revised proposed definition: A unit of unitary structure that is an object embodying a three-dimensional representation of a scene created by placing objects, figures, etc., in front of a two-dimensional ~~painted~~ background.

Reconsider use of the words “object” and “objects” in the proposed definition. In the RDA Glossary, an object is “a three-dimensional artifact, a replica of an artifact, or a naturally-occurring object.”

Recommendation 2.2.5. drawing

NARDAC approves of the recommendation and suggests adding part of the original scope note.

Revised scope note: This term is often defined broadly to refer to computer-generated images as well.

Recommendation 2.2.6. flash card

NARDAC rejects the recommendation and suggests amending the definition and including the synonym *electronic flash card*.

Revised proposed definition: A unit of unitary structure that is a card, or a digital representation of a card, embodying words, numerals, pictures, etc., designed for rapid display as an aid to learning.

Synonyms: electronic flash card

Recommendation 2.2.7. folded sheet

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 2.2.8. game

NARDAC rejects the recommendation. The proposed definition is confusing and too prescriptive. Not all games consist of three-dimensional objects. Some, like many card games, are composed of two-dimensional still images and text.

Revised proposed definition: A unit of unitary structure that is ~~an object consisting of~~ a set of objects with rules of play that is intended to support educational, entertainment, or therapeutic activities.

Added scope note: This term usually applies to three-dimensional forms.

Reconsider use of the words “object” and “objects” in the proposed definition. In the RDA Glossary, an object is “a three-dimensional artifact, a replica of an artifact, or a naturally-occurring object.”

Recommendation 2.2.9. globe

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 2.2.10. jigsaw puzzle

NARDAC rejects the recommendation. When three-dimensional jigsaw puzzles are assembled, they embody objects. Additionally, jigsaw puzzles are often printed on cardboard, wood, or plastic, making them heftier than a “flat, thin piece of paper, plastic, etc.”

Revised proposed definition: A unit of unitary structure that is ~~a sheet~~ an object, usually embodying a still image, which has been cut into interlocking shapes intended to be reassembled.

Added scope note: This term applies to flat or three-dimensional forms.

Recommendation 2.2.11. medal

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 2.2.12. mock-up

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 2.2.13. model

NARDAC rejects the recommendation. Not all models are scaled-down representations. A model of atomic structure is usually scaled up, and anatomical models may be scaled 1:1.

Revised proposed definition: A unit of unitary structure that is an object embodying a ~~scaled-down~~ representation of another object.

Recommendation 2.2.14. painting

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 2.2.15. photograph

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 2.2.16. postcard

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 2.2.17. poster

NARDAC approves of the recommendation, with the following suggested amendment to the proposed definition.

Revised proposed definition: A unit of unitary structure that is a sheet embodying text or still images intended to advertise, promote, or publicize an activity, cause, product or service, or decorate a ~~room~~ space.

Recommendation 2.2.18. print

NARDAC rejects the recommendation. The proposed definition focuses on reproductions of paintings or drawings and ignores the means of production, i.e., printing. The current definition has a broader scope, and ideally the new definition should encompass all resources covered under the current definition.

Current RDA Glossary: A unit of extent that consists of a pictorial work produced by transferring an image by means of a matrix such as a plate, block, or screen, using any of various printing processes. This term applies to still images.

ISBD for Manifestation: A unit of extent of unitary structure that is a sheet that is used for a high-quality reproduction. A print embodies a still image.

Getty Art & Architecture Thesaurus Online: Pictorial works produced by transferring images by means of a matrix such as a plate, block, or screen, using any of various printing processes.

Proposed definition: A unit of unitary structure that is a sheet embodying a still image that is intended to reproduce a painting or drawing.

Revised proposed definition: A unit of unitary structure that is a sheet embodying a still image that is intended to reproduce a painting or drawing produced by transferring an image by means of a matrix using any of various printing processes.

Recommendation 2.2.19. sculpture

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 2.2.20. specimen

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 2.2.21. study print

NARDAC rejects the recommendation and suggests the following amendment to the proposed definition.

Revised proposed definition: A unit of unitary structure that is a ~~sheet embodying a still image~~ print sometimes accompanied by text that is intended to support educational activities.

Without the accompanying text, a study print is just a print.

Recommendation 2.2.22. toy

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 2.2.23. wall chart

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 2.3. Adopt the term *exhibit* for **RDA Unitary Structure** from **RDA Carrier Extent Unit**. Update the definition to refer to a collection manifestation.

NARDAC approves of the recommendation and makes the following suggested amendments to the proposed definition.

A unit of unitary structure that is an object consisting of a set of items that is intended for display with cases, labels, ~~and~~ or explanatory text ~~and~~ or still or moving images to support educational and promotional activities.

Recommendation 2.4. Delete the term *atlas* from the **RDA Carrier Extent Unit** vocabulary encoding scheme.

NARDAC rejects the recommendation. We are concerned that removing the term *atlas* from the **RDA Carrier Extent Unit** vocabulary encoding scheme will be unfavorably received by the cartographic cataloging community. Further comments are below.

Recommendation 2.5. Adopt the following list of recommended new terms for the **RDA Unitary Structure** vocabulary:

NARDAC rejects the recommendation. Further comments are below.

Recommendation 2.5.1. sketchbook

NARDAC rejects the recommendation. The term *atlas* and the term *sketchbook* seem to represent genre terms for an aggregating work of cartographic expressions or still image expressions. If the term *sketchbook* is added to the **RDA Unitary Structure** vocabulary encoding scheme, then the term *atlas* should also be added.

Revised proposed definition: A unit of unitary structure that is a volume that embodies still images drawn or painted on blank pages, sometimes accompanied by text.