

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.