

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee  
CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary  
From: Trina Soderquist, NARDAC representative  
Subject: Formal response to RSC/ExtentWG/2025/7 – Proposal for container and storage subelements of Manifestation: extent of manifestation

### **Abstract**

The phrase “appears twice” is used twice in the last sentence of the paragraph.

**Recommendation 1.** Retain and update the glossary entry for *container* from the **RDA Recording Source** vocabulary encoding scheme.

NARDAC approves of the recommendation, with suggested amendments below.

Revise the proposed definition to make it clear that the container does not have to be issued with the manifestation.

Revise the proposed definition to allow for carriers that are not just sources of information.

Revised proposed definition: A source of information in a manifestation that is a housing that is physically separable from the manifestation carriers being housed.

A container includes a box for a disc or videocassette, a sleeve for a videodisc, etc.; an insert visible through the housing is part of the container.

**Recommendation 2.** Create the element Manifestation: number of containers.

NARDAC approves of the recommendation to create the new element Manifestation: number of containers.

NARDAC rejects the recommendation to move instructions to Community Resources. While a string encoding scheme is needed to combine values from multiple elements, it is unclear why the option to “Record the number or approximate number of items, or the number of containers or volumes” requires a string encoding scheme.

**Recommendation 3.** Create the element Manifestation: dimensions of containers.

NARDAC approves of the recommendation, with additional comments below.

Revise the proposed definition to make it clear that both a single measurement and a set of measurements may be recorded.

Revised proposed definition: A measurement or set of measurements of a container in a manifestation. Dimensions may include measurements of height, width, depth, length, ~~and~~ or diameter.

Update the condition cited on page 3 to align with original RDA 3.5.1.5, which had instructions for naming and recording dimensions of a container for “carrier or carriers.” We need to ensure that official RDA contains the same instruction (50.41.61.79):

Revised condition: A manifestation is issued in ~~two~~ one or more units in a container.

Retaining this option is particularly important for the rare materials and special collections cataloging communities.

Revise the first condition under **Recording a structured description** on page 4. A container that resembles a volume might be a box or case that should be described using the condition and condition option for three-dimensional objects. Consider specifying types of containers in the conditions.

Revised condition: A container ~~resembles a volume and is used~~ is an album, folder, portfolio, sleeve, or similar housing for storage of separable units of a manifestation or items in a collection manifestation.

Revised condition: A container is a box, case, or other three-dimensional object for storage of units of a manifestation or items in a collection manifestation.

NARDAC rejects the recommendation to move instructions to Community Resources. While string encoding schemes would be needed to combine values, it is unclear why options like “Record the dimensions of the container (height × width × depth) in addition to the dimensions of the carrier or carriers” cannot be retained in the RDA instructions, but options like “Record dimensions in the order of height x width x depth” can be added to the RDA instructions, especially when the latter is closer to a string encoding scheme than the former.

**Recommendation 4.** Create the element Manifestation: extent of storage space.

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Please confirm that a value for Manifestation: extent of storage space may include a metric measurement or a number of containers, volumes, or items.

**Recommendation 5.** Create a new vocabulary encoding scheme **RDA Containers**.

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Consider renaming the vocabulary encoding scheme: **RDA Container**.

### **Recommendation 5.1. case**

NARDAC rejects the recommendation. The proposed definitions of *case* and *box* are very similar. Both types of containers are “rigid enclosures...for holding...units of a manifestation or items in a collection manifestation.” The difference between the two terms needs to be clearer.

The Getty Art & Architecture Thesaurus Online provides the following definitions:

- cases (containers): A receptacle, holder, box, chest, bag, sheath, or covering fitted to contain or enclose something else; typically used for transporting or protecting the enclosed item or items.
- boxes (containers): Rigid, often rectangular containers usually with a lid or cover in which something nonliquid is kept or carried.

One suggestion would be to replace the term *case* with *slipcase*, which has the following definitions:

- slipcases: Protective containers or boxes designed to protect a book or other item by covering it but with one open end so that only the spine is exposed. (Getty Art & Architecture Thesaurus Online)
- slipcase: A sturdy cardboard box covered in paper, cloth, or leather, designed to snugly contain a book or set of books, with the front open to expose the spine(s), leaving the spine title(s) visible. (Online Dictionary of Library and Information Science)

### **Recommendation 5.2. portfolio**

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

### **Recommendation 5.3. album**

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

### **Recommendation 5.4. box**

NARDAC rejects the recommendation. The proposed definitions of *case* and *box* are very similar. Both types of containers are “rigid enclosures...for holding...units of a manifestation or items in a collection manifestation.” The difference between the two terms needs to be clearer.

**Recommendation 5.5.** bradded folder

NARDAC rejects the recommendation. This type of container does not seem to be so popular or so different from folders as to require a separate term in the vocabulary encoding scheme.

**Recommendation 5.6.** folder

NARDAC approves of the recommendation, with a suggested amendment below.

Add the synonym “bradded folder.”

Add the scope note: “Includes folders with brads, prongs, or other fasteners used to hold papers in place.”

**Recommendation 5.7.** sleeve

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.