

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee

CC: Anne Welsh, Secretary, RDA Steering Committee

From: Jessica Grzegorski, RDA Examples Editor

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.

Approve.

***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.

Approve.

***Recommendation 2.1:*** Create a new vocabulary encoding scheme, **RDA Unitary Structure**, 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 vocabulary encoding schemes.

Approve.

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

Approve, with some additional considerations and suggested amendments below.

***Recommendation 2.2.1:*** activity card

Approve.

***Recommendation 2.2.2: coin***

Approve.

***Recommendation 2.2.3: collage***

Approve, with additional considerations.

The revised definition narrows the definition of *collage*. Although the introduction of *sheet* in the new definition brings clarity in one sense (i.e., explicitly names the relevant carrier type), it potentially invites confusion in a different sense. Collages are made on many different types of base materials (e.g., paper, balsa wood, canvas, acetate, etc.). The current definition of sheet in the glossary may not necessarily accommodate these, particularly the word “thin” in the definition. A possible revision for the glossary term *sheet* follows:

**Marked-up copy for glossary term *sheet***

A carrier type that consists of a flat,~~thin~~ piece of paper, plastic, etc.

**Clean copy for glossary term *sheet***

A carrier type that consists of a flat piece of paper, plastic, etc.

***Recommendation 2.2.4: diorama***

Approve, with suggested amendment.

The inclusion of “painted” in reference to the background seems too specific. I suggest omitting the word.

**Marked-up copy**

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.

**Clean copy**

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 background.

***Recommendation 2.2.5:*** drawing

Approve.

***Recommendation 2.2.6:*** flash card

Approve.

***Recommendation 2.2.7:*** folded sheet

Approve.

***Recommendation 2.2.8:*** game

Approve.

***Recommendation 2.2.9:*** globe

Approve.

***Recommendation 2.2.10:*** jigsaw puzzle

Approve, with suggested amendment.

Is a jigsaw puzzle actually a sheet rather than an object? The revised definition seems to refer specifically to the still image embodied on a separate sheet that is adhered to another base material rather than the puzzle as a whole. Jigsaw puzzles may fall into a similar gray area as collages, in which some are clearly two-dimensional and others are arguably three-dimensional. I suggest revising the definition, replacing “sheet” with “object.”

**Marked-up copy**

A unit of unitary structure that is ~~a sheet~~ an object embodying a still image, usually on pasteboard or wood, which has been cut into interlocking shapes intended to be reassembled.

**Clean copy**

A unit of unitary structure that is an object embodying a still image, usually on pasteboard or wood, which has been cut into interlocking shapes intended to be reassembled.

***Recommendation 2.2.11:*** medal

Approve.

***Recommendation 2.2.12:*** mock-up

Approve.

***Recommendation 2.2.13:*** model

Approve.

***Recommendation 2.2.14:*** painting

Approve, with additional considerations.

Similarly to the definition for *collage*, the inclusion of *sheet* as it is currently defined in the glossary could introduce confusion. Is a canvas or wood panel a sheet, for example?

***Recommendation 2.2.15:*** photograph

Approve.

***Recommendation 2.2.16:*** postcard

Approve.

***Recommendation 2.2.17:*** poster

Approve, with suggested amendment.

The phrase “decorate a room” seems too narrow in scope. I suggest the following revision:

**Marked-up copy**

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~~ to serve a decorative function.

**Clean copy**

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 to serve a decorative function.

***Recommendation 2.2.18:*** print

Approve, with suggested amendment.

The revised definition is too narrow and suggests that all prints are art reproductions. A woodcut, for example, is printed from a carved wood block. This technique is not the same as drawing. I suggest retaining a portion of the original definition as follows:

**Marked-up copy**

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 such as a plate, block, or screen, using any of various printing processes.

**Clean copy**

A unit of unitary structure that is a sheet embodying a still image that is produced by transferring an image by means of a matrix such as a plate, block, or screen, using any of various printing processes.

***Recommendation 2.2.19:*** sculpture

Approve.

***Recommendation 2.2.20:*** specimen

Approve.

**Recommendation 2.2.21:** study print

Approve.

**Recommendation 2.2.22:** toy

Approve.

**Recommendation 2.2.23:** wall chart

Approve.

**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.

Approve, with suggested amendments.

An *exhibit* really is not a singular object, and the phrase “set of items” could invite confusion. Additionally, many exhibits do not make use of cases (e.g., art hung on a wall in a gallery). I suggest rewording the proposed definition for clarity:

#### **Marked-up copy**

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

#### **Clean copy**

A unit of unitary structure that is a set of resources that is intended for display, often with labels and other explanatory content to support educational and promotional activities.

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

Approve.

***Recommendation 2.5 – 2.5.1:*** Adopt recommended new term *sketchbook* for the **RDA Unitary Structure** vocabulary.

Approve.