

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
From: Ahava Cohen, Europe representative
Subject: Formal response to RSC/ExtentWG/2025/4, Proposal for Manifestation:
extent of aggregated content

EURIG thanks the Extent WG for this family of proposals.

We acknowledge the development of RDA as a standard which is optimized for machine actionability and linked data applications and that for these applications a more granular approach to recording values for extent may be desirable.

EURIG would like to see a more complete modelling of the prerecording and recording sections for “extent of aggregated content” and an inclusion of recording methods and related elements in standard RDA element page layout.

The proposed option for recording an appropriate term for “RDA Illustrative Content” only allows for a singular and not a plural term to be recorded. This is inconsistent with the proposed option for recording singular or plural terms for “RDA Aggregated Content”. If RDA Illustrative content only allows for a singular term to be recorded, then a string encoding scheme should be developed to allow for an alternative approach in the Community Resources section of the Official RDA Toolkit. If a plural term is allowed, the option stating so should be carried over from **RDA Illustrative Content**.

Recommendation 1.1:

Approve.

Recommendation 1.2:

Approve.

Recommendation 2:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.1:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.2:

General note: As in the older Illustrative Content VES, there seems to be a mixture of the thing itself (such as icon) and things which may be reproductions of the thing itself (such as maps, using the revised scope note). For staff in agencies which detail the extent of aggregated content instead of using the option in Recommendation 2 it would be helpful to have the scope note include when the term can only be applied to the thing itself rather than a reproduction of the thing.

Recommendation 3.2.1:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.2.2:

Approve.

In practice many agencies ignore the scope note; perhaps provision might be made for a correct term to cover still image diagrams and answer what seems to be a gap in the field.

Recommendation 3.2.3:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.2.4:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.2.5:

EURIG does not object to this redefinition but wonders where it will come in to use in the Toolkit. Currently it does not seem to have an independent life and if it is to have more widespread use it would be helpful to sharpen the definition so it is clear what the difference between "picture" and "illustration" is other than structural within the hierarchy of RDA elements.

Recommendation 3.2.6:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.2.7:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.2.8:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.2.9:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.2.10:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.3:

Removing the phrase "an illustrative content" raises a general question EURIG would appreciate clarification about. Is the scope note "applies to still images" the functional equivalent of "intended to illustrate"? For example, are forms intended to be filled out and returned to be described by the redefined term "form"?

Recommendation 3.3.1:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.3.2:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.3.3:

Approve, with reference to the general note above (**Recommendation 3.3**). The redefinition further blurs the distinction between forms as calls to action and forms as illustrative matter, which was already a problem in the current definition.

Recommendation 3.3.4:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.3.5:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.3.6:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.3.7:

Conditionally approve. The addition of "originally" in the redefinition raises the question of whether reproductions of photographs now would qualify for the term "photographic image" and, if so, where the boundary between *illustration*, *picture*, and *photographic image* is to be drawn.

Recommendation 3.3.8:

Conditionally approve. Since *diagram* is a term in and of itself, we would like to have a distinct line drawn between diagram-as-diagram and diagram-as-plan.

Recommendation 3.3.9:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.3.10:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.4.1:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.4.2:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.4.3:

Approve.