

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
From: Ahava Cohen, Europe representative
Subject: Formal response to RSC/NARDAC/2025/3/Inconsistency in the transcribed manifestation elements related to source of information

EURIG thanks NARDAC for this proposal, which fills a current gap in the Official Toolkit. EURIG also thanks the Secretary for her extensive work on adding links and notes to the proposal, which greatly eased our work in responding.

The proposal does touch on a fundamental issue with the Toolkit – how much is it hoped that users will have internalized the guidance documents/inherited options before working with specific element pages and how much should the Toolkit be built to accommodate quick look ups of information?

The Background section holds up an ideal "ease and efficiency in cataloging." While this is an admirable ideal, it is not an objective or principle of RDA, as defined in the Guidance chapters. The closest objective is "Cost efficiency," which is quite different. Proposals, no matter how welcome, should not be justified by ideals outside RDA.

As several of the elements under discussion are soft-deprecated elements, if any of the proposal is approved there should also be recommendations about whether to update the relevant pages for the reasons mentioned in the proposal or hold off, in keeping with previous RSC decisions. In any case, the Decisions document should clearly explain what choice has been made and what impact that choice will have going forward.

Recommendation 1:

Approve.

Recommendation 2:

Approve.

We agree with the Secretary's note recommending the use of consistent phrasing.