

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/NARDAC/2025/3, Inconsistency in the transcribed manifestation elements related to source of information

The RDA Examples Editor thanks NARDAC for their work on this extensive proposal.

Recommendation 1: Add the option “Use any source of information” following **Recording an unstructured description** to all manifestation transcription elements that lack the option.

I approve. The use of this option is not new in the Toolkit, and implementing the text consistently in the Manifestation elements enumerated in the proposal brings clarity to RDA instructions.

Recommendation 2: Add as the first option to choose a source of information following the guidelines under **Data provenance** following **Recording an unstructured description** in all manifestation transcription elements.

I approve. Although transcription and data provenance are both important components of metadata descriptions (as evidenced by guidance chapters dedicated to each in the Toolkit), the relationship between the two is not necessarily obvious in RDA instructions. Just as options related to transcription guidelines appear in a consistent format in “transcription elements” at the Manifestation level, adding a consistent option related to data provenance/source of information would benefit RDA users.

I also agree with NARDAC that adding this option will provide a convenient place for policy statement writers to enumerate their preferred order of sources.

Additional comments:

As NARDAC notes in the proposal, several of the elements for which they propose revisions are soft deprecated. I acknowledge that there may be reluctance to make changes to soft-deprecated elements until the Technical Working Group is finished with their analysis and recommendations

regarding those elements. However, if NARDAC's proposal is approved, I support making revisions across the board, including to soft-deprecated elements.