To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee

CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary

From: Trina Soderquist, NARDAC representative to the RSC

Subject: Formal response to RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6 - Soft-deprecated parallel elements

The North American RDA Committee (NARDAC) appreciates the work done by the Technical Working Group to analyze the status of soft-deprecated parallel elements, proposing to fully deprecate them and transfer them to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Responses from NARDAC's constituents were mixed. Those not supporting the recommendations cited the flexibility that fully implementing the parallel elements would provide. Parallel elements that are fully integrated into the Toolkit retain their broader element references, allowing catalogers to use their judgment in determining the specificity of the elements they record. If the parallel elements are transferred to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section, those hierarchical references are lost and cataloging communities will need to develop policies and practices to direct catalogers from the base Toolkit to the Legacy resources.

Other constituent groups viewed the recommendations as a workable compromise, allowing continued access to the parallel elements while supporting more consistent data modeling in the base Toolkit. However, questions remained about who would maintain the parallel elements in the Legacy RDA Community Resources section, how would translations and policy statements for the transferred parallel elements be managed, and whether the recommended changes were necessary at the current moment, as many institutions are preparing training and implementation of official RDA before original RDA is sunset in May 2027.

Ultimately, with some hesitance, NARDAC approves the recommendations, with a suggestion to further consider the non-parallel, "primary" elements and the consequences of eliminating the concept of parallel elements to their instructions.

The following elements have the same set of condition options under the condition: A value of this element appears in the *source of information* in a parallel language or script.

- designation of edition
- designation of named revision of edition
- name of distributor
- name of manufacturer
- name of producer
- name of publisher
- other title information of series
- place of distribution

- place of manufacture
- place of production
- place of publication
- statement of responsibility relating to edition
- statement of responsibility relating to named revision of edition
- statement of responsibility relating to series
- statement of responsibility relating to title proper
- title of series

As noted in the Technical Working Group's proposal, the final condition option to "record one or more parallel values separately as a Manifestation: parallel [element]" will be removed. NARDAC would like the RSC to consider making the following additional changes to the condition options for the above elements. These revisions would provide guidance that achieves the same outcome as before in a context where multiple titles proper may be recorded.

Marked-up copy:

CONDITION
A value of this element appears in the *source of information* in a parallel language or script.

CONDITION OPTION
Record a value that appears in the language or script of a title proper or the first recorded title proper if more than one title proper is recorded.

Clean copy:

CONDITION
A value of this element appears in the *source of information* in a parallel language or script.

CONDITION OPTION
Record a value that appears in the language or script of a title proper or the first recorded title proper if more than one title proper is recorded.

Additional recommendations for amendments to elements are listed below.

Recommendations 1.1-1.10

NARDAC approves the recommendations.

Recommendation 1.11. Manifestation: **parallel other title information**

NARDAC approves the recommendation.

For the element Manifestation: **other title information**, we have the following suggestions, which are intended to improve consistency and address a gap in the instructions.

Marked-up copy:

CONDITION
A value of this element appears ~~in two or more parallel languages or scripts~~ in the *source of information* in a parallel language or script.

CONDITION OPTION
Record a value that is in the language or script of a ~~value of Manifestation:~~ **title proper** or the first recorded title proper if more than one title proper is recorded.

CONDITION OPTION
Record the value in the language or script that appears first.

CONDITION OPTION
Record one or more values separately in the order indicated by the sequence, layout, or typography of the *source of information*.

Clean copy:

CONDITION
A value of this element appears in the *source of information* in a parallel language or script.

CONDITION OPTION
Record a value that is in the language or script of a title proper or the first recorded title proper if more than one title proper is recorded.

CONDITION OPTION
Record the value in the language or script that appears first.

CONDITION OPTION
Record one or more values separately in the order indicated by the sequence, layout, or typography of the *source of information*.

Recommendation 1.12-1.26

NARDAC approves the recommendations.

Recommendation 1.27. Manifestation: **parallel title proper**

NARDAC approves the recommendation.

For the element Manifestation: **title proper**, we have the following suggestions, which are intended to improve consistency and address a gap in the instructions.

In the section Titles of manifestation in two or more languages or scripts (20.63.35.20), edit the first only condition (83.55.53.44) as follows:

Marked-up copy:

CONDITION
The value of a title appears ~~in two or more languages~~ in sources of information in a parallel language or script.

Clean copy:

CONDITION
The value of a title appears in sources of information in a parallel language or script.

Under this condition, please add the following third condition option:

Clean copy only (since this is a new condition option):

CONDITION OPTION
Record one or more values separately in the order indicated by the sequence, layout, or typography of the *source of information*.

In the Condition box (98.92.61.84) under Changes in a title proper (78.13.53.93), remove the implication that the title proper is not repeatable. Under the fifth bullet, the condition mentions "the title chosen as a title proper," suggesting that the manifestation can only have a single title proper. In a context where parallel titles proper are considered to be repetitions of the element Manifestation: **title proper**, the element that was considered to be the title proper in original RDA now corresponds to the first recorded title proper.

Additionally, edit the second sentence in the Condition to specify that determining whether a change in title proper for a diachronic work has occurred only applies to the first recorded title. Therefore, we recommend the following changes:

Marked-up copy:

CONDITION
A manifestation embodies a unit, issue, or iteration of a *diachronic work*.
A value of the first recorded Manifestation: **title proper** varies from the values that appear on other manifestations that embody units, issues, or iterations of a diachronic work in the following cases:

- […]

- a different order of titles when the title is given in two or more languages on the *source of information*, provided that the title ~~chosen~~ recorded as ~~a~~ the first title proper still appears as a ~~parallel title proper~~ title of manifestation
- […]

Clean copy:

CONDITION
A manifestation embodies a unit, issue, or iteration of a *diachronic work*.
A value of the first recorded Manifestation: **title proper** varies from the values that appear on other manifestations that embody units, issues, or iterations of a diachronic work in the following cases:

- […]
- a different order of titles when the title is given in two or more languages on the *source of information*, provided that the title recorded as the first title proper still appears as a title of manifestation
- […]

Recommendation 1.28. Nomen: **parallel title proper of**

NARDAC approves the recommendation.

Recommendation 2. Fully remove the *Alignment from soft-deprecated to recommended elements* from the Registry. Create a new Alignment in the RDA Registry, titled *Alignment from deprecated to recommended elements*, populated with the elements deprecated in https://hdl.handle.net/11213/24261, RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/3/Decisions, RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/4/Decisions, RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/5/Decisions and RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6/Decisions and keeping the same recommended alignments as the previous set.

NARDAC approves the recommendation.