

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
From: Jack Ennis Butler, ORDAC representative

Subject: Formal response to RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1 – Discussion paper on soft-deprecated parallel elements

ORDAC thanks the Technical Working Group for preparing this proposal. ORDAC believes this paper provides clear background, justification, and practical examples if parallel elements were fully deprecated. The National Library of New Zealand, as mentioned in the paper, refrain from using soft deprecated elements and have provided guidance on their approach which could serve as a model for other libraries if parallel elements were deprecated.

In addition, ORDAC notes that the possibility of using string encoding schemes to record and present parallel data in repeatable elements is a solution for supporting libraries who wish to replicate current practice.

Overall, ORDAC is supportive of the discussion and move towards deprecating parallel elements.