

To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Renate Behrens, RSC Chair

Subject: Discharge of Extent Working Group

As agreed at the January 2026 RSC Meeting, this document discharges the members of the Extent Working Group.

As set out in [RSC/Chair/2025/7](#) (and preceding charge documents<sup>1</sup>) the purpose of the Extent Working Group was to support the improvement of the RDA standard for elements that use measurements, primarily extent and dimensions elements. The primary deliverables were discussion papers or proposals (or both, broken into manageable pieces, if needed) to raise issues of concern for consideration by the RSC and to move forward with implementation of the AUQ (aspect-unit-quantity) model. Its suite of proposals were submitted at the end of 2025 and discussed at the January 2026 Meeting. The conclusion of the RSC was that the Extent Working Group should pass its work to the String Encoding Scheme (SES) Working Group, to develop further from the general direction of travel established by the Extent Working Group and approved by the RSC.

The RSC would like to thank each of [the members of the Working Group](#) for their diligent and detailed work over the last four years. It understands that many of its members will join the SES Working Group and thanks them for their willingness to continue to work to improve the text of RDA in this way.

## 1 Background

Extensive work was done on this topic over the last decade in the context of the original Toolkit:

- [6JSC/ALA/17 and responses](#): Machine-Actionable Data Elements in RDA Chapter 3: Discussion Paper (2012)
- [6JSC/ALA/Discussion/1 and responses](#): Machine-Actionable Data Elements in RDA: Discussion Paper (2013)
- [6JSC/ALA/Discussion/5 and responses](#): Machine-Actionable Data Elements for Measurements, Extent of the Carrier, Pagination and Foliation, Dimensions, Extent of the Content, and Duration – Discussion Paper (2015)

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<sup>1</sup> [RSC/Chair/2022/1](#) ; [RSC/Chair/2023/7](#) ; [RSC/Chair/2024/3](#)

In 2016, a [briefing paper](#) with a [detailed appendix](#) was prepared for the RSC meeting in Frankfurt. Extent issues were noted as a problem, but specific next steps were not determined.

The topic was not discussed at the Chicago or Madrid (2017) RSC meetings due to the demands and priority of the 3R Project.

The minutes to the 2018 RSC meeting in Montreal meeting say:

132.1 The RSC agreed that there is insufficient time before the English text stabilization to consider the analysis and revision of the extent of manifestation element. Problems with this element have been known for years; the American Library Association's Task Force on Machine-Actionable Data Elements in RDA Chapter 3 produced the 2015 ALA discussion paper (205 pp.) [6JSC/ALA/Discussion/5](#). Some major re-engineering of the element will be required to implement the quantity/unit/aspect substructure outlined in that report, and to tease out extent of expression instructions. This element will be added to a list of post-3R development efforts.

At the 2019 meeting in Santiago, it was agreed to set up a Working Group to address extent issues as part of the 2021 work plan. The group noted that extent issues are complicated and would mean atomizing parts of the Aspect-Unit-Quantity model.

## 2 Membership

Thomas Brenndorfer, Canada, Chair

Gordon Dunsire, UK

Keith Knop, USA

Liz O'Keefe, USA

Mark Scharff, USA

Alice Robinson, Switzerland

Christopher Holden, Technical Team Liaison Officer, *ex officio*

## 3 Terms of Reference

The Working Group operates within [RSC/Operations/3](#), the general terms of reference for RSC Working Groups. As a task-and-finish group, the Working Group has a two-year term, 2022-2023, which has been extended by one year.

## 4 Tasks

1. Reviewed the following elements, subtypes, and other elements that use a measurement in the official RDA Toolkit in the context of the 2012 Discussion Paper [6JSC/ALA/17](#) and the other Reference sources found in section 5. Consult the original Toolkit as needed. The Working Group also identified other elements for consideration and reviewed them during the course of its work.
  - Manifestation: extent of manifestation
  - Expression: extent of expression
  - Expression: duration
  - Manifestation: dimensions
  - Manifestation: dimensions of cartographic image
  - Manifestation: dimensions of still image
  - Work: extent of representative expression
  - Work: duration of representative expression
2. Discussed the process to implement the AUQ (aspect-unit-quantity) model in the official Toolkit. This will be further discussed and developed by the SES Working Group.
3. Prepared discussion papers and proposals as follows:

[RSC/ExtentWG/2024/1](#) – **Discussion Paper on the Development of Extent Elements in RDA.** This was introduced at the July 2024 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/469-482](#) Item 476) and discussed at the November 2024 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/483-499](#) Item 488).

[RSC/ExtentWG/2025/1](#) – **Proposal for Manifestation: extent of manifestation and Manifestation: manifestation extent statement.** This was introduced at the November 2025 RSC Meeting for constituency review ([RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Item 548) and discussion at the January 2026 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/556-584](#) Item 575). [RSC/ExtentWG/2025/1/Decisions](#) was published on 14 April 2026.

[RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2](#) – **Proposal for Manifestation: extent of unitary structure.** This was introduced at the November 2025 RSC Meeting for constituency review ([RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Item 548) and discussion at the January 2026 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/556-584](#) Item 575). [RSC/Extent/2025/2/Decisions](#) is under preparation.

**[RSC/ExtentWG/2025/3](#) -- Proposal for Manifestation: extent of unit and its subtype element.** This was introduced at the November 2025 RSC Meeting for constituency review ([RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Item 548) and discussion at the January 2026 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/556-584](#) Item 576). RSC/Extent/2025/3/Decisions is under preparation.

**[RSC/ExtentWG/2025/4](#) -- Proposal for Manifestation: extent of aggregated content.** This was introduced at the November 2025 RSC Meeting for constituency review ([RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Item 548) and discussion at the January 2026 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/556-584](#) Item 577). RSC/Extent/2025/4/Decisions is under preparation.

**[RSC/ExtentWG/2025/5](#) -- Proposal for Manifestation: extent of embodied content and its subtype elements.** This was introduced at the November 2025 RSC Meeting for constituency review ([RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Item 548) and discussion at the January 2026 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/556-584](#) Item 578). RSC/Extent/2025/5/Decisions is under preparation.

**[RSC/ExtentWG/2025/6](#) -- Proposal for Manifestation: duration of embodied content.** This was introduced at the November 2025 RSC Meeting for constituency review ([RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Item 548) and discussion at the January 2026 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/556-584](#) Item 579). RSC/Extent/2025/6/Decisions is under preparation.

**[RSC/ExtentWG/2025/7](#) -- Proposal for container and storage subelements of Manifestation: extent of manifestation.** This was introduced at the November 2025 RSC Meeting for constituency review ([RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Item 548) and discussion at the January 2026 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/556-584](#) Item 580). RSC/Extent/2025/7/Decisions is under preparation.

**[RSC/ExtentWG/2025/8](#) -- Proposal for Manifestation: sequence of units of extent.** This was introduced at the November 2025 RSC Meeting for constituency review ([RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Item 548) and discussion at the January 2026 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/556-584](#) Item 581). RSC/Extent/2025/8/Decisions is under preparation.

4. Provided brief progress reports at RSC Meetings:
  - i. [RSC/Minutes/393-412](#) Item 399.4
  - ii. [RSC/Minutes/413-443](#) Item 437.4
  - iii. [RSC/Minutes/444-455](#) Item 446.1.2
  - iv. [RSC/Minutes/456-468](#) Item 457.1
  - v. [RSC/Minutes/469-482](#) Item 476

- vi. [RSC/Minutes/500-507](#) Item 506.1.1.2
- vii. [RSC-RDABoard/Minutes/010-022](#) Item 017.1
- viii. [RSC/Minutes/508-520](#) Item 519.1
- ix. [RSC/Minutes/521-537](#) Item 532.1

5. The Working Group did not provide a final report. The RSC accepted that the work of implementing the Decisions Documents from the Extent Working Group's proposals will be the task of the SES Working Group, which will be constituted in the April RSC Meeting for a period of 2 years, and that its final report in April 2028 will encompass the activities of the Extent Working Group that were seminal to it.
- 5 Reference sources provided to the Working Group in 2022:
- Extent: Issues involved in a current implementation of some of the changes in ALA/Discussion/5 (Briefing paper prepared for Frankfurt meeting, 2016) – available in the restricted documents section of the Working Group's basecamp.
  - Appendix to briefing paper (2016) – available in the restricted documents section of the Working Group's basecamp.
  - [6JSC/ALA/Discussion/5 and responses](#): Machine-Actionable Data Elements for Measurements, Extent of the Carrier, Pagination and Foliation, Dimensions, Extent of the Content, and Duration – Discussion Paper (2015)
  - [Minutes of the 2015 RSC meeting](#) -- agenda item 556 describes RSC discussion and decisions for 6JSC/ALA/Discussion/5
  - [6JSC/ALA/Discussion/1 and responses](#): Machine-Actionable Data Elements in RDA: Discussion Paper (2013)
  - [Minutes of the 2013 RSC meeting](#) – agenda item 420 describes RSC discussion and decisions for 6JSC/ALA/Discussion/1
  - [6JSC/ALA/17 and responses](#): Machine-Actionable Data Elements in RDA Chapter 3: Discussion Paper (2012)
  - [Minutes from the 2012 RSC meeting](#) – agenda item 327 describes RSC discussion and decisions for 6JSC/ALA/17