

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
 From: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
 Subject: Summary of formal responses to RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1 –
 Proposal to revise the preferred order of recording sources for early printed resources
 in Data provenance: Recording a source of metadata that is a manifestation that is
 being described

This document collates in tabular form the responses received from voting members of the RSC to [RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1](#), viz:

- [RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/ALyC](#)
- [RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/EOO](#)
- [RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/EURIG](#)
- [RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/NARDAC](#)
- [RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/ORDAC](#)
- [RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/TechnicalWG](#)
- [RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/TranslationsTLO](#)
- [RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/WCEO](#)

Recommendation 1	Approved by : ALyC , EOO , EURIG , NARDAC , ORDAC , TechnicalWG , TranslationsTLO , WCEO	Note 1: Total number of respondents: 8 Note 2: Historical note from the Technical Working Group Note 3: Practice-based note from the WCEO Note 4: Additional issue raised by EURIG Note 5: EURIG once again raises claims of Anglocentrism
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Note 1: Responses were received from all **8** voting members of the RSC.

Note 2: [RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/TechnicalWG](#) includes an historical note, which is worth reading in its entirety:

“In exploring the history of this list in the Official RDA Toolkit, we noted that the current preferred order comes from Original RDA 2.2.2.2. This issue was discussed in 2016 in RSC/RareWG/6 and RSC/Rare WG/6/rev, in which the RSC Rare Materials Working Group stated that, *“For early printed resources...it does not benefit the user to choose between...sources based on a prescribed order. The best source of information for materials of the hand-press period will vary considerably, compared to later materials... In the absence of a title page, the user is best served by choosing the source in which the information is most formally presented.”* According to the minutes of the November 2016 meeting, the proposal was ultimately withdrawn in order to facilitate further work in the 3R project, but with regards to listing a preferred order of sources of information, *“the trend seems to be what the Rare Materials Working Group has indicated in this proposal”*.

If future discrepancies arise between the standards of other cataloging communities and the list of preferred sources in RDA, it may be advisable to pursue what was initially proposed in 2016, and consider leaving specific lists of preferred sources to the communities themselves through policy statements. Currently, however, we have no objection to aligning the preferred order of sources for early printed resources in RDA to meet the expectations of the DCRM community.”

Note 3: The [WCEO](#) has focused on current practice, commenting that “Giving precedence to the colophon over the caption appropriately reflects early printed resource practice, as the colophon is often the more authoritative source of information for this genre of resources. The revision will improve consistency and clarity for cataloguers working across RDA-aligned rare materials standards.”

Note 4: [EURIG](#) raises a separate issue. Although RSC process is not to discuss *additional* issues, since these require full constituency consultation, it may be worth other RSC members indicating if it will be useful for the Europe Representative to prepare a proposal to deal with this issue:

“EURIG would like to note the continued absence of other preliminaries besides the title page and title sheet as a source of information. More broadly, we note the absence of guidance on the use of a title page verso amongst the sources of information which RDA includes as sources of transcription. If title page verso is encompassed by the term title sheet, then this could be brought out in the glossary definition (as a scope note) and in the vocabulary encoding scheme for recording source.”

Note 5: [The European Representative](#) once again raises claims of Anglocentrism, stating, “in light of the proposals in favor of the rare books community in the April and July 2026 meetings and in agreement with the response to this proposal by the Technical Team Liaison Officer, EURIG would appreciate guidance about how many more proposals for community alignment the RSC is prepared to entertain, particularly as the proposals so far have centered the Western/Anglocentric parts of the community.”