

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee

CC: Anne Welsh, Secretary, RDA Steering Committee

From: Chris Holden, Technical Team Liaison Officer

Subject: 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

The Technical Team Liaison Officer thanks the Examples Editor for working with the rare materials community to craft this proposal and further the utility of RDA.

Members of the Technical Working Group registered no objections to this proposal, and the slight rearrangement of the order of preference for recording sources for early printed resources will not present any technical issues.

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is most formally presented.”* According to the [minutes](#) of the November 2016 meeting, the proposal was ultimately withdrawn in order to facilitate further work in the 3R project, but with regards to listing a preferred order of sources of information, *“the trend seems to be what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.

Recommendation 1: Revise the preferred order of recording sources for early printed resources in [condition option 80.40.48.28](#) of the [Data provenance: Recording a source of metadata that is a manifestation that is being described](#) section.

Approve.