

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
Cc: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
From: Elisa Sze, Education and Orientation Officer
Subject: Formal response to RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2 – Proposal for Manifestation: extent of unitary structure

Recommendation 1.1: Create the element Manifestation: extent of unitary structure. Associate the RDA Carrier Type vocabulary encoding scheme and the new RDA Unitary Structure vocabulary encoding scheme with this element.

Although I understand the purpose for this recommendation, I recommend articulating a clear distinction between the terms “unit” and “unitary structure”. Additionally, distinguish between “unitary structure” and “carrier type”, given that the intent is to associate both VES: RDA Carrier Type and VES: RDA Unitary Structure with the proposed element.

To help educators and trainers teach the difference between these concepts, please consider:

1. Adding a Glossary definition for “unitary structure”. While the element “extent of unitary structure” is defined in this proposal, “unitary structure” itself is not defined.
2. Updating Guidance: [Content and carrier](#) to address
 - a. The difference between “unit” and “unitary structure”
 - b. The difference between “unitary structure” and “carrier type”

Recommendation 1.2: Refer the issue of using terms from the vocabulary encoding scheme RDA Format of Notated Music for a possible source of values for Manifestation: extent of unitary structure to the RSC Music Working Group.

I approve.

Recommendation 2.1: Create a new vocabulary encoding scheme, RDA Unitary Structure, in accordance with the details that follow, with several terms moved from RDA Carrier Extent Unit and definitions updated. When all the terms have been moved or removed, delete the vocabulary encoding scheme RDA Carrier Extent Unit. Some of those terms are proposed to be moved to other extent vocabularies encoding schemes.

I approve.

Recommendation 2.2: Adopt the following list of recommended terms for RDA Unitary Structure derived from the current RDA Carrier Extent Unit vocabulary encoding scheme.

General remark: The phrase “a unit of unitary structure” (which is presented throughout the definitions in Recommendations 2.2.1-2.2.23) will be confusing for those who do not understand the distinction between “unit” and “unitary structure” (please see my comments under Recommendation 1.1). Would the end result of establishing the VES: RDA Unitary Structure remain the same if we were to replace the phrase “a unit of unitary structure” with “a type or category of unitary structure”?

Recommendation 2.2.1: activity card

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.2: coin

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.3: collage

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.4: diorama

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.5: drawing

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.6 flash card

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.7: folded sheet

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.8: game

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.9: globe

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.10: jigsaw puzzle

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.11: medal

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.12: mock-up

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.13: model

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.14: painting

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.15: photograph

Apart from my reservation against the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve this addition, provided that Recommendation 3.3.7 of RSC/ExtentWG/2025/4 is approved by RSC.

If Recommendation 2.2.15 of the current proposal is approved, I recommend that a scope note be expanded to distinguish it from “photographic image” (the term proposed in Recommendation 3.3.7 of RSC/ExtentWG/2025/4).

Recommendation 2.2.16: postcard

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.17: poster

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.18: print

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.19: sculpture

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.20: specimen

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.21: study print

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.22: toy

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.2.23: wall chart

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.

Recommendation 2.3: Adopt the term *exhibit* for RDA Unitary Structure from RDA Carrier Extent Unit. Update the definition to refer to a collection manifestation.

The proposed definition introduces ambiguity while limiting the scope of exhibits to “educational and promotional activities”:

- The proposed term refers to exhibits in the context of collection manifestations. However, “exhibit” is also a common legal term used to refer to a tangible object or document formally introduced or identified for use as evidence in a legal proceeding, so the proposed definition may generate confusion around scope given its mention of “display with cases”.
- Exhibits (such as, but not limited to, those in museums, galleries, educational institutions, and commercial institutions) are not necessarily designed for educational or promotional activities.

Would the intent behind the proposal be retained if the definition were revised to:

“A type or category of unitary structure that is a set of items selected for display as a collection, often with accompanying labels that carry explanatory text or still images.”

Recommendation 2.4: Delete the term atlas from the RDA Carrier Extent Unit vocabulary encoding scheme.

I approve.

Recommendation 2.5: Adopt the following list of recommended new terms for the RDA Unitary Structure vocabulary:

Recommendation 2.5.1: sketchbook

With the exception of the phrase “a unit of unitary structure”, I approve.