

To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary

Subject: RSC/NARDAC/2025/3 – Inconsistency in the transcribed manifestation elements related to source of information.

The text below sets out decisions taken by the RSC at their meeting in November 2025.

[RSC/NARDAC/2025/3](#) was published on 21 September 2025. Written responses were received through between 9 October and 11 November and [RSC/NARDAC/2025/3/summary](#) was published on 12 November. Several RSC members made positive comments in support of the general idea behind the proposal, but [RSC/NARDAC/2025/3/TTLO](#) rejected both recommendations and set out clearly why the conflation of Original RDA terms and similar terms within Official RDA (which was created in a post-LRM environment) should be avoided. It is worth reading [RSC/NARDAC/2025/3/TTLO](#) in its entirety in considering further development of the ideas NARDAC presented.

In the Public Session of the November Meeting (RSC/Minutes/538-555¹ Item 544), the Technical Team Liaison Officer stressed that the Technical Working Group was not trying to halt improvements to the text of RDA. Having reviewed the elements in the proposal, the Technical Working Group were uncomfortable with their disparate nature, including shortcuts and elements including transcription but also going beyond transcription, as well as superelements (transcribed and not transcribed together). Some of the options in these elements exist as compromises to accommodate legacy data. As a result, a blanket change to all the elements in the proposal could have unintended negative consequences. However, the TTLO does believe it will be possible to find a way forward – not by taking a blanket approach, but by tackling each issue separately to achieve coherence in the text of RDA, which NARDAC wants, without risking difficulties. He is very willing to collaborate with Robert and the new North America representative to take the intention behind the proposal forward. There was support from other RSC Members for the idea to make everything explicit and then consolidate them.

The RSC decided that the next step should be for the RSC Chair Elect and the TTLO to form a Rapid Action Group, including the new North America Representative, and drawing on the expertise of the other Regional Representatives, the Examples Editor and the Education and Orientation Officer as and when required. The RSC Chair Elect or the new North America Representative will report back (2-3 sentences) on progress at the January Meeting, and, in particular, will let the rest of the RSC know whether they expect (a) proposal(s) to be forthcoming for the April or June Meeting.

¹ Decisions document published ahead of Minutes; search “RSC/Minutes/538-555” to retrieve them on ALAIR (<https://alair.ala.org/home> once they are published and archived).