

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee  
Cc: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary  
From: Elisa Sze, Education and Orientation Officer  
Subject: Formal response to RSC/NARDAC/2025/3 – Inconsistency in the transcribed manifestation elements related to source of information

Thank you to NARDAC for putting forward this proposal and for undertaking the detailed analysis of many RDA elements.

**Recommendation 1. Add the option “Use any source of information” following Recording an unstructured description to all manifestation transcription element that lack the option.**

With the exception of the soft-deprecated elements, which I will address at the end of my response, I approve of Recommendation 1.

I believe that this recommendation will improve the teaching and learning experience. Novice cataloguers will encounter a direct prompt about sources of information at their point of need – instead of being expected to remember that general guidance on source of information resides separately in Guidance: Data provenance if the manifestation element page that they are consulting does not relay specific instructions about sources of information.

I recognize that approval of Recommendation 1 will likely generate a lot of work for policy statement writers. Nonetheless, pattern recognition is an important aspect of training, especially for adult learners. From a teaching perspective, it is better to have a precise, unambiguous, and consistent location within each element page where the same type of policy statement can be found, than to have the same types of policy statements located in different sections across different element pages.

**Recommendation 2. Add as the first option to choose a source of information following the guidelines under Data provenance following Recording an unstructured description in all manifestation transcription elements.**

Except for the soft-deprecated elements, I approve of the recommendation to add an option that would state precisely “Select a source of information based on the options found in Data provenance: Recording a source of metadata that is a manifestation that is being described.” My rationale is the same as the one stated under Recommendation 1.

**Regarding the soft-deprecated elements covered by Recommendations 1 and 2:**

My understanding is that the RSC has not typically dedicated its effort to updating the softdeprecated element pages, given the possibility that some of those elements may be harddeprecated in the future. Since the Technical Team is currently examining the issue of softdeprecated elements, I would defer to general consensus among RSC on whether the softdeprecated element pages should be updated as part of these recommendations.