

To: Renate Behrens, RSC Chair
CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
From: Chris Holden, Technical Team Liaison Officer
Subject: Soft-deprecated parallel elements

Background

For the theory and background on the soft-deprecated elements, please see [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1](#). For the Technical Working Group's discussion paper on the theory and background of the parallel elements, see [RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1](#).

Issue

RDA contains the following soft-deprecated elements:

- parallel designation of edition
- parallel designation of named revision of edition
- parallel name of distributor
- parallel name of distributor of
- parallel name of manufacturer
- parallel name of manufacturer of
- parallel name of producer
- parallel name of producer of
- parallel name of publisher
- parallel name of publisher of
- parallel other title information
- parallel other title information of series
- parallel place of distribution
- parallel place of distribution of
- parallel place of manufacture
- parallel place of manufacture of
- parallel place of production
- parallel place of production of
- parallel place of publication
- parallel place of publication of
- parallel statement of responsibility relating to edition
- parallel statement of responsibility relating to named revision of edition
- parallel statement of responsibility relating to series
- parallel statement of responsibility relating to title proper
- parallel title of series
- parallel title of series of
- parallel title proper

parallel title proper of

In the prerecording section, each of these elements contains the recommended option: “Do not use this element; use [*alternative element*] instead to record a value.”

During the 3R Project, it was determined that this collection of “parallel elements” did not adequately function in all implementation scenarios of Official RDA. While older cataloguing standards involved deploying parallel information using string encoding schemes such as ISBD Consolidated, Official RDA is agnostic on how elements are presented or displayed. In implementation scenarios such as [Scenario A](#), the parallel elements may be displayed as discrete, atomized pieces of information that are not attached to what they are “parallel” to. Even in Implementation Scenarios C or D, proper use and understanding of the parallel elements relies on an external string encoding scheme for them to make sense to the catalogue user.

That status of parallel elements harks back to older modes of catalogue distribution. When catalogues were deployed as physical cards, non-repeatable elements were necessary to ensure a single string would exist as the “primary” element to allow for standardized alphabetical filing. In this case, it was necessary to determine a non-repeatable title proper as the “chief name” of a resource, with all other titles, including parallel titles, on a lower rung of the hierarchy. There is no such restriction in modern catalogs; in Official RDA, for example, the element Manifestation: **title proper** is repeatable.

Additionally, Official RDA’s commitment to internationalization means that it may not be suitable to relegate certain forms of the title as “parallel,” and thus ranking them lower on the implied hierarchy of primacy. The existence of parallel elements implies that there is hierarchy of languages preferred by the cataloging agency, which may or may not be the case; in many multilingual resources, there is not a single language that predominates.

At the discussion of RSC/Technical WG/2025/1 at the January 2026 RSC meeting ([RSC/Minutes/556-584](#) Item 582), reactions were mixed. Some responses indicated a preference for fully deprecating these elements, others wished them to be retained, and still others were not strongly committed to either side. After the discussion in January, the Technical Working Group still believes that, for the reasons above, the parallel elements should be fully deprecated from RDA.

While cataloguing communities are free to replicate current practice using localized string encoding schemes or local subtypes, as demonstrated in [RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1](#), the Technical Working Group would like to provide as much help as possible to the groups who wish to do this. We acknowledge that, unlike many of the other batches of soft-deprecated elements

discussed at previous RSC meetings in 2026, the parallel elements have a significant number of options and conditions that catalogers may wish retain, even if the elements themselves are no longer part of Official RDA. To that end, we would like to explicitly recommend that the instructions for these elements be transferred to the [Legacy RDA Community Resources](#) section of the Toolkit, similar to how many of the authorized access point and preferred title instructions were transferred earlier in the 3R Project.

Because these elements would be fully deprecated, they would not be maintained or a part of Official RDA, and would appear in the Registry as fully deprecated. However, communities could define parallel elements as their own local subtypes to RDA elements (for example, “parallel title proper” could be defined by a specific community as a local subtype of the RDA element Manifestation: **title proper** in a way that would be compliant with RDA). The Technical Working Group would like to stress that the deprecation of these elements would *not* mean that cataloguing communities would be prohibited from labeling information as “parallel” in an RDA context, only that this would be done through the use of local element subtypes, and that these communities would be responsible for defining how these local element subtypes fit into the larger RDA hierarchy.¹

In the discussion paper [RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1](#), the Technical Working Group mentioned the manifestation statement elements as elements which support the International Cataloguing Principles’ principle of representation (“*A description should represent a resource as it appears*”). This allows all aspects of a resource to be represented in full context, without the need to divide and dissect this information into separate elements to be strung back together according to a string encoding scheme.

Several responses pushed back against the assertion that manifestation statements would be a substitute for the parallel elements. The response of the Examples Editor ([RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1/ExamplesEditor](#)) mentioned that “Expanded use of manifestation statements to represent a resource with greater accuracy is useful in theory but challenging in practice.” The response of NARDAC ([RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1/NARDAC](#)) also brought up “fears that many catalogers and their managers would object to recording repeated manifestation elements in Manifestation: **manifestation statement**. This would invite errors into description sets, as catalogers record the same information twice, but in different ways.”

¹ To demonstrate a similar scenario, while RDA does not define specific subtypes of Manifestation: **identifier for manifestation**, it is extremely common for specific cataloguing communities to further subtype this element into local subtypes such as ISBN, ISMN, UPC, EAN, etc. The data created with these subtypes is still RDA-compliant, even if Manifestation: **ISBN of manifestation** is not an RDA element.

The Technical Working Group acknowledges that manifestation statements cannot completely replicate the legacy practice of crafting a statement by stringing together different elements, all connected through the punctuation of the ISBD punctuation scheme. However, we believe that the benefits to shifting to manifestation statements outweigh the drawbacks. Currently in many cataloguing communities, a great deal of time and effort goes into crafting statements that serve a dual function, both demonstrating how a resource represents itself, while also existing as a collection of smaller elements for separate indexing and display according to specific OPAC settings. Much of this dual function has to do with the MARC21 encoding standard's conflation of encoding and display. We think that a shift to using manifestation statements would take the pressure off the cataloguer to balance the principle of representation with the necessity of splitting this manifestation information into smaller pieces that can both be understood as individual pieces by the OPAC *and* be strung together into a larger coherent statement.

For certain communities, we acknowledge the limitations of using a manifestation statement, which is why we propose keeping the instructions for the deprecated elements available in the Toolkit, to encourage specialized communities to adopt local subtypes and specific string encoding schemes that can foster specific practices that will assist those communities.

Several responses also mentioned the inability of the MARC21 standard to repeat certain fields, even for elements which are repeatable in RDA. We acknowledge that this is a difficulty in recording RDA information with a widely used encoding standard such as MARC21; however, RDA is not developed with any specific encoding standard in mind, nor does the RSC make decisions based on specific encoding standards. We support changes being made to encoding standards so that they may take advantage of the full flexibility of Official RDA. It is worth noting that MARC21 also lacks specific fields and subfields for many of the parallel elements; for example, there is no field specifically defined for the parallel statement of responsibility relating to title proper.

Outstanding issues

Finally, in the process of writing this proposal, some outstanding issues were noticed with the parallel elements that will need to be fixed if these elements are not fully deprecated.

Some of the parallel elements do not fit correctly into the Official RDA hierarchy, likely because little attention was paid to them due to their soft-deprecated status. In particular, the eight parallel elements relating to the Place entity² would need further work to fit them into the Toolkit. These

² parallel place of distribution
parallel place of distribution of
parallel place of manufacture
parallel place of manufacture of

elements relate manifestations to places (and vice-versa), rather than to nomens. This causes some technical issues, because place names present on a resource in a parallel language or script are different *nomens*, not different *places*. A manifestation with a place of publication listed as “Firenze” and a parallel place of publication listed as “Florence” is providing two different nomens for the same place, rather than two different places. To properly deploy these elements, they should be retooled as shortcut elements in the manner of Manifestation: **name of publisher** and other similar elements. A manifestation has a place of publication, and that place of publication has one or more nomens, some of which may be recorded in a parallel language or script in a certain manifestation. But a place itself cannot exist as a “parallel place” of a manifestation.

The definitions of some of the parallel place elements also are unfinished (for example, the definition of Place: **parallel place of publication of** is, “A manifestation that is a published manifestation that is published, released, or issued in a place.” This is the same definition of Place: **place of publication of** and offers the cataloger no guidance on determining whether a place is a place of publication of a manifestation, or a parallel place of publication of a manifestation). Regardless of how the RSC receives this proposal, these eight elements need work before being deployed in Official RDA as it currently stands.

Additionally, there are gaps in hierarchy for the parallel title of series elements. While Manifestation: **parallel title of series** is a narrower element of Manifestation: **parallel title proper**, Manifestation: **title of series** is not a narrower element of Manifestation: **title proper**, instead existing as a narrower element of Manifestation: **title of manifestation**. This discrepancy would need to be rectified if these elements are not fully deprecated.

Recommendation 1.1

[Manifestation: **parallel designation of edition**](#)

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: **parallel designation of edition** as a narrower element of Manifestation: **designation of edition** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

parallel place of production
parallel place of production of
parallel place of publication
parallel place of publication of

Remove the condition option under Manifestation: **designation of edition** at [22.44.87.38](#): (“Record one or more of the parallel values separately as a Manifestation: **parallel designation of edition**.”)

Recommendation 1.2

[Manifestation: **parallel designation of named revision of edition**](#)

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: **parallel designation of named revision edition** as a narrower element of Manifestation: **designation of named revision edition** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the condition option under Manifestation: **designation of named revision of edition** at [94.00.90.77](#): (“Record one or more of the parallel values separately as a Manifestation: **parallel designation of named revision of edition**.”)

Recommendation 1.3

[Manifestation: **parallel name of distributor**](#)

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: **parallel name of distributor** as a narrower element of Manifestation: **name of distributor** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the condition option under Manifestation: **name of distributor** at [60.46.52.43](#): (“Record one or more of the parallel values separately as a Manifestation: **parallel name of distributor**.”)

Recommendation 1.4

[Nomen: **parallel name of distributor of**](#)

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Nomen: **parallel name of distributor of** as a narrower element of Nomen: **name of distributor of** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Recommendation 1.5

[Manifestation: **parallel name of manufacturer**](#)

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: **parallel name of manufacturer** as a narrower element of Manifestation: **name of manufacturer** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the condition option under Manifestation: **name of manufacturer** at [93.46.88.57](#): (“Record one or more of the parallel values separately as a Manifestation: **parallel name of manufacturer**.”)

Recommendation 1.6**Nomen: [parallel name of manufacturer of](#)**

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Nomen: **parallel name of manufacturer of** as a narrower element of Nomen: **name of manufacturer of** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Recommendation 1.7**Manifestation: [parallel name of producer](#)**

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: **parallel name of producer** as a narrower element of Manifestation: **name of producer** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the condition option under Manifestation: **name of producer** at [45.68.60.36](#) (“Record one or more of the parallel values separately as a Manifestation: **parallel name of producer**.”)

Recommendation 1.8**Nomen: [parallel name of producer of](#)**

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Nomen: **parallel name of producer of** as a narrower element of Nomen: **name of producer of** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Recommendation 1.9**Manifestation: [parallel name of publisher](#)**

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: **parallel name of publisher** as a narrower element of Manifestation: **name of publisher** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the condition option under Manifestation: **name of publisher** at [29.07.97.43](#): (“Record one or more of the parallel values separately as a Manifestation: **parallel name of publisher**.”)

Recommendation 1.10**Nomen: [parallel name of publisher of](#)**

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Nomen: **parallel name of publisher of** as a narrower element of Nomen: **name of publisher of** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Recommendation 1.11**Manifestation: parallel other title information**

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: **parallel other title information** as a narrower element of Manifestation: **other title information** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the [reference to Manifestation: parallel other title information](#) in the Prerecording section of Manifestation: **title proper** (21.93.72.57).

Recommendation 1.12**Manifestation: parallel other title information of series**

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: **parallel other title information of series** as a narrower element of Manifestation: **other title information of series** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the condition option under Manifestation: **other title information of series** at [23.32.74.58](#): (“Record one or more of the parallel values separately as a Manifestation: **parallel other title information of series**.”)

Recommendation 1.13**Manifestation: parallel place of distribution**

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: **parallel place of distribution** as a narrower element of Manifestation: **place of distribution** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the condition option under Manifestation: **place of distribution** at [02.68.15.79](#): (“Record one or more of the parallel values separately as a Manifestation: **parallel place of distribution**.”)

Recommendation 1.14**Place: parallel place of distribution of**

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Place: **parallel place of distribution of** as a narrower element of Place: **place of distribution of** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Recommendation 1.15**Manifestation: [parallel place of manufacture](#)**

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: **parallel place of manufacture** as a narrower element of Manifestation: **place of manufacture** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the condition option under Manifestation: **place of manufacture** at [62.47.16.55](#): (“Record one or more of the parallel values separately as a Manifestation: **parallel place of manufacture**.”)

Recommendation 1.16**Place: [parallel place of manufacture of](#)**

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Place: **parallel place of manufacture of** as a narrower element of Place: **place of manufacture of** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Recommendation 1.17**Manifestation: [parallel place of production](#)**

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: **parallel place of production** as a narrower element of Manifestation: **place of production** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the condition option under Manifestation: **place of production** at [68.62.19.20](#): (“Record one or more of the parallel values separately as a Manifestation: **parallel place of production**.”)

Recommendation 1.18**Place: [parallel place of production of](#)**

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Place: **parallel place of production of** as a narrower element of Place: **place of production of** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Recommendation 1.19**Manifestation: [parallel place of publication](#)**

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: **parallel place of publication** as a narrower element of Manifestation: **place of publication** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the condition option under Manifestation: **place of publication** at [73.21.41.27](#): (“Record one or more of the parallel values separately as a Manifestation: **parallel place of publication**.”)

Recommendation 1.20

Place: parallel place of publication of

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Place: **parallel place of publication of** as a narrower element of Place: **place of publication of** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Recommendation 1.21

Manifestation: parallel statement of responsibility relating to edition

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: parallel statement of responsibility relating to edition as a narrower element of Manifestation: statement of responsibility relating to edition in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the condition option under Manifestation: **statement of responsibility relating to edition** at [65.81.97.09](#): (“Record one or more of the parallel values separately as a Manifestation: **parallel statement of responsibility relating to edition**.”)

Recommendation 1.22

Manifestation: parallel statement of responsibility relating to named revision of edition

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: parallel statement of responsibility relating to named revision of edition as a narrower element of Manifestation: statement of responsibility relating to named revision of edition in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the condition option under Manifestation: **statement of responsibility relating to named revision of edition** at [22.94.07.38](#): (“Record one or more of the parallel values separately as a Manifestation: **parallel statement of responsibility relating to named revision of edition**.”)

Recommendation 1.23

Manifestation: parallel statement of responsibility relating to series

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: parallel statement of responsibility relating to series as a narrower element of Manifestation: statement of responsibility relating to series in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the condition option under Manifestation: **statement of responsibility relating to series** at [30.46.09.07](#): (“Record one or more of the parallel values separately as a Manifestation: **parallel statement of responsibility relating to series**.”)

Recommendation 1.24

[Manifestation: parallel statement of responsibility relating to title proper](#)

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: parallel statement of responsibility relating to title proper as a narrower element of Manifestation: statement of responsibility relating to title proper in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the condition option under Manifestation: **statement of responsibility relating to title proper** at [21.70.97.98](#): (“Record one or more of the parallel values separately as a Manifestation: **parallel statement of responsibility relating to title proper**.”)

Recommendation 1.25

[Manifestation: parallel title of series](#)

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: **parallel title of series** as a narrower element of Manifestation: **title of series** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the condition option under Manifestation: **title of series** at [28.38.37.75](#): (“Record one or more of the parallel values separately as a Manifestation: **parallel title of series**.”)

Recommendation 1.26

[Nomen: parallel title of series of](#)

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Nomen: **parallel title of series of** as a narrower element of Nomen: **title of series of** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Recommendation 1.27

[Manifestation: parallel title proper](#)

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Manifestation: **parallel title proper** as a narrower element of Manifestation: **title proper** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Remove the reference to “parallel title proper” in the condition of Manifestation: **title proper** for Change in a title proper at [78.13.53.93](#).

- a different order of titles when the title is given in two or more languages on the *source of information*, provided that the title chosen as a title proper still appears as a ~~parallel title proper~~ title of manifestation.

Recommendation 1.28

Nomen: **parallel title proper of**

Fully deprecate this element in the RDA Registry and move the existing instructions for this element to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section of the Toolkit.

Remove Nomen: **parallel title proper of** as a narrower element of Nomen: **title proper of** in the Registry and the Toolkit.

Recommendation 2

Fully remove the [Alignment from soft-deprecated to recommended elements](#) from the Registry. Create a new Alignment in the RDA Registry, titled *Alignment from deprecated to recommended elements*, populated with the elements deprecated in <https://hdl.handle.net/11213/24261>, RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/3/Decisions³, RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/4/Decisions⁴, RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/5/Decisions⁵ and RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6/Decisions⁶ and keeping the same recommended alignments as the previous set.

Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Fully deprecate the currently soft-deprecated “parallel” elements as set out in detail at Recommendations 1.1-1.28.

Recommendation 2: Remove the *Alignment from soft-deprecated to recommended elements* from the Registry and publish *Alignment from deprecated to recommended elements* in its place.

³ RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/3/Decisions is currently under preparation, but the list of elements for deprecation recommended in [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/3](#) was approved by the RSC in its July Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/599-615](#) Item 612.4)

⁴ RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/4/Decisions is currently under preparation, but the list of elements for deprecation recommended in [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/4](#) was approved by the RSC in its July Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/599-615](#) Item 613).

⁵ [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/5](#) is out for constituency consultation and will be discussed in the November Meeting of the RSC. RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/5/Decisions will be prepared thereafter.

⁶ RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6 is out for constituency consultation and will be discussed in the November Meeting of the RSC. RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6/Decisions will be prepared thereafter.