To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
From: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
Subject: Summary of formal responses to RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6 – Proposal on soft-deprecated "note on" elements

This document collates in tabular form the responses received from voting members of the RSC to RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6, *viz*:

- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6/ALyC
- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6/EOO
- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6/EURIG
- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6/ExamplesEditor
- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6/NARDAC
- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6/ORDAC
- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6/TranslationsTLO
- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6/WCEO

Recommendation 1	Approved by **4** : ALyC, EOO, ORDAC and WCEO Approved with amendments by **1** : NARDAC Rejected by **3** : EURIG, ExamplesEditor, TranslationsTLO	**Note 1:** Responses received from all **8** voting members of the RSC. **Note 2:** ORDAC approved, but shared there were some alternative views in Oceania. NARDAC also received minority views against the recommendations. **Note 3:** ExamplesEditor raises the issue of materials with titles and abstracts in more than one language, but contents predominantly in one language. **Note 4:** ExamplesEditor asserts inadequacy of relying on manifestation statements to record parallel values. **Note 5:** ExamplesEditor notes continued use of parallel elements by many communities. EURIG and TranslationsTLO

		agree. **Note 6:** ExamplesEditor raises a practical issue. **Note 7:** EURIG highlights the importance of parallel elements within flat-file implementations. **Note 8:** EURIG asserts the importance of ISBD Consolidated. TranslationsTLO agrees. **Note 9:** EURIG does not agree that there is a hierarchy when parallel elements are used. **Note 10:** NARDAC suggests addition of text to several elements. **Note 11:** NARDAC suggests amendments to the text in Recommendation 1.11. **Note 12:** NARDAC suggests amendments to the text in Recommendation 1.27.
Recommendation 2	Approved by **5** : ALyC, EOO, NARDAC, ORDAC and WCEO Rejected by **3** : EURIG, ExamplesEditor, TranslationsTLO	**Note 2:** ORDAC approved, but shared there were some alternative views in Oceania. NARDAC also received minority views against the recommendations. **Note 3:** ExamplesEditor raises the issue of materials with titles and abstracts in more than one language, but contents

		predominantly in one language. **Note 4:** ExamplesEditor asserts inadequacy of relying on manifestation statements to record parallel values. **Note 5:** ExamplesEditor notes continued use of parallel elements by many communities. EURIG and TranslationsTLO agree. **Note 6:** ExamplesEditor raises a practical issue. **Note 7:** EURIG highlights the importance of parallel elements within flat-file implementations. **Note 8:** EURIG asserts the importance of ISBD Consolidated. TranslationsTLO agrees. **Note 9:** EURIG does not agree that there is a hierarchy when parallel elements are used.

Note 1: Responses were received from all **8** voting members of the RSC.

Note 2: ORDAC approved of both recommendations, but shared there were some alternative views in Oceania:

“We note this proposal received strong feedback from the Oceania community both in favour of and against accepting the recommendations. While some institutions do not currently use the soft-deprecated parallel elements, others have them as core to their current practice. Parallel title proper was the most cited cause of concern.

ORDAC believes the recommendation to move the elements to the Community Resources section of the Toolkit represents a viable solution. This will allow communities to continue recording values in their description outside of RDA but with reference to familiar older instructions.

We also note the solution successfully implemented by the National Library of New Zealand that avoids soft deprecated elements within the constraints of a MARC cataloguing environment.

In addition, the possibilities of defining string encoding schemes as discussed in RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1 represent another alternative for communities to continue using current practices for recording Manifestation: title proper.

Given the possibilities to support current practice across the sector and resolve the issues inherent in these soft-deprecated elements, ORDAC approves the recommendations."

NARDAC also received minority views against the recommendations:

"Responses from NARDAC's constituents were mixed. Those not supporting the recommendations cited the flexibility that fully implementing the parallel elements would provide. Parallel elements that are fully integrated into the Toolkit retain their broader element references, allowing catalogers to use their judgment in determining the specificity of the elements they record. If the parallel elements are transferred to the Legacy RDA Community Resources section, those hierarchical references are lost and cataloging communities will need to develop policies and practices to direct catalogers from the base Toolkit to the Legacy resources.

Other constituent groups viewed the recommendations as a workable compromise, allowing continued access to the parallel elements while supporting more consistent data modeling in the base Toolkit. However, questions remained about who would maintain the parallel elements in the Legacy RDA Community Resources section, how would translations and policy statements for the transferred parallel elements be managed, and whether the recommended changes were necessary at the current moment, as many institutions are preparing training and implementation of official RDA before original RDA is sunset in May 2027.

Ultimately, with some hesitance, NARDAC approves the recommendations, with a suggestion to further consider the non-parallel, "primary" elements and the consequences of eliminating the concept of parallel elements to their instructions."

Note 3: ExamplesEditor raises the issue of materials with titles and abstracts in more than one language, but contents predominantly in one language:

"**There are many examples of real-world multilingual resources in which a single language predominates, whether by content or by layout/typography on a manifestation.**

Examples include journals in which the title and abstracts are in two languages but the articles are in only one of the two languages. Several manifestation elements in the Toolkit provide the option to record "one or more values separately in the order indicated by the sequence, layout, or typography of the source of information," providing flexibility, for example, in recording a title that clearly predominates by its layout and typography as a title proper and the less prominent title in another language as a parallel title proper. In these cases, the manifestation itself is suggesting a "hierarchy" of languages in the context of a given resource. The ability to use our catalogers' judgment in this way supports, rather than contradicts, the principle of representation."

Note 4: ExamplesEditor asserts inadequacy of relying on manifestation statements to record parallel values:

"**Relying on manifestation statements to accurately record parallel values is time-consuming and inadequate for many resources.**

Manifestation statements may accurately record the sequence of a value but they do not accurately record layout and typography. On maps and still images, for example, such statements may be scattered throughout a manifestation. It is difficult to imagine how and in what order to record these statements, particularly when parallel values are present. We are also limited by our own typographical facilities. For example, catalogers may not have the ability to reproduce symbols and certain types of early modern letterforms in transcriptions.

Furthermore, to make a description that is useful to end users, catalogers would need to enter the same information twice--once for manifestation statements and once for more structured elements (e.g., Manifestation: title proper)--but not in exactly the same way. This is a time-consuming process that also invites errors, especially when a resource includes long and complex titles and publication statements."

Note 5: ExamplesEditor notes continued use of parallel elements by many communities:

"**Parallel elements are still in wide use across numerous and varied cataloging communities.**

Of all the current policy statements sets in Official RDA, only one set instructs catalogers not to use parallel elements, in spite of the fact that the option not to use parallel elements has been available for many years. The remaining sets of policy statements are contributed by different linguistic, cultural, and subject domain communities rather than limited to one or two specialist communities. In this sense, the option to use parallel elements contradicts neither the LRM nor RDA's principle of internationalization.

The parallel elements all have a suitable broader element for communities that choose not to implement them. Just as catalogers have the flexibility, for example, to choose between using broader and narrower agent elements (e.g., Person: artist person vs. Person: sculptor person), catalogers should also have the same level of flexibility with parallel elements. If the parallel elements are retained, nothing forbids communities from choosing to use their broader elements instead."

EURIG agrees:

Though RDA is by design coding agnostic, we must bear in mind the real world; while many libraries encoding their metadata descriptions in ways which do not allow duplicating title proper, for example, relegating the parallel element to a manifestation statement further increases the primacy bias. Such relegation also makes it harder for specific communities to choose to flexibly display which of the parallel pair to show to the user as primary depending on local factors such as public catalog interface language."

TranslationsTLO agrees:

"Given that parallel elements are still (and will presumably continue to be) used by a wide range of user communities, […], I found the deprecation of these elements problematic and would instead support their incorporation into the RDA element set in a way that ensures the necessary flexibility for the cataloguers."

Note 6: ExamplesEditor raises a practical issue:

"If parallel elements continue in wide use, moving the parallel elements to the legacy area of the Toolkit bifurcates instructions in a way that may be confusing or cumbersome for catalogers.

Moving AACR2 instructions to the legacy Community Resources area made perfect sense. Those instructions are specific to a particular linguistic community, and their presence in the base RDA text would be out of step with the principle of internationalization.
However, moving the parallel elements to this area does not quite fit within the same logic, especially if they continue to be used by multiple and diverse communities. The proposal's strong arguments for retaining the parallel element instructions in the legacy area, and acknowledgment of many communities' preference for retaining them, underscore their ongoing relevance within the base RDA text."

Note 7: EURIG highlights the importance of parallel elements within flat-file implementations:

"Parallel elements retain a value in the RDA element set, contributing to those implementation scenarios which involve flat file and bibliographic / authority-based cataloguing. This position is consistent with the feedback offered by EURIG members to RSC's survey on soft deprecated elements. It is also consistent with feedback offered to the Worldwide Review of ISBD for Manifestation."

Note 8: EURIG asserts the importance of ISBD Consolidated:

"Owing to RDA's alignment with ISBD Consolidated Edition, its parallel elements represent more than community resources. Unlike the AACR2 legacy guidance currently hosted in Community Resources, ISBD Consolidated Edition has an international focus; as such it reflects RDA's own international orientation. Besides its parallel elements, RDA contains other elements which bear a direct relationship to ISBD Consolidated Edition; these include the super elements edition statement and publication statement which have not been similarly proposed for deprecation.

[…]

EURIG would like to see RDA's current alignment with ISBD Consolidated Edition maintained and not superseded by a realignment with ISBD for LRM. Parallel elements may exist outside the scope of LRM attributes and relationships, but equally they do not break the model."

TranslationsTLO agrees:

"Given that […] internationalisation also entails compliance with ISBD Consolidated Edition, I found the deprecation of these elements problematic and would instead support their incorporation into the RDA element set in a way that ensures the necessary flexibility for the cataloguers."

Note 9: EURIG does not agree that there is a hierarchy when parallel elements are used:

"EURIG sees no connotation of primacy in the principle of parallel elements, but rather the opposite. The notation "=" which represents parallel elements in ISBD Consolidated Edition indicates a status of equivalence. We do not regard manifestation statements as a suitable substitute for parallel elements, given the absence of this equivalent association."

Note 10: NARDAC suggests addition of text to several elements:
"The following elements have the same set of condition options under the condition: A value of this element appears in the *source of information* in a parallel language or script.

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

As noted in the Technical Working Group's proposal, the final condition option to "record one or more parallel values separately as a Manifestation: parallel [element]" will be removed. NARDAC would like the RSC to consider making the following additional changes to the condition options for the above elements. These revisions would provide guidance that achieves the same outcome as before in a context where multiple titles proper may be recorded.

Marked-up copy:
CONDITION
A value of this element appears in the *source of information* in a parallel language or script.

CONDITION OPTION
Record a value that appears in the language or script of a title proper or the first recorded title proper if more than one title proper is recorded.

Clean copy:
CONDITION
A value of this element appears in the *source of information* in a parallel language or script.

CONDITION OPTION
Record a value that appears in the language or script of a title proper or the first recorded title proper if more than one title proper is recorded."

Note 11: NARDAC suggests amendments to the text in Recommendation 1.11:

"For the element Manifestation: **other title information**, we have the following suggestions, which are intended to improve consistency and address a gap in the instructions.

Marked-up copy:

CONDITION
A value of this element appears ~~in two or more parallel languages or scripts~~ in the *source of information* in a parallel language or script.

CONDITION OPTION
Record a value that is in the language or script of a ~~value of Manifestation:~~ **title proper** or the first recorded title proper if more than one title proper is recorded.

CONDITION OPTION
Record the value in the language or script that appears first.
CONDITION OPTION

Record one or more values separately in the order indicated by the sequence, layout, or typography of the *source of information*.

Clean copy:

CONDITION
A value of this element appears in the *source of information* in a parallel language or script.

CONDITION OPTION
Record a value that is in the language or script of a title proper or the first recorded title proper if more than one title proper is recorded.

CONDITION OPTION
Record the value in the language or script that appears first.

CONDITION OPTION
Record one or more values separately in the order indicated by the sequence, layout, or typography of the *source of information*."

Note 12: NARDAC suggests amendments to the text in Recommendation 1.27:

"For the element Manifestation: **title proper**, we have the following suggestions, which are intended to improve consistency and address a gap in the instructions.
In the section Titles of manifestation in two or more languages or scripts (20.63.35.20), edit the first only condition (83.55.53.44) as follows:

Marked-up copy:

CONDITION
The value of a title appears ~~in two or more languages~~ in sources of information in a parallel language or script.

Clean copy:

CONDITION
The value of a title appears in sources of information in a parallel language or script.

Under this condition, please add the following third condition option:

Clean copy only (since this is a new condition option):

CONDITION OPTION
Record one or more values separately in the order indicated by the sequence, layout, or typography of the *source of information*.

In the Condition box (98.92.61.84) under Changes in a title proper (78.13.53.93), remove the implication that the title proper is not repeatable. Under the fifth bullet, the condition mentions "the title chosen as a title proper," suggesting that the manifestation can only have a single title proper. In a context where parallel titles proper are considered to be repetitions of the element Manifestation: **title proper**, the element that was considered to be the title proper in original RDA now corresponds to the first recorded title proper.

Additionally, edit the second sentence in the Condition to specify that determining whether a change in title proper for a diachronic work has occurred only applies to the first recorded title. Therefore, we recommend the following changes:

Marked-up copy:

CONDITION
A manifestation embodies a unit, issue, or iteration of a *diachronic work*.

A value of the first recorded Manifestation: **title proper** varies from the values that appear on other manifestations that embody units, issues, or iterations of a diachronic work in the following cases:

- […]
- 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~~ recorded as ~~a~~ the first title proper still appears as a ~~parallel title proper~~ title of manifestation
- […]

Clean copy:

CONDITION
A manifestation embodies a unit, issue, or iteration of a *diachronic work*.
A value of the first recorded Manifestation: **title proper** varies from the values that appear on other manifestations that embody units, issues, or iterations of a diachronic work in the following cases:

- […]
- a different order of titles when the title is given in two or more languages on the *source of information*, provided that the title recorded as the first title proper still appears as a title of manifestation
- […]