To: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR

From: Ann Huthwaite, Chair, JSC

Subject: Class of materials concept and GMDs

The following comments were made by Tom Desley on the paper prepared by Ann Huthwaite on the class of materials concept and GMDs. This paper is for information only and responses are not required.

Choice of chief source of information

A generalized rule on chief source of information may also need to include instructions on order of preference — e.g., formally presented sources; printed sources (vs. audio or digitally encoded data); sources integral to the item (e.g., in headers, on permanently affixed labels, etc.); non-integral sources issued by the publisher (e.g., container, accompanying documentation, publisher's Web page); other external sources (e.g., reference sources).

Presumably, a generalized rule would also include instructions relating to unitary and collective sources (e.g., title page and its verso, a sequence of title or credit frames), and sources for multipart items (e.g., container).

If chief source of information cannot be adequately addressed through generalized rules alone, it would be advisable to align any specific instructions with the mode of expression rather than with the type of carrier. (See comments below on Organization of Part 1.)

Choice of prescribed sources of information

Areas 1, 2, and 4 are of key importance in identifying the item, and cataloguers rely on the explicit relationship between the data recorded in the record and the information that appears on the item. It would be advisable in those areas to maintain, at a minimum, a distinction between data derived from the chief source and data derived from other sources. Testing the concept of a general rule for prescribed sources of information should indicate whether it would be possible to formulate a general rule designating the chief source of information as the only prescribed source of information for areas 1, 2, and 4.

For areas 5, 7, and 8, the prescribed source of information should not be an issue; the current rules in chapters 2-12 are reasonably consistent in accepting any source as a prescribed source for those areas.

Area 6 may be more problematic because of the idiosyncrasies of printed texts, music, and maps. However, consideration should be given to generalizing the prescribed source for area 6 to include the item, its container, and accompanying information.

Area 3 may be the most problematic, owing to the diverse nature both of the data recorded and the materials from which it is drawn. If the prescribed source of information for the area cannot be adequately addressed through a generalized rule, it would be advisable to align the prescribed source for area 3 with the mode of expression, in the case of music and cartographic materials, and with issuance, in the case of continuing resources. (See comments below on Organization of Part 1.)

General material designations (GMDs)

Regardless of whether the GMD is recorded and displayed as part of the description *per se* or as part of an organizing element, it would be advisable to align the list of GMDs with mode of expression (i.e., to have it reflect content rather than carrier).

Recording information in area 5

It should be noted that area 5 includes attributes of "infixion" as well as attributes of "physical carrier". As such it straddles the line between content and carrier. Consideration should be given to renaming area 5 as "Technical description". (See comments below on Organization of Part 1.)

It should also be noted that the SMD (particularly in its current form) does not in itself serve in all cases to make distinctions between "formats" that are made when using current or commercial terminology. In the case of sound recordings, for example, the distinction between a conventional disc and a compact disc is made only through the concatenation of the SMD with type of recording (analog / digital) given as part of "other physical details". In assessing the advantages of moving to current or commercial terminology for the SMD consideration should also be given to the potential for related adjustments to other elements of area 5.

Mode of issuance

Attention should be given to the distinctions between "mode of issuance" (complete as first issued / successive issuance / integrating issuance) and "publication status" (active / ceased), as well as to the distinction between an item that is "published" and one that is "unpublished". Each of the three aspects functions independently. A diary or journal in an "unpublished" form (e.g., a set of hand-written documents) may exhibit characteristics of "successive issuance" (e.g., the individual parts of the journal may bear sequential or chronological numbering), but it may also be "ceased" (i.e., the author or may no longer be making journal entries). Similarly an "unpublished" commonplace book may be kept up to date as an "integrating resource" on the hard drive of the author's laptop computer, and it may continue to be "active".

In the reorganization of Part 1 it will be necessary to deal with "mode of issuance" and "publication status" independently of the distinction between "published" and "unpublished". The rules should allow for the aspects of a "continuing resource" to be covered independently of aspects pertaining to "published" versus "published" items. The rules should also give direction, as necessary, on how the rules for continuing resources can be used in conjunction with the rules for unpublished resources (i.e., in describing an unpublished continuing resource).

Organization of Part 1

Attached is a mock-up table of contents for the possible organization of the rules in Part 1 around "generalities", "content", "carrier", "publication pattern", and "granularity".

I would suggest that the chapters pertaining to "content" be organized according to classes that reflect mode of expression (text, musical notation, recorded sound, etc.). Note that "electronic resources" are not treated as a class in this section. From a content perspective, electronic texts would be treated simply as texts, electronic music simply as music, etc. Two new classes (data and software) have been added to cover content that uses modes of expression distinct from those covered by other chapters. A separate class has also been added for mixed content to provide direction on describing all mixed content resources (kits, computer-oriented multimedia, mixed content online sites and services, etc., and collections comprising mixed content).

The general rules in chapter 1 would cover chief source of information and prescribed sources of information as well as general rules for all eight areas of the description. If supplementary rules for chief source of information and/or prescribed sources of information are required, the general rules would make reference to the corresponding rules in chapters 2-11. The general rules for areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 as well as general rules for content-related notes in area 7 would make reference to supplementary rules for specific classes of content in chapters 2-11. The general rules for area 5 and for notes in area 7 related to technical description would make reference to general and supplementary rules in chapter 12.

The general rules section of chapter 12 would include general rules on prescribed sources of information for area 5, and would make reference to supplementary rules for prescribed sources pertaining to specific media (if required). The general rules section would also include general rules for area 5 and for notes in area 7 pertaining to technical description. Supplementary rules would be organized according to classes of media and would include specific rules for each class pertaining to area 5 (extent, dimensions, and other technical specifications) and to notes in area 7 pertaining to aspects of technical description (e.g., details on sound recording characteristics, special projection requirements, film base, data compression, system requirements, mode of access, etc.). The section on mixed media would provide direction on technical description for

resources with separate components belonging to different classes of media (e.g., kits, collections).

A decision would have to be made on handling overlaps in the technical description area between digital media and the two other classes of "electronic" media (recorded sound media and moving image media). One option to be considered would be to expand rules in areas 5 and 7 for both recorded sound media and moving image media (specifically videorecordings) to cover all relevant aspects of digital sound and digital video, and similarly to expand the rules in areas 5 and 7 for digital media to cover all relevant aspects pertaining to recorded sound and moving image encoded digitally. The other option would be to provide direction on using the rules for digital media in conjunction with the rules for recorded sound media and moving image media.

A decision would also have to be made on whether or not to incorporate into the section on digital media instructions for including certain details specified in the sections on print media and graphic media (e.g., pagination for pdf texts, etc.).

Under mode of issuance, I would propose consideration of a separate chapter on the "orphaned" category finite resources.

Under unpublished resources, I would suggest consideration of the possible need for two chapters, one on manuscripts (texts, music, maps) and another on unprocessed sound recordings, films, and videos. The definition of manuscript also needs to be revisited to consider the possibility of including digital manuscripts within its scope.

Part 1 – Description

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