

AMIA CATALOGING AND DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE STANDARDS REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Report to MRC regarding changes to AACR2R 7.5

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Allowing the use of conventional terminology in the physical description area of the MARC record means that catalogers can express an item's physical description in current language that is more illustrative of the item in hand and better understood by public service staff and users. Another benefit of using of conventional terms in the physical description is that it unites aspects of a work's physical description that currently are dispersed amongst several MARC fields. For some institutions, the specific format and technical specification is critical data that is most useful when displayed "up front" in the physical description area, rather than in a notes field (for example, 538). Notes often seem to be more for librarians (catalogers, in particular) than for users. If specific format and technical specifications information is important enough to include in the record, we recommend putting it in the 300 field rather than a note in order to provide a discrete, self-contained physical description statement.

CCC PROPOSAL

We had strong reservations about the revision for 7.B1 proposed by CCC to allow for the use of conventional terminology in recording the specific format of the physical carrier, along with the current standard material designation terms as options. We recommend instead that the current standard material designation terms remain mandatory and that optional conventional terms are listed parenthetically, for example, 2 videodiscs (DVD) and 1 videodisc (CD). This suggestion complements the BCC "counterproposal" and has the additional benefit of being more in line with the *Archival Moving Image Materials: A Cataloging Manual. Second Edition (AMIM2)* rules for physical description.

Sometimes more than one term will apply and there should be a rule to accommodate that; cf. *AMIM2* 5B7:

At times more than one video technical specification may be given in order to provide the information necessary for viewing. This is likely to happen with a VHS video in the PAL or SECAM broadcast system. Separate multiple video technical specifications with a comma, space and place them in a single set of parentheses. Omit video technical specifications that are standard for the country of the [cataloguing agency]. For

example, NTSC is the color broadcast system that has been standard for the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Japan. Example: 1 videocassette (VHS, PAL)

Although the rule to "give a trade name or other similar specification in a note" is consistent with 9.5B1, we find the term "trade name" ambiguous. Some video formats carry a trademark designation, but even in these cases it seems that other companies use the term. For example, Betacam and Betacam SP were developed by Sony and are often associated with that company, but a cursory search of the Internet shows these format terms associated with Fuji products also. AACR should not encourage the inclusion of corporate identification (e.g., Sony Betacam) within the catalog record.

CONVENTIONAL TERM LIST

We strongly recommend that there should be a core list of terms 1) compiled by users of AACR2r, 2) matched to *AMIM2* terms as much as possible, and 3) mapped to actual SMPTE standards. Maintaining updated term lists can be difficult when technology changes so quickly, but the work is crucial, particularly when we consider shared cataloging and the needs of catalogers who may not work with moving image materials regularly and thus may be less familiar with moving image terminology. In constructing such a list, one term should be chosen for each format with referrals from synonyms (common usage and synonyms should be determined by video experts). All terms should be defined in a glossary.

We understand that the inclusion of such a list of terms may not fall within the scope of the 7.5 rules, however, we are confident that some groups would make a "standard" list available to aid catalogers requiring guidance in this area.

Submitted by Sarah Ziebell Mann, Chair, Standards Review Subcommittee of the AMIA Cataloging and Documentation Committee, July 24, 2002