

To: Mary L. Larsgaard, chair
ALA/ALCTS/CCS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access

From: Judy Knop, liaison,
American Theological Library Association, Technical Services Interest Group

Re: Special rules for religious materials, Chapter 21, rules 21.37–21.39

Introduction

Theological catalogers appreciate the JSC invitation to participate in the development of the new code. Over the last week there has been a spirited discussion of rules 21.37–21.39, regarding their necessity and structure.

Overall, the feeling is that the needs of the theological catalogers can be accommodated within the general rules, with some additional wording. Several of our newest catalogers and those at the smallest institutions where they are all alone have underlined the need for examples. We would like to suggest that the points under the general rules be illustrated by examples, including theological materials examples, which we would be willing to supply. We have formed a Task Force to review RDA and stand willing to review other rules peculiar to religious materials as needed and to cooperate with other interested groups as requested.

Specific Rule Revisions

21.37. Sacred Scriptures

21.37A. This rule can be eliminated. The general rule **21.1C (d)** is sufficient, perhaps with the addition of an instruction to add a uniform title if appropriate.

21.1C (d) it is accepted as sacred scripture by a religious group (when appropriate, use a uniform title as instructed in 25.17–25.18).

21.37B. This rule can be eliminated. Without this rule, harmonies would fall under **21.9–21.10**, where entry would sometimes be under the uniform title for Bible passages and sometimes under the adapter. We suggest moving the current example found in 21.37B to 21.10, with instructions for main and added entries reversed.

We would also request the retention of the glossary definition of **Harmony (Bible)** and the index entry for **Harmony of scripture**, with reference to **21.9–21.10**.

21.38. Theological Creeds, Confessions of Faith, Etc.

21.38A. This rule can be eliminated. The group feels strongly that all creeds should be entered under title. The rule as written is very problematic. Instead of cataloging the work as presented in the item in hand, the rule requires the cataloger to do research to determine if the work is accepted by more than one denomination. The rule also results in changing uniform titles and main entries as denominations change. A creed composed and accepted by one body is later also endorsed by another denomination, so should be recataloged with title main entry, or uniform title main entry, since entry for the second denomination is problematic. A confession of faith is accepted by several denominations, which later merge to form one denomination, requiring the entry to change to the new denomination.

We suggest adding the following to **21.1B2 (c)**:

- c) those that record the collective thought of the body (e.g. reports of commissions, committees, etc.; official statements of position on external policies); however, always enter theological creeds, confessions of faith, etc. under title.

We also suggest adding to **21.1C1 (e)**:

- e) it is a theological creed, confession of faith, etc.

21.39. Liturgical works

21.39A. General rule

21.39A1. This rule can be eliminated because it is sufficiently covered by **21.1B2 (b)** some legal, governmental and religious works: ... liturgical works.

The footnote defining a liturgical work needs to be retained and moved to 21.1B2 (b) or to the glossary. The list in 21.39A3 should be added to the definition as examples of what should not be considered liturgical works.

21.39A2. This rule can be eliminated and left up to cataloger's judgment.

21.39A3. This rule can be eliminated. The list should be incorporated into the definition of liturgical works as examples of what should not be considered liturgical.

21.39B1. This rule can be eliminated. It is covered by **21.1B2(b)**. Translations of liturgies would be handled by the general rules for entry of translations under the main entry/uniform title for the original work, with a language qualifier.

21.39C1. This rule could also be eliminated, with addition of a new category (f) to

21.1C1:

- f) it is a Jewish liturgical work. When appropriate, use a uniform title as instructed in 25.21–25.22.

Also, add the following to **21.1B2 (b)**:

- b) some legal, governmental, and religious works of the following types:
 - ...
 - Liturgical works (except Jewish liturgical works, see 21.1C1(f)).