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Lynne Howarth, Chair of the Material Designation Study Group

From: John Myers, Chair, ALA ALCTS CCS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access

Subject: Review of the Proposed ISBD Area 0

CC:DA is very appreciative of the opportunity to comment on the proposed ISBD Area 0. We have some questions, concerns, and suggested editorial changes which are outlined in this report.

### **General comments on the proposal**

CC:DA commends the ISBD Review Group for its efforts to improve bibliographic control and access to resources, particularly those in multiple formats and those published in more than one physical medium. CC:DA finds the proposal successful overall in meeting its goals. CC:DA especially appreciates the effort to create an effective “early warning device” for users and to use terminology that is simple and succinct. The proposed Area 0 fulfills the aim of the IME ICC to avoid mixing the content of the resource with the presentation of the resource.

### **Multiple content forms and media types**

In comparison to RDA 3.2.1.2 and 6.10.1.3 and RDA/ONIX section 2.3, the language of ISBD 0 encourages recording as many content forms and media types as applicable but allows the alternative to use “Multiform” and “Multimedia” where three or more forms or media types are applicable. Recording multiple content forms and media types should assist users in identifying and selecting resources, particularly with the use of machine manipulation of the data to focus and narrow searches.

CC:DA is concerned about the amount of detail that would be recorded in ISBD Area 0 if libraries follow the recommendation in section 0.1 of the proposal to “record as many terms as are applicable to the resource being described.” Would all terms be displayed to the user in this form? Will this level of detail be effective as an “early warning” device for users?

CC:DA recommends that the alternative found in RDA and the *RDA/ONIX Framework* be considered for ISBD Area 0. This alternative allows recording only the category that applies to the predominant part of the resource (if there is one) or the ones that apply to the most substantive parts of the resource. For instance, it may not always be necessary to record formats of accompanying materials if they are not considered crucial to the identification/selection of an item.

CC:DA does not find the use of “Multiform : Multimedia” very helpful to the user for a resource such as the final example found in the “Examples illustrating ISBD Area 0” supplementary

document. However, “Multiform” does seem useful for certain situations (e.g., educational kits) where there is no predominant format and too many physical units to be named succinctly in ISBD Area 0. However, in this context, the term “kit” seems more intuitive to users than “Multiform” (for example: “Kit : Multimedia” instead of “Multiform : Multimedia”).

## **MARC format**

The introduction to the draft notes that Area 0 is to be a “separate, unique, high-level component for recording in bibliographic records.”

How would ISBD Area 0 fit into the MARC record? In light of MARC Proposal No. 2009-01/2: *New content designation for RDA elements: Content type, Media Type, Carrier Type*, would separate MARC tags need to be created to accommodate ISBD 0? As the terminology used to define tags 336 and 337 is similar but not an exact match to ISBD terminology, would a set of separate tags cause confusion? (Or is it possible that the various terminologies can be brought sufficiently into accord such that the same set of tags can be used, with the appropriate source of the term(s) indicated?)

CC:DA has some concern that one of the GMD’s great benefits may be lost: allowing users to browse an OPAC’s title list and immediately determine formats from the titles without needing to select each individual record. Our systems may need to rely upon other methods of communicating format to users in a title list display, such as the display of icons generated from MARC coding.

## **Observations regarding consistency with other standards**

### **0.1 Content Form**

At first glance, “Content Form” does not conform to RDA, but it, along with the “Specification of Type” group in the “Content Qualification” section (0.1.2), seems to cover all of the possibilities listed in RDA 6.10.1.3, except with more granularity. Some RDA phrases like “cartographic tactile image” and “computer dataset” are broken out into various categories in ISBD 0, making the conceptual distinction among content form, content qualification, and media type more readily perceived in the display. For instance, RDA’s unformatted phrase “Cartographic tactile image” is more readily perceived as a content form (Image) specified by content qualification subcategories “Cartographic” and “Tactile” when formulated in ISBD 0 as “Image (Cartographic ; Tactile)”. Likewise, RDA’s “Computer dataset” is more readily understood as a content form (Dataset) viewed through a specific media type “Electronic” when formulated in ISBD 0 as “Dataset : Electronic.”

Compared to the *RDA/ONIX Framework*, ISBD Area 0’s content form terms seem to relate, in part to the “Character” primary values under the *Framework’s* BaseContentCategories (pg. A-1 and Appendix C).

- “Image” and “Music” are in both standards.
- RDA/ONIX’s “Language” is fleshed out into “Text” and “Spoken Word” in ISBD 0.
- ISBD 0’s “Sound” falls under the generic category of “Other” in RDA/ONIX.
- ISBD 0’s “Dataset” and “Program” seem to address the 3rd recommendation in RDA/ONIX (p. 6) “that consideration be given to defining a subset of agreed values for Form/Genre to be used by both RDA and ONIX to construct QualifiedContentCategories for ... computer resources (e.g., computer data, computer program).” However, rather than making “Dataset” and “Program” categories qualified by “computer resources,” ISBD 0 makes them content forms mediated by computer (or “Electronic”) resources.
- “Movement” (not to be confused with ImageMovement) seems to be lacking in the *RDA/ONIX Framework*, although it is covered in RDA 6.10.1.3.

The only term found in neither RDA nor RDA/ONIX is “Object,” unless this is meant to substitute for RDA 6.10.1.3’s “Form”—as in “three-dimensional form” and “cartographic tactile three-dimensional form”. If so, ISBD 0’s preference for the term “Object” could be due, in part, to addressing RDA/ONIX’s 3rd recommendation (p. 6) that “cartographic resources” qualify “images” and “*objects*”.

### 0.1.2 Content Qualification

ISBD Area 0’s “Sensory Specification”, “Specification of Dimensionality”, and “Specification of Motion” conform to RDA/ONIX’s “SensoryMode”, “ImageDimensionality”, and “ImageMovement” categories (pg. A-2 and Appendix C), respectively. “Specification of Dimensionality” and “Specification of Motion” are also found in various “un-granularized” combinations in RDA 6.10.1.3. The only category unique to ISBD 0 is “Specification of Type”, which seems to be a catchall category for leftover elements that convey two unrelated concepts: “Cartographic” and “Notated” vs. “Performed”. However, it all seems to work out when constructing the elements as evidenced in the “Examples illustrating ISBD Area 0” supplementary document, even if they are not conceptually related.

Inclusion of “Cartographic” as a content qualifier seems to address RDA/ONIX’s third recommendation (p. 6) “that consideration be given to defining a subset of agreed values for Form/Genre to be used by both RDA and ONIX to construct QualifiedContentCategories for cartographic resources (e.g., cartographic image, cartographic object)...”

### 0.2 Media Type

The list of “Media Type Terms” has the greatest conformity to both standards, particularly the list in Table 3.1 of RDA Section 3.2.1.2, with a few changes:

- The term “Electronic” is used in lieu of RDA’s “computer.”
- ISBD 0 has an added note on the type of resource to which each Media Type term refers, which is largely redundant (e.g. “Audio” → For Audio player-enabled resources), but

- helpful for “Electronic” which clarifies that the term is “for computer-enabled resources.”
- The definition for “Microform” lacks the phrase “not readable to the human eye,” found in RDA. Is this an oversight or a deliberate omission?
  - Under “Unmediated,” the scope note spells out the “content” referred to in RDA as “text, music notation, images, forms, etc.” and adds the clarification that “[h]uman-produced artefacts and naturally occurring entities are likewise considered unmediated resources.”

The list of “Media Type” terms also conforms conceptually to the *RDA/ONIX Framework’s* primary values for IntermediationTool (pg. B-5 and Appendix D), but with the terminology altered either slightly (“Microscopic” vs. “microscope”) or significantly (“Video” vs. “audiovisual player”; “Unmediated” vs. “not required”). Also, ISBD Area 0’s scope notes are more elaborate than RDA/ONIX.

## Recommendations and comments on specific sections

The section captions and/or numbers refer to the captions and/or numbers used in the ISBD Area 0 draft proposal. Citations from the draft are indicated through the use of quotation marks. When changes have been recommended, italics are used to indicate additions and strikethrough for deletions.

### 0.1 Content Form

#### *p. 2, Image*

Is it possible to break down “Image” into separate content terms, “Moving image” and “Still image”? These terms are closer to the natural language of library users, so they may be more comprehensible and effective as an “early warning device” about format than “Image (Moving)” and “Image (Still)”. For example:

“Moving image : Video” instead of “Image (Moving) : Video”

“Still image (Tactile) : Unmediated” instead of “Image (Still ; Tactile) : Unmediated”

CC:DA notes however that there is a similar breakdown of audio categories into different content forms for “Sound”, “Spoken word”, and “Music”. We are split on this idea, between the conceptual distinction that is achieved with the use of “Image (Moving)” and “Image (Still)” and the consistency in having specification of motion as part of the content qualification, along with other specifications (type, sensory, and dimensionality).

#### *p. 3, Sound*

CC:DA suggests consideration of using the term “Sounds,” which implies non-speech, non-musical sounds, rather than “Sound,” which seems more generic. “Sounds : Audio” might be

more indicative of what the user will be accessing than “Sound : Audio.” RDA 6.10.1.3 has “Sounds.”

### **0.1.2 Content Qualification**

#### *Order of terms*

When multiple content qualification terms are present, does the order matter? The order of content qualification terms in the examples reflects the order in which they are listed in Section 0.1.2. They also happen to be in alphabetical order. Which one is governing the order: the order of appearance in the list or alphabetical order? If there is a prescribed order, CC:DA would prefer to see explicit guidance on this.

#### *p. 4, Sensory Specification*

CC:DA requests guidance on when Sensory Specification terms are applied. “Visual” could be applied to many resources (any print resource, video, etc.) as could “Aural” (any sound recording). According to paragraph one of 0.1.2, Content Qualification sub-categories are “mandatory as applicable to the resource being described,” yet the examples show Sensory Specification terms in only two cases (“Tactile” and “Olfactory”).

### **Relationship between Content Form terms and Content Qualification terms**

#### *Syntax*

CC:DA requests guidance on the distinction between a single content term with multiple content qualifiers, as drawn from the examples:

“Image (Cartographic : Tactile)”

as opposed to the same content term repeated with individual qualifiers:

“Music (Notated). Music (Performed)”

It is our understanding that the distinction is due to the number of units or expressions contained in the resource. In these examples, a single tactile map has multiple content qualifiers for a single term, but a CD-ROM containing separate units or expressions (notated music and performed music) requires separate content terms with qualifiers. It would be helpful to make this explicit.

#### *Content term “Movement” and its qualifiers*

There is an issue with consistency of instructions relating to the content term “Movement.” According to the definition and scope statement, the term excludes moving images. How then would a dance video be described? “Movement (Performed) : Video” apparently is not allowed. Yet the scope note under “Performed” says “includes recorded performances of music or movement.” We wonder how a recorded performance of movement can be experienced any

other way than through a “moving image” (or video), and how a dance video would in fact be described.

*Content term “Music” and its qualifiers*

CC:DA requests an example of how a video of a live musical performance would be described. The content term “Music” does not have instructions to exclude moving images, as does “Movement.” The content qualifier “Performed” applies to music. Is “Music (Performed) : Video” correct for a video of a live musical performance? If so, it seems odd that “Movement (Performed) : Video” would not be allowed for a video of a dance performance.

## **0.2 Media Type**

*General*

Why are carrier types not included in ISBD Area 0? Users are very interested in this information as an “early warning device” in addition to the information now conveyed in the GMD.

*Order of terms*

When multiple media type terms are present, should they be transcribed in alphabetical order? If there is a prescribed order, CC:DA would prefer to see explicit guidance on this.

*p. 5, Electronic*

CC:DA agrees with the use of the term “Electronic” rather than “Computer” (the RDA term), since it is generally more intuitive (though we are not sure that it is clear in all cases; does “Music : Electronic” convey the idea of a music website?). It would be helpful to be able to distinguish between resources that are accessed remotely vs. directly accessed resources with a tangible carrier, since they are very different kinds of resources.

Definition and Scope: has the distinction between “discs” and “disks” been dropped?

*p. 6, Unmediated*

While CC:DA understands that this term can be useful, particularly in the context of the *RDA/ONIX Framework* (in which a primary value must be specified for every attribute, such as IntermediationTool), we strongly recommend that it not be displayed to users. It would be confusing to point out the lack of a need for an intermediation device. Also, it is not clear from the definition of “Unmediated” whether it would apply to certain types of resources. For example, it appears that a wind-up music box would be unmediated, since no mediation device is required to use it. Would a Playaway then also be unmediated? A Playaway does not require an intermediation device, though it is an audio recording.

## **Editorial comments**

**p. 1, Introductory note, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph:**

Suggest alternate wording for clarity and context:

~~“The content form and media type area is comprised of~~ *comprises* three elements, ~~namely,~~ *each taken from closed lists:* (1) ~~a term (or terms) derived from a closed list of~~ ***Content Form*** ~~categories~~ *the* ***Content Form***, *one or more terms reflecting the fundamental form(s) in which the content of a resource is expressed;* (2) ~~a~~ ***Content Qualification***, ~~derived from a closed list of subcategories,~~ *specifying the type, sensory nature, dimensionality, and/or presence or absence of motion for the resource being described,* and (3) ~~a closed list of the~~ ***Media Type*** ~~categories,~~ *indicating the type(s) of carrier used to convey the content of the resource.”*

If the text is left as is, “is comprised of” at least needs to be changed to either “comprises” or “is composed of.”

**p. 2, first paragraph**

~~“Terms from the following list should be~~ *are* given in the language and script chosen by the cataloguing agency...”

**p. 2, Dataset**

~~“Includes~~ *Examples include* numeric data, environmental data, etc. ...”

~~“Excludes~~ *Excluded are* digitally recorded music [*see music*], ~~or~~ language [*see spoken word*], ~~or~~ sounds [*see sound*], ~~or~~ computer-reproduced images [*see images*] ~~or~~ *and* text [*see text*].”

**p. 2, Program**

~~“Includes~~ *Examples include* operating systems, applications software, etc.” (Note: strike “s” in “applications”)

**p. 4, Specification of Type: Notated**

Replace semicolons in definition with commas: “(e.g., music, dance, staging)”

**p. 4, Sensory Specification**

3<sup>rd</sup> line of definition: “other than one ~~which~~ *that* would...”

**p. 5, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, 4<sup>th</sup> sentence**

~~“Alternatively, for resources comprised of~~ *comprising* mixed media...”

**Examples**

**p. 1, Example of website**

Content Form: ~~dataset~~ *text*

**p. 2, Example of a resource ~~comprised of~~ *comprising* multiple forms of content and types of media** (Note: strike comma after “content”)