

To: ALA/ALCTS/CCS Committee of Cataloging: Description and Access
From: Bibliographic Control Committee, Music Library Association
Subject: Change to rule 5.5B1, Extent of item for notated music

Background:

Within the Anglo-American cataloguing rule tradition, the rules have always made a distinction in the physical/technical description area between scores and notated music not in score format. In *AACR2*, the terminology for the latter is “v./p./leaves of music.” *ISBD(PM)* and *AACR* simply call for the use of “v./p./leaves” when describing works for a single instrument or voice. While *AACR2* adheres to a literal definition of “score” (i.e., notated music for more than one instrument or part with vertical alignment), most musicians refer to all notated music as “scores.” OCLC and RLIN offer “scores” workforms and search qualifiers that apply to all notated music. Several dictionaries also support “score” as a more generalized term. For example, *Merriam-Webster Online* gives the following as its first definition of musical scores, “The copy of a musical composition in written or printed notation.” *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* has the following under the subheading “music”: “The notation of a musical work.” Although the *New Harvard Dictionary of Music* clearly prefers “score” for use with ensembles, the opening sentence of the definition does not restrict the broader use: “The notation of a work, especially one for ensemble, presented in such a way that simultaneous moments in all voices or parts are aligned vertically.” *Grove Music Online* also gives the narrower definition of score first; however, the second definition reads, “a page, volume, fascicle or other artefact containing a complete copy of a musical work.”

Rationale:

Eliminating the use of “v./p./leaves of music” in favor of exclusively using “score” for all notated music is in keeping with the spirit of recent changes to *AACR2* – the broader definition of score is a term in common use for our catalogue users. In addition, consistently referring to all notated music as “scores” would simplify the cataloguing rules as we move to *RDA*.

Assessment of impact:

Given all of the changes expected with the publication and implementation of *RDA*, the impact of this change will be minimal, principally affecting music cataloguers and users interested in notated music. Information about instrumentation will still appear elsewhere in the cataloguing record, and cataloguers may continue to create notes describing unusual musical notation. If the change were implemented as part of the first edition of *RDA*, the disruption would be minimal. No retrospective conversion of legacy data is

expected or necessary. To keep ISBD(PM) aligned with this proposed new practice, section 5.1.2.2 would need to be removed from that document.

Proposed revisions:

5.5B Extent of item (including specific material designation)

5.5B1. Record the number of physical units of an item by giving the number of scores or parts in arabic numerals and one of the following terms as appropriate:

score
condensed score
close score
miniature score¹
piano [violin, etc.] conductor part
vocal score
piano score
chorus score
part

1 score

1 vocal score

4 parts

For special types of music, use an appropriate specific term (e.g., *choir book*, *table book*).

1 choir book

~~If none of the terms above is appropriate, use *v. of music*, *p. of music*, or *leaves of music*. If a general material designation (see 1.1C1) is used, *optionally omit of music*.~~

~~xx p., 55 p. of music~~

If the item is a manuscript, precede the term by *ms.*

1 ms. score

Glossary

Score. The expression of musical work in graphical, symbolic, or word-based notation. Do not confuse with Part (Music). ~~A series of staves on which all the different instrumental and/or vocal parts of a musical work are written, one under the other in vertical alignment, so that the parts may be read simultaneously.~~ *See also* Chorus score, Close score, Condensed score, Miniature score, Part (Music), Piano [violin, etc.] conductor part, Piano score, Short score, Vocal score.

1. Use for scores reduced in size and not intended primarily for performance.

Proposed revisions [clean copy]:**5.5B Extent of item (including specific material designation)**

5.5B1. Record the number of physical units of an item by giving the number of scores or parts in arabic numerals and one of the following terms as appropriate:

score
condensed score
close score
miniature score¹
piano [violin, etc.] conductor part
vocal score
piano score
chorus score
part

1 score

1 vocal score

4 parts

For special types of music, use an appropriate specific term (e.g., *choir book*, *table book*).

1 choir book

If the item is a manuscript, precede the term by *ms.*

1 ms. score

Glossary

Score. The expression of musical work in graphical, symbolic, or word-based notation. Do not confuse with Part (Music). *See also* Chorus score, Close score, Condensed score, Miniature score, Part (Music), Piano [violin, etc.] conductor part, Piano score, Short score, Vocal score.

1. Use for scores reduced in size and not intended primarily for performance.