

To: American Library Association,
ALCTS/CCS Committee of Cataloging:
Description and Access

From: Brian McCafferty, Chair
ALCTS Media Resources Committee
Standards Subcommittee

Subject: Changes to 7.0B. Sources of Information and Additional
Glossary entries for Titles (Motion pictures and videorecordings),
Main titles, End titles, Intertitles

Statement of Responsibility

The following proposal is presented by the ALCTS Media Resources Committee with the endorsement of the Online Audiovisual Catalogers, Inc. (OLAC) and the Association of Moving Image Archivists Cataloging and Documentation Committee. Contributors include Jane D. Johnson, UCLA Film and Television Archive, Meredith Horan, National Library of Medicine, and Marlyn Hackett, Cook Memorial Public Library. Glossary definitions adapted from: Konigsberg, Ira. *Complete film dictionary*, 2nd ed. 1997.

Background

AACR2Rule 7.0B1 as currently written does not prescribe a single chief source of information for motion pictures and videorecordings. Rather, it gives the cataloger two choices, in order of preference, not precedence. The cataloger may choose "the item itself" or "its container (and container label) if the container is an integral part of the piece."

This ambiguity in effect sanctions use of the integral container over the title frames as chief source, even when title frames are present and even though title frames are generally more authoritative and complete. In practice it often results in a transcription from the integral container, which can differ substantially from a transcription based on title frames.

For example, a subtitled foreign film would present a parallel title on the title frames, but probably not on the container. Similarly, major production credits found on the "screen" are frequently abridged or absent on the container. This presents a problem for catalogers using shared bibliographic records as there is no indication on the record of what was actually used as the chief source of information, making it impossible to determine whether or not the item in hand is the same or a new edition or version.

Further, the rule states that if the information is not available from the chief source, the cataloger should take it from other sources, such as a non-integral container. A liberal interpretation of "not available" easily leads to a

transcription based on a non-integral container, such as the video case of a feature film commercially released on video and held by many institutions.

An additional problem is caused by the fact that in 7.0B1, "item itself" is qualified with "(e.g., the title frames)," which suggests that the title frames are just one example of several, and that the cataloger can transcribe from the item itself without actually transcribing from the title frames, that is, from a video's slate, a film's leader, etc.

Differences in interpretation of, and adherence to, the existing 7.0B1 instructions result in a number of problems in shared databases. When different catalogers use different sources of information on records destined for bibliographic utilities, the result is duplicate bibliographic records for identical items, records that often vary widely in content because of the choice of chief source. Determining the appropriate record for copy cataloging from this array of duplicates can be difficult and time-consuming. Prescription of a single authoritative chief source of information for moving image materials—the title frames—would allow greater accuracy and consistency for shared cataloging, fewer duplicate records in bibliographic utilities and other shared databases, more expeditious copy cataloging, and improved authority work. Catalogers of archival moving images, i.e., the original film elements, would routinely be using the same chief source of information as those cataloging the commercial video releases, which would increase shared cataloging in the archival moving image cataloging community.

The fact remains that many institutions lack the resources to view every title to be cataloged. It would be a disservice to users to bracket information taken from another source of information when in all likelihood, that information does appear in some manner on the chief source, the title frames. Therefore, it would be better in these cases to dispense with the brackets and simply make a note indicating that the title frames had not been viewed. Such a note would also allow the record with the more authoritative information to be readily identified and used as basis of subsequent copy cataloging and authority work.

Rule 7.0B1 should unambiguously instruct catalogers to use the title frames as the chief source of information and require a source of transcription note when the item in hand has not been viewed. Among those who routinely view motion pictures and videorecordings for cataloging, some view only main titles, some view only end titles, and some view both; some view the entire piece in real time, whereas others fast-forward through the body of the work to identify and describe commercials or announcements contained within. Therefore this proposal also recommends an addition to the rule which clarifies what exactly constitutes "viewing the item."

Rule Revision Proposals

CURRENT RULE:

7.0B. Sources of information

7.0B1. Chief source of information. The chief source of information for motion pictures and videorecordings is (in this order of preference):

- a) the item itself (e.g., the title frames)
- b) its container (and container label) if the container is an integral part of the piece (e.g., a cassette).

If the information is not available from the chief source, take it from the following sources (in this order of preference):

accompanying textual material (e.g., scripts, shot lists publicity material)
container (if not an integral part of the piece)
other sources

PROPOSED REVISION:

7.0B. Sources of information

7.0B1. Chief source of information. The chief source of information for motion pictures and videorecordings is ~~(in this order of preference):~~ the title frames of the item itself (including main titles and end titles).

- ~~a) the item itself (e.g., the title frames)~~
- ~~b) its container (and container label) if the container is an integral part of the piece (e.g., a cassette).~~

Consider the following parts of the item itself to be outside the chief source:

leader
video slate
voice-over
intertitles
closed captions
other captions (e.g., running subtitles used to identify the scene or speaker)

If the information is not available from the chief source, take it from the following sources (in this order of preference):

information on the item itself, other than title frames (e.g., leader, video slate, voice-over, intertitles, captions)
the container (and container label) if the container is an integral part of the piece (e.g., cassette)
accompanying textual material (e.g., scripts, shot lists, publicity material)
container (if not an integral part of the piece)
other sources

CURRENT RULE:

7.0B2. Prescribed sources of information. The prescribed source(s) of information for each area of the description of motion pictures and videorecordings is set out below. Enclose information taken from outside the prescribed source(s) in square brackets.

PROPOSED REVISION:

7.0B2. Prescribed sources of information. The prescribed source(s) of information for each area of the description of motion pictures and videorecordings is set out below. ~~Enclose information taken from outside the prescribed source(s) in square brackets.~~ When out of necessity an item must be described without the benefit of viewing, do not use brackets, but indicate in a note that the item described has not been viewed. Consider an item viewed if the main and/or end sequences have been viewed.

CURRENT RULE:

7.7B3. Source of title proper. Make notes on the source of the title proper if it is other than the chief source of information.

Title from script.

PROPOSED REVISION:

7.7B3. Source of title proper and transcription. Make notes on the source of the title proper and indicating the item was not viewed if ~~it~~ the description is based on sources other than the chief source of information.

Title from script.

Not viewed; description based on videocassette slipcase.

GLOSSARY

ADDITIONS:

Titles (Motion pictures and videorecordings). Words, phrases, and characters that appear on the screen not as a part of a scene but as a means of conveying information to the audience about the production. *See also* End titles, Intertitles, Main titles.

End titles. All words, phrases, and characters appearing at the conclusion of a motion picture or videorecording, generally consisting of credits and often the phrase “The end.”

Intertitles. Words, phrases, and characters intercut into the moving image sequences of motion pictures and videorecordings, used in silent and early sound films to give dialogue, comment on action, and set time and location. Also called insert titles.

Main titles. All words, phrases, and characters appearing at or near the start of a motion picture or videorecording that name the item or the work contained in it as well as production and cast credits.

RATIONALE:

In the terminology of moving image production “title” is a word that is nearly always qualified, e.g. working title, subtitle, etc. The terms listed above are incorporated in this proposed change to Rule 7.0B1 and should be defined in the glossary to minimize ambiguity.