

TO: Kristin Lindlan, CC:DA Chair  
FROM: Adam L. Schiff  
SUBJECT: Additional example in 3.5B3

## Background

For recording the extent of an atlas, cartographic materials rule 3.5B3 refers catalogers to rule 2.5B for books, pamphlets, and printed sheets. I have discovered some confusion on the part of catalogers in the application of two of the rules in 2.5B to the description of atlases.

For books whose pages or leaves are unnumbered, rule 2.5B7 instructs catalogers either to count the total number or to estimate the total:

**2.5B7.** If the pages or leaves of a volume are unnumbered and the number of pages or leaves is readily ascertainable, give the number in square brackets. If the number is not readily ascertainable, estimate the number of pages or leaves and give that estimated number without square brackets and preceded by *ca.*.

[93] p.

[55] leaves

ca. 600 p.

ca. 300 leaves

Except for rare books, LCRI 2.5B7 instructs catalogers not to follow the rule. For non-rare books with unnumbered pages or leaves LC catalogers record the extent statement as 1 v. (unpaged).

For books with complicated or irregular paging, rule 2.5B8 instructs catalogers to give the pagination in one of three ways:

**2.5B8.** If the volume has complicated or irregular paging, give the pagination using one of the following methods:

- a) Give the total number of pages or leaves (excluding those which are blank or contain advertising or other inessential matter) followed by in various pagings or in various foliations.

1000 p. in various pagings

256 leaves in various foliations

- b) Give the number of pages or leaves in the main sequences of the pagination and add the total number, in square brackets, of the remaining variously paged sequences.

226, [44] p.

366, 98, [99] p.

- c) Give 1 v. (various pagings), 1 case, or 1 portfolio, as appropriate.

The Library of Congress applies method c) only (cf. LCRI 2.5B8).

There appears to be confusion on the part of many catalogers as to how to record the extent for atlases that have various paging sequences or that are unpagged. Having had to catalog a number of unpagged and variously paged atlases recently, I discovered that neither Library of Congress catalogers nor catalogers from other libraries contributing records to OCLC consistently recorded the extent of these items in the same way. Even within records created solely by the Library of Congress, differing forms for the same extent statement have been used:

1 atlas (various pagings)  
1 atlas (1 v. (various pagings))

1 atlas (unpagged)  
1 atlas (1 v. (unpagged))

The *Library of Congress Rule Interpretations*, the *Map Cataloging Manual* (Cataloging Distribution Service, Library of Congress, 1991), and *Cartographic Materials: A Manual of Interpretation for AACR2* (American Library Association, 1982) provide no further guidance on which of the two types of parenthetical additions is correct.

An e-mail from me to the Geography & Map Division of the Library of Congress asking its opinion on this matter resulted in a response from Seanna Tsung on 6 September 2002 indicating that the correct application of the rules and rule interpretations for 3.5B3 and 2.5B7-B8 would result in the extent statements “1 atlas (1 v. (various pagings))” and “1 atlas (1 v. (unpagged)).” Ms. Tsung indicated that the *Map Cataloging Manual* currently applies only to maps, and that it was not yet known if any future revision of that publication would provide specific instructions to clarify the rules for atlases. She did not indicate if LC would consider issuing an LCRI to clarify these rules for its catalogers.

In the interest of clarification for catalogers everywhere, I propose an additional example to 3.5B3, which should make the application of the rule more uniform across shared catalogs and utilities.

### **Proposed Revision to Current Rule**

**3.5B3.** Add, to the statement of extent for an atlas, the pagination or number of volumes as instructed in 2.5B.

1 atlas (3 v.)

1 atlas (xvii, 37 p., 74 leaves of plates)

1 atlas (1 v. (various pagings))

### **Clean Copy of Revised Rule**

**3.5B3.** Add, to the statement of extent for an atlas, the pagination or number of volumes as instructed in 2.5B.

1 atlas (3 v.)

1 atlas (xvii, 37 p., 74 leaves of plates)

1 atlas (1 v. (various pagings))