

Association for Library Collections and Technical Services  
(A division of the American Library Association)  
Cataloging and Classification Section

**COMMITTEE ON CATALOGING: DESCRIPTION AND ACCESS**

**Task Force on Specific Characteristics of Electronic Resources**

**Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA**  
**June 15, 2002, 8:00 a.m. HILTON Monroe Room**

**REPORT OF MEETING**

By Laurel Jizba, Task Force Chair

Twenty-two people participated in our informal Task force discussion on Saturday morning, June 15, 2002, including representatives from the music, video, cartographic materials, small public, large public, academic and governmental library communities.

We started discussion with preliminary proposals that came from within an MLA subcommittee. The preliminary proposals attempt to merge expression and manifestation concepts in area 5 (the MARC 300 field), and they have come about through the combining of the existing SMD and conventional terminology. These preliminary proposals were developed because there is now strong pressure to add conventional terms for resources that fall into chapters 6 and 7 (in area 5)—based on the changes suggested for area 5 in chapter 9—that promote conventional terminology. Examples we discussed for music include:

- 1 sound file (MP 3)
- 1 sound disc (CD)
- 1 sound cartridge (DAT tape)

By extension, for videos one could have:

- 1 video file

or for graphic materials:

- 1 image file (black and white)

(Note: At the CC:DA meeting on Monday, “1 digital image” was deemed preferable to 1 image file, illustrating that consensus building continues.)

We discussed extending the more detailed manifestation (or, carrier) descriptions into “other physical details” section of area 5 (the MARC subfield “b”), with respect to the number of files (which is a carry over from area 3).

We noted that at least between chapters 6 and 7 there is a lack of consistency between the .B10 rules. For examples:

Chapter 6 has:

“Make notes on important physical details that are not included in the physical description area, especially if these affect the use of the item.” ...

In contrast, chapter 7 has different wording that lacks the phrase: “included in the physical description area”, along with other wording changes:

“Make the following notes on the physical description when appropriate and if this level of detail is desired:” ...

We noted that different libraries and different cataloging communities would need explicit instruction for use of area 5 (physical description area), if applicable, and for area 7 (notes), when area 5 is not applicable.

These communities and/or LC may choose to develop the necessary details as to either lists of terms for area 5, or for when to apply notes—if AACR is to remain a more “conceptual” than an “instructional” tool regarding these issues.

Instruction is necessary at this point in time because this is the first time many catalogers will have had to catalog multiple formats and multiple content resources. Instruction is also necessary for generalist library catalogers as well as for small library catalogers. To this end we talked about the need for more *cross-referencing* in areas 5 and 7 among chapters 2 through 11, as well as for *consistency* among these chapters. Another factor in the suggestion for more referencing between chapters is that most non-book chapter catalogers are not used to consulting chapters other than their own.

Cartographic community representatives were optimistic about getting the British community to better understand their cartographic colleagues viewpoints, regarding option 2a, which enables use of area 5.

The group present on Saturday was optimistic that with input from the non-book communities involved, such as the music, video, etc. communities, we will be able to work with both areas 5 and 7 to resolve the issues stemming from the elimination of area 3.