

## Punctuation— *Everyone's Favorite Topic*

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## Does Your OPAC Have Punctuation Issues?



*Main Author:* Rowling, J. K.

*Title:* Harry Potter and the sorcerer's stone /

*Edition:* 1st American ed.

*Place:* New York :

*Publisher:* A.A. Levine Books,

*Date:* 1998.

*Paging:* vi, 309 p. :

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## Intended Use of ISBD Punctuation



Rowling, J. K.

[Harry Potter and the philosopher's stone]

Harry Potter and the sorcerer's stone / by J.K. Rowling ;  
illustrations by Mary GrandPré. -- 1st American ed. -- New  
York : A.A. Levine Books, 1998.

vi, 309 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

## Redundancy?



Why do I have to put a slash before 245  
\$c in each and every record when a  
slash would precede the statement of  
responsibility in every ISBD record?

## No Wonder Administrators Think We Worry Too Much About Punctuation



- We discuss punctuation on email lists
- We document punctuation practices
- We tinker with punctuation in records
- We make trainees suffer through instruction and reviews on punctuation
- We still often get it wrong

## OCLC Quality Control Staff



- QC staff run macros which along with more important changes will add punctuation, delete punctuation, and change punctuation
- Thousands of records get changed daily many solely due to punctuation
- Punctuation is often an obstacle in automated quality control activities, e.g., authority control

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century



- Automated systems build different displays at different times for different purposes
- Punctuation should really be a function of those different displays
- RDA does not require ISBD punctuation but rather includes it as an option
- LC is planning to continue use of ISBD punctuation in the potential transition to use of RDA

## Proposed Change In Practice



- Omit all ISBD punctuation connecting elements in most areas of the description, e.g., space-slash-space, space-colon-space, space-semicolon-space, etc.
- Omit all non-ISBD punctuation connecting elements in most areas of the description, e.g., commas, colons, semicolons
- Omit terminal periods at the end of elements except when needed for abbreviations, etc.
- Rare book catalogers would still have the options to transcribe punctuation from the item as they currently do

## Planning Is Necessary



- Changes needed to the MARC format
- Agreement from LC, OCLC, etc., concerning a coordinated change
- System providers need to plan for changes
- Timeline needed for implementation

## Before



100 1 Milne, A. A. \$q (Alan Alexander), \$d 1882-1956.  
240 10 House at Pooh Corner. \$l German  
245 10 Pu baut ein Haus / \$c A.A. Milne ; ins Deutsch  
ubertragen und mit einem Nachwort versehen von Harry  
Rowohlt ; Illustrationen von Ernest H. Shepard.  
260 Hamburg : \$b Cecillie Dressler Verlag, \$c c1999.  
300 173 p. : \$b ill. ; \$c 20 cm.  
500 Translation of: The house at Pooh Corner.

## After



100 1 Milne, A. A. \$q Alan Alexander \$d 1882-1956  
240 10 House at Pooh Corner \$l German  
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