APPENDIX M

CATALOGING RULES/RULE INTERPRETATIONS/PRACTICES
RECOMMENDATIONS

One of the Working Group’s goals has been to offer recommendations for AACR2/RDA rule changes or rule interpretations based on the results of our work. Several Working Group members have been following or participating in RDA discussions and reviews and are therefore aware that many of the changes in cataloging practice designed for the access level record (e.g., the option to make an added entry for a responsible person or body in lieu of a transcribed statement of responsibility) are in line with likely RDA rules. Some of the recommendations listed below (e.g., recommendation 8. Abbreviated titles, or the provision in recommendation 7. Numbering area, to always add certain notes) may not require any changes in rules or rule interpretations. However, for those recommendations that do require changes, we suggest that wherever possible, the provisions in those recommendations be handled by LC/PCC as early RDA implementations.

1. Main entry heading in cases where the cataloger is in doubt between entry under corporate body or entry under title

A rule change or R.I. is recommended to change the “in case of doubt” clause in AACR2 21.1B2. The rule now reads:

“General Rule. Enter a work emanating from one or more corporate bodies under the heading for the appropriate corporate body (see 21.4B, 21.5B) if it falls into one or more of the following categories: … In case of doubt about whether a work falls into one or more of these categories, treat it as if it does not.”

The access level record guidelines instruct the cataloger as follows:

“After applying existing rules and rule interpretations, in any case where the cataloger is still in doubt as to whether the main entry should be under title or corporate body: if the title is distinctive, designate the title proper as main entry and record relevant corporate body access point(s) as added entry heading(s); if the title is generic, i.e., if the title consists solely of words indicating type of resource and/or periodicity of resource, choose the corporate body as the main entry.”

2. Uniform titles

a. Translations and language editions.
A rule change or R.I. is recommended for:

1) AACR2 21.14: “Enter a translation under the heading appropriate to the original.”
2) AACR2 25.3C1: “If a work is published simultaneously in the same language under different titles, use the title of the edition published in the home country of the cataloguing agency.”

We recommended an (optional?) provision to allow use of an added entry instead of main entry heading for uniform titles for translations and language editions (although it doesn’t actually appear that AACR2 instructs the cataloger how to enter language editions). The added entry may be a title entry or a title in conjunction with personal or corporate name entry. However, since AACR2 25.1 reads: “although the rules in this chapter are stated as instructions, apply them according to the policy of the cataloguing agency,” might it be possible to simply change PCC/CONSER policy in this regard?

b. Uniform titles to distinguish identical titles

An R.I. change is recommended for the first paragraph of R.I. AACR 25.5B, that now reads:

“Serials (Including Numbered and Unnumbered Monographic Series) Entered Under Title.

1) General. When creating a bibliographic record for a serial, a series authority record for a serial/series, or a name authority record for a serial, construct a uniform title made up of the title proper plus a parenthetical qualifier to distinguish the serial/series from another with the same title proper in a bibliographic record, in the heading of any series authority record (for series, multipart item, phrase, or serial), or in the heading of any name authority record. Also construct a uniform title when a serial becomes an integrating resource (or vice versa) but doesn't change its title proper.

The recommended change is to indicate that a uniform title is optional except: 1) when the title is a monographic series; 2) when title consists solely of a word or words indicating the type of resource or the periodicity of the resource, e.g., “monthly newsletter,” “journal,” “biennial working papers,” and there is no corporate/conference main entry on the record.

3. Parallel titles

A rule change or R.I. is recommended for AACR2 1.1D2 that now reads:

“In preparing a second-level description (see 1.0D2), give the first parallel title. Give any subsequent parallel title that is in English.” [AACR2 12.1D1 reads: “Transcribe parallel titles as instructed in 1.1D”]
It is recommended that the rule or R.I. provide the option to not record parallel titles in the description; rather, added entry(ies) would still be provided per AACR2 21.30J2. A rule change or R.I. would also be needed for AACR2 12.1D2 to cover common titles/section titles with parallel titles.

4. Other title information

A rule change or R.I. is recommended for AACR2 12.1E1.a): that now reads:

“Always transcribe or supply other title information if it falls within one of the categories below.
   a) If an acronym or initialism of the title appears in the chief source of information with the full form of the title, transcribe the acronym or initialism as other title information.”

It is recommended that there be an option to omit transcribing the acronym or initialism as part of the description; an added entry would still be provided per AACR2 21.30J2. A rule change or R.I. would also be needed for AACR2 12.1E2: Change in other title information.

5. Statement of responsibility

A rule change or R.I. is recommended for AACR 1.1F that now reads:

“Transcribe statements of responsibility appearing prominently in the item in the form in which they appear there. If a statement of responsibility is taken from a source other than the chief source of information, enclose it in square brackets.”

The recommended change is to provide an option to omit transcribing the statement of responsibility if authority records exist or are being established and/or updated.

Note: there are several rules in chapter 12 that would be affected by this option: 12.1E1.b) (statements of responsibility embedded in other title information); 12.1F2; 12.1F4 (with common and section titles); 12.1F5 (changes in s. of r.); 12.2C1 (edition s. of r.); 12.2E1 (relating to named revision of an edition); 12.7B7.2 (changes given in notes).

6. Place of publication

A rule change or R.I. is recommended for 1.4C5 that now reads:

“If two or more places in which a publisher, distributor, etc., has offices are named in the item, give the first named place. Give any subsequently named place that is given prominence by the layout or typography of the source of information.
If the first named place and any place given prominence are not in the home
country of the cataloguing agency, give also the first of any subsequently named
places that is in the home country. Omit all other places.”

The recommended change is to provide an option in 1.4C5 (or 12.4C5) to allow for not
giving secondary places after the first named place for commercial serials published by
multinational corporations with several publishing locations.

7. Numbering area

A rule change or R.I. is recommended for AACR2 12.3 to eliminate the use of area 4 for
serials and require the use of notes to record numbering and date information in area 7
only. AACR2 1.3A states that this area (4) is used for continuing resources (chapter 12),
so this would also need a slight change.

Although area 4 is an ISDB area, it has become increasingly clear that catalog users are
confused about formatted numbering statements; they often misinterpret numbering
information to be holdings information. Also, the provisions of AACR2 12.3 make the
numbering area time-consuming for catalogers to create because they spend a lot of time
checking rule specifics to determine how to record any numbering not presented in a
standard format.

A rule change or R.I. might also be needed for the first sentence of AACR2 12.7B23: “If
the description is not based on the first issue or part or on the first
iteration, make a note.”

The recommended option is to require a note giving the basis of description in all cases,
even when the basis is the first issue or part of the item described. This change would
result in simpler training for catalogers and more consistent and predictable information
in catalog records. AACR2 is written assuming the use of a formatted area four and
unformatted notes.

8. Abbreviated titles

It is recommended that RDA include instructions to provide access to abbreviated titles
(both key titles and other abbreviated titles) when the information is assigned by the
cataloging agency or readily available. This change is not required to support the access
level record since CONSER records have included abbreviated key titles for over 30
years. NLM has been supplying medical title abbreviations in recent years. Some
CONSER catalogers also routinely add abbreviated key titles from the ISSN Register
because reference librarians in their institutions consider them useful for finding and
identifying titles. However, AACR2 does not explicitly provide for these inclusions.