

CONSER comments on:
5/JSC/RDA/Part A/Chapter 3/Rev
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Cover letter, specific Elements, page 9

Media type, Carrier type, and Content type - CONSER strongly agrees that in 3.3 use of the term "volume" instead of "book" is preferable, especially if one can omit extent with "volumes" altogether. Since the use of the terms "book" and "serial" have signified different types of publications for a very long time, the use of "book" would be confusing in relation to serials in 3.3.

CHAPTER 3

3.1.3

continues the AACR2 chapter 11 practice of describing the reproduction rather than the original. We assume that the split in practice between the US and the rest of the Anglo-American community will continue under RDA - and that the US community will apply the letter of RDA so long as we can create displays that will manipulate its elements so that they describe the original. It would be helpful to have a cross-reference to the alternative practice in 6.4.1.2.1c.2 (i.e., 7.4.1.2.1c.2).

3.1.3.1

A reference to 3.4.4.0.3 would be helpful.

3.1.6.2a.1 Last sentence, "Make a note if the change is considered important for identification or selection (see 3.21.0.3a)." Reference should be to 3.21.0.3.1a.1.

3.2.0.1

One CONSER cataloger observed: "According to 3.2.0.1, "Media type reflects the general type of intermediation device required to view, play, run, etc., the content of a resource. Does this serve a useful purpose any longer? Ideally, organizing resources by the terms in table 1 should serve some tangible purpose, but the purpose is not clear from this rule. In some instances, the scope is too broad to usefully identify an appropriate intermediation device (e.g., "audio" which could require any of dozens of mutually exclusive intermediation devices); in others, they are too narrow and implicitly exclude appropriate intermediation devices (e.g., "audio" CDs and "video" DVDs can be played on many computers [and uploaded via computer to an MP3 player]). Designating media type may be an artifact of a time when choices were few and

well-defined." CONSER agrees with the need for media type to be questioned.

3.3.0.2

In the list of carrier types in 3.3.0.2, neither CD-ROM nor DVD are given. Would they both be called computer disc? An option to use commonly used terms as in AACR2 would be helpful.

3.3.0.2.2

It might be helpful to put the list of types of carrier in a table as is done with the types of media in 3.2.0.2.2. and label it Table 2. Audio carriers, etc. could be in the column on the left and then audio cartridge, audio cylinder, audio disc, etc., in the column on the right.

3.4

CONSER questions whether extent should be a "required" element, since "required" in this case is qualified by footnote 7 (from 3.4) and 3.4.0.10. Many metadata producers will include this information even if it is not required, but is it necessary to exclude descriptions from producers that do not include it? While library staff may use this element when comparing material in hand with a record, it seems unlikely to be a key or favorite element of non-librarian customers seeking to find, identify, select, or obtain a resource.

It would be helpful to have a reference added to footnote 7 (in 3.4): "For a resource not yet complete, see 3.4.0.10."

3.4.0.10.3 Optional addition.

It would be helpful to have a reference to 3.4.4.15.1a.1, "For serials, record the extent by giving the number of bibliographic volumes"

3.4.4.0.4

This rule seems to contradict what it just said in 3.4.4.0.3, "Apply the instructions given under 3.4.4.1-3.4.4.19, if desired, as an alternative means of specifying the number of subunits in a resource of any carrier type in which text is presented in a format that parallels that of a printed or manuscript volume(s) ... (e.g., a microform reproduction of an atlas, a digital text in PDF)."

Is this rule saying that for a microform record the extent as x microfilm reels (3.4.0.3.1), but as an alternative, you could give the extent as x volumes if it's a microfilm reproduction of a text serial (3.4.4.0.3)? If that is

correct, it might be clearer to have the rule in 3.4.4.0.4 precede the alternative in 3.4.4.0.3. Or is it saying that you could record the extent of a microfilm reproduction as 3 reels (6 volumes)? Clarification would be helpful.

References to 3.4.0.7 and from 3.4.0.7 to 3.4.4.04 would be helpful

3.4.4.15.1b.1

Will this rule be included as a serials-related rule in a customized version for serials catalogers? If not, there needs to be a reference to it from 3.4.4.15.1a.1.

3.5.0.8.1a.2 - Reference should be to 3.5.3.4.1a.1.

3.5.0.8.1b.1 - Reference should be to 3.5.3.4.1b.1.

3.21.0.3.1a.1

Does this rule mean that a change from CDROM to DVD would not require a new record? How about CDROM to online? How about print to CDROM? How about print to online? In other words, is a change from carrier type such as volume to carrier type such as online resource intended to be included in this guideline? Or was it intended only for changes in carrier type within the same media type (e.g., a change from CDROM to DVD, which would both be media type 'computer')? Just noting the change may not be satisfactory; a new description may be necessary. CONSER strongly recommends that these types of major changes to be covered in RDA.

4.2.0.2.2 - The table in this section is called Table 1, so the assumption is that the numbering of tables starts over with each chapter. It might make more sense to give each table a unique number in case someone wants to go directly to a table in the online version of RDA.