

Charge for PCC Task Group on Supplements and Special Numbers to
Serials
August 8, 2016

Background:

The existing section of PS 2.12 titled “Supplements and Special Numbers to Serials” has one instruction: *Supplements. Treat a supplement or a special number to a serial as a series.* The statement is followed by several examples.

Several members of the PCC SCS have noted that:

The supplements section of PS 2.12 conflicts with other current PCC documentation. Other policy statements prescribe either series treatment or other methods to describe supplements and special numbers, depending upon the nature of the material and how it is to be used. The policy statements recognize the variety evident in these materials, and provide appropriate options for cataloging.

Similarly, the supplements section of PS 2.12 restricts our options in MARC. Some types of supplements and special numbers are more effectively described using fields other than 490.

The Section makes generic phrases into Work titles by encouraging catalogers to give those phrases series treatment. Other policy statements help us distinguish between descriptive phrases, statements of relationship, and titles of works. By simplifying practice to a single option, PS 2.12 encourages misinterpretation and incorrect coding, as some of the examples demonstrate.

The Section is not aligned with the corresponding relationship designators in RDA. Appendix J identifies the Series relationship as a subclass of the Part/whole relationship, and the Supplement relationship as a subclass of the Accompanying relationship. The instruction in the Section runs counter to this distinction.

This issue was discussed at the PCC/SCS meeting at ALA Annual in Orlando, 2016, where a document was presented. It was decided that a PCC Task Force should be convened to provide guidance on the various ways one can deal with supplements/special issues that are issued with serials.

Recommendation:

A Task Group should be formed, with both serials and monographs catalogers represented, to advise the PCC community on how best to handle supplements and special issues that are issued with serials. The participants should be colleagues who have substantial experience cataloging supplements/special numbers related to serials.

Charge of the Task Group on Supplements/Special Issues:

Reporting to the PCC/SCS, the PCC Task Group on Supplements/Special Issues is charged to:

1. Explore and define the problems with PS 2.12, section on supplements/special issues, and with the examples in that section of the PS. Preliminary work has already been submitted to the PCC/SCS; that document will be made available to the Task Group.
2. Write a revision of PS 2.12 which allows for more flexibility in the treatment of these materials.
3. Identify the broad categories of supplements and special issues to serials.
4. Revise/update the CONSER Cataloging Manual, BIBCO Participants' Manual, NACO training documentation, etc. as appropriate, and develop new documentation/training materials if needed.
 - a. This documentation should provide guidance for catalogers, by having clear examples of a variety of supplements. The document(s) should address the theoretical issues, as well as provide clear MARC coding to help catalogers handle these issues efficiently.
5. Make recommendations for new RDs, if necessary, to best describe the relationships between supplements and the main work.
6. The Task Group should share preliminary documents with the PCC/SCS by ALA Midwinter 2017.

Membership

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