

Memorandum

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

5JSC/Chair/13/LC response

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA DATE: November 6, 2008

FROM: Barbara B. Tillett, LC Representative

SUBJECT: Consideration of proposals from the ISBD Review Group

The Library of Congress considered topics one and two in the listing of AACR2/ISBD/ISSN harmonization issues discussed by the ISBD Review Group at its August 2008 meeting raised during the world-wide review of the ISBD consolidated edition; LC's response is inserted after each topic.

1. Removal of the following exception at ISBD 1.1.4.1.1 (AACR2 12.1B2): If the title of a serial or integrating resource appears on the source of information for the title proper in full as well as in the form of an acronym or initialism, choose the full form as the title proper.

LC does not recommend removing this exception. It is possible that users of ISBD would choose the full form as a result of applying the instruction at 1.1.4.1.1 to prefer the most comprehensive title if multiple forms of the title are present; the same result would likely happen for RDA users applying a similar instruction. However, it is not clear that the impact of removing the exception on the evaluation of major/minor title change situations has been considered. Also, the ISSN Network recently indicated it is not in favor of removing the exception.

2. Address problem encountered for Chinese, Japanese, Korean titles when applying the rules for when to create a new description for serials based on changes in the title. Specifically, any change in the first five words (the first six words if the first word is an article) of a serial title is considered a major change (AACR2 21.2C2). This is difficult to apply to Chinese, Japanese and Korean titles given the difficulty of counting words in these languages and scripts.

LC notes that catalogers of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean-language serials at the Library of Congress and in the Program for Cooperative Cataloging institutions have been applying the AACR2 condition of "any change in the first five words" without expressing concerns. LC does not think an additional stipulation is needed.