

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Barbara Tillett, LC Representative
Subject: Date of expression – Revision of RDA 6.10.1.1 and 6.10.1.3

LC thanks the EURIG community for raising the issue of Date of expression in RDA. We do not agree with the technique proposed (addition of the qualifying terms to the Date of expression element) because it seems to be a mix of expression and manifestation attributes, and may present challenges in a linked data environment by adding text terms to dates in lieu of discrete element sub-types or sub-elements.

The EURIG proposal showed that the real challenge lies in deciding what evidence might support the selection of a Date of expression, and to that end, the proposal provides some very useful information that could assist catalogers in identifying and choosing a Date of expression. In lieu of the proposal, we suggest that some of these ‘tips’ should be added to the Scope statement for the element to provide some additional clues to the cataloger.

6.10.1.1 Scope

Date of expression▼ is the earliest date associated with an expression. The date of expression may represent the date a text was written, the date of final editing of a moving image work, the date of first broadcast for a television or radio program, the date of notation for a score, the date of the recording of an event, etc. If no specific date can be identified as the date of expression, the date of the earliest manifestation embodying the expression may be used to supply a ~~be treated as the~~ date of expression.

For additional instructions on date of expression of religious works, see [6.24](#).

We also thought that some of the information about the Date of expression brought out in the EURIG proposal might be better suited to a note or explanation provided by the cataloger, and suited to the end user rather than to other catalogers (RDA 5.9). The EURIG proposal thus reveals a possible gap in RDA-- there is not an obvious element in RDA for recording the ‘details on’ the Date of expression element. LC encourages the JSC to consider if a new note should be added to Chapter 5, or whether an instruction should be added as a subtype of RDA 7.29 (Note on expression) such as 7.29.3 “Note on date of expression.” A reference could then be made from the 6.10 instruction to 7.29 to indicate that a note could be made to provide further clarification/identification/source of the date selected.