

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Susanne Oehlschläger, DNB Representative
Subject: Conventional Collective Titles in RDA: a discussion paper

DNB thanks the British Library for this discussion paper. We follow this discussion with interest. In the German-speaking community the subject of conventional collective titles has been discussed controversially. While some colleagues totally agree that Conventional Collective Titles seem to be a hangover from the past when they were certainly useful but no longer needed now, others think there are some cases where they are still needed. In our DACH policy statements we have limited CCTs to only a few cases.

We agree that the title appearing on the resource is the title which users would know and would search for, when they exactly know that a certain compilation exists. But if someone searches for any compilation of the complete works or complete works in a single form of one person, family, or corporate body he or she often does not know the several titles proper. In this case, we consider a conventional collective title as the much better choice.

Our expert group discussed whether it will be possible to collocate the (complete) works of a creator without assigning CCTs. Are there user needs that cannot be satisfied without the assignment of CCTs? Do CCTs help to collocate works that cannot be found by users otherwise?

We discussed that, usually, a complete compilation of works of a creator is not intended as such by the creator him/herself but most often is an artificial formation of the publisher that contains all single works. As users may search for these compilations of complete works anyway, it seems useful to us to regard them as works of their own. In this case, we consider a CCT (being as artificial as the work itself) as useful to fulfill the user needs.