

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

FROM: Dave Reser, LC Representative

SUBJECT: Revision to instructions for Adaptations and Revisions (6.27.1.5)

**ABSTRACT:** Proposal will restructure the instructions for constructing authorized access points for Adaptations and Revisions (6.27.1.5) when the adaptation results in a new work. This is a clarification of what we think the existing instructions intend; it is not a change in practice.

### **Justification**

Catalogers have asked whether the instructions at 6.27.1.5 applied when a creator (or creators) adapted or revised their own work in a manner that substantially changes the nature and content of the work. There have also been questions about the existing Exceptions at 6.27.1.5. To address these questions, we have outlined a revised set of instructions for 6.27.1.5.

### **Issues requiring resolution**

1) It is not clear to catalogers that the instructions cover the situation when creators adapt their own work in a manner that substantially changes the nature and content of that work, thus resulting in a new work.

2) The two existing exceptions at 6.27.1.5 are not worded in a manner to instruct the cataloguer how to treat adaptations and revisions of existing works, as they are incorrectly focussed on the existing work, not the adaptation.

### **Impact of the revisions**

The cataloger will be able to identify the appropriate instructions to apply for all situations where an existing work has been adapted or revised in a manner that substantially changes the nature and content of the work.

### **Background**

RDA 19.2.1.1 specifies that “in some cases, the modification of a previously existing work substantially changes the nature or content of the original and results in a new work. When this occurs, the person, family, or corporate body responsible for modifying the previously existing work is considered to be the creator of the new work.”

RDA 6.27.1.1 indicates that instructions for constructing authorized access points for a “new work based on a previously existing work” will be addressed. The instructions are given at 6.27.1.5, but it is not obvious that all categories of new works are covered there. One case we are often questioned about relates to adaptations and revisions of an existing work by the original creator (such as, an adaptation for children of a work originally written for an adult audience, or play adapted from a short story).

There are also two exceptions at 6.27.1.5 that are somewhat perplexing—they both

refer the cataloger to instructions that would be applicable to the work being adapted, not the adaptation itself. For example, a known creator could create a new work based on a previously existing work of unknown origin; the adaptation should not be treated as a work of unknown origin, but as the work of the new creator. Unfortunately, the current wording of 6.27.1.5, second Exception, says in this situation to apply 6.27.1.8, which is the instruction on works of unknown or uncertain origin. So a cataloger following the Exception as currently written would construct the authorized access point for the graphic novel *Beowulf* (written by Stephen L. Stern and drawn by Christopher Steinger) without using the authorized access point for either creator of the graphic novel.

These are the categories of new works adapted from existing works that should be addressed in 6.27.1.5:

- 1) One person, family, or corporate body adapts an existing work of a different creator. The *existing* work may have been by a single person, family, or corporate body, a compilation of works by different persons, etc., a collaboration by more than one person, etc., or a work of uncertain or unknown origin.
- 2) More than one person, family, or corporate body adapts an existing work of a different creator.
- 3) A person, family, or corporate body adapts their own existing work.
- 4) An uncertain or unknown person, family, or corporate body adapts an existing work of a different creator.

### Proposed Revision

#### 6.27.1.5 Adaptations and Revisions

*If:*

~~one person, family, or corporate body is responsible for an adaptation or revision of a previously~~ an adaptation or revision of an existing work that substantially changes the nature and content of that work

*and*

~~the adaptation or revision is presented as the work of that person, family, or body~~

*then:*

~~construct the authorized access point representing the new work by combining (in this order):~~

~~a) the authorized access point representing the person (see 9.19.1), family (see 10.11.1), or corporate body (see 11.13.1) responsible for the adaptation or revision, as applicable~~

~~b) the preferred title for the adaptation or revision (see 6.2.2).~~  
treat the adaptation or revision as a new work.

Apply these instructions on constructing the authorized access point for the new work, as applicable:

one person, family, or corporate body responsible for adapting the work of another creator (see 6.27.1.5.1)

more than one person, family, or corporate body responsible for adapting the work of another creator (see 6.27.1.5.2)

creators responsible for adapting their own work (see 6.27.1.5.3).

*If:*

the nature and content of a work has been substantially changed

*and*

the person, family or corporate body responsible for the adaptation or revision is unknown or uncertain

*then:*

apply the instructions at 6.27.1.8 to construct the authorized access point for the new work.

### **EXAMPLE**

~~Gray, Patsey. J.R.R. Tolkien's The hobbit~~

~~A dramatization by Gray of Tolkien's novel~~

~~Vande Velde, Vivian. Tales from the Brothers Grimm and the Sisters Weird~~

~~A parody by Vande Velde of some of Grimm's fairy tales~~

~~Sartain, John, 1808-1897. Artist's dream~~

~~An engraving by Sartain based on an original painting by George H. Comegys~~

~~James, W. Martin. Historical dictionary of Angola~~

~~A new edition by James based on Susan H. Broadhead's work with the same title~~

*Exceptions*

~~*Adaptations and revisions of compilations of works by different persons, families, or corporate bodies.*~~ If the work is an adaptation or revision of a compilation of works by different persons, families, or corporate bodies, apply the instructions at [6.27.1.4](#).

**EXAMPLE**

~~North American mammals~~

~~**Resource described:** North American mammals. **A Web adaptation of:** The Smithsonian book of North American mammals / edited by Don E. Wilson and Sue Ruff; **and of:** Mammals of North America / Roland W. Kays and Don E. Wilson~~

~~*Adaptations and revisions of works of uncertain or unknown origin.*~~ If the work is an adaptation or revision of a work of uncertain or unknown origin, apply the instructions at [6.27.1.8](#).

~~If more than one person, family, or corporate body is responsible for the adaptation or revision, apply the instructions on collaborative works at [6.27.1.3](#).~~

**EXAMPLE**

~~Abrams, Anthony. Dead man on campus~~

~~**Resource described:** Dead man on campus / a novelization by Tony Abrams and Adam Broder~~

If the work is presented simply as an edition of the previously existing work, treat it as an expression of that work. Use the authorized access point representing the previously existing work. If it is considered important to identify the particular expression, construct an authorized access point representing the expression as instructed at 6.27.3.

**EXAMPLE**

Carroll, Bradley W. Introduction to modern astrophysics

**Authorized access point representing the first edition of a work by Bradley W. Carroll and Dale A. Ostlie**

Carroll, Bradley W. Introduction to modern astrophysics

Authorized access point representing the second edition of the work by the same authors

Engineering response to global climate change

**Resource described:** Engineering response to climate change / edited by Robert G. Watts. — Second edition.

**First edition published under the title:** Engineering response to global climate change

For additional instructions on authorized access points representing adaptations of musical works, see 6.28.1.5–6.28.1.6.

### 6.27.1.5.1 One Person, Family, or Corporate Body Responsible for Adapting the Work of Another Creator

If:

the nature and content of an existing work has been substantially changed

and

the adaptation or revision is presented as the work of a new creator

then:

construct the authorized access point representing the new work by combining (in this order):

a) the authorized access point representing the person (see 9.19.1), family (see 10.11.1), or corporate body (see 11.13.1) responsible for the adaptation or revision

b) the preferred title for the adaptation or revision (see 6.2.2).

#### **EXAMPLE**

Gray, Patsey. J.R.R. Tolkien's The hobbit

A dramatization by Gray of Tolkien's novel

Sartain, John, 1808–1897. Artist's dream

An engraving by Sartain based on an original painting by George H. Comegys

James, W. Martin. Historical dictionary of Angola

A new edition by James based on Susan H. Broadhead's work with the same title

Konrad, der Pfaffe, active 12th century. Das Rolandslied

An adaptation of the anonymous work La chanson de Roland

Chevat, Richie. The omnivore's dilemma

An adaptation for children of the work The omnivore's dilemma by Michael Pollan

### 6.27.1.5.2 More Than One Person, Family, or Corporate Body Responsible for Adapting the Work of Another Creator

If:

the nature and content of an existing work has been substantially  
changed

and

the adaptation or revision is presented as the work of more than one new  
creator

then:

apply the instructions on collaborative works at 6.27.1.3 to construct the  
authorized access point for the new work.

#### **EXAMPLE**

Stern, Stephen L. Beowulf

Resource described: Beowulf : the graphic novel / writer, Stephen L. Stern ; artist, Christopher  
Steininger. **A graphic novel adaptation of the anonymous epic poem Beowulf**

Abrams, Anthony. Dead man on campus

Resource described: Dead man on campus / a novelization by Tony Abrams and Adam Broder. **An  
adaptation of the motion picture Dead man on campus**

### 6.27.1.5.3 Creators Responsible for the Adapting Their Own Work

If:

the nature and content of an existing work has been substantially  
changed

and

the adaptation or revision is presented as the work of the same creator or  
creators

then:

apply the instructions at 6.27.1.2–6.27.1.3 to construct the authorized access point for the new work.

**EXAMPLE**

Varley, John, 1947 August 9– . Millennium

A novel adapted from the short story Air raid by Varley

Chekhov, Anton Pavlovich, 1860–1904. Diad̄iā Vanīā

A play adapted from the play Leshīī by Chekhov. Chekhov removed over half the characters in Leshīī and substantially changed the plot

Solo, Hope, 1981– . Hope Solo

An adaptation for children of the autobiography Solo

Hugo, Victor, 1802–1885. La Esmeralda

A libretto adapted from the novel Notre-Dame de Paris by Hugo

Make the additions specified at 6.27.1.9 if they are needed to distinguish the access point representing the work from an access point representing a different work or from an access point representing a person, family, or corporate body.

**EXAMPLE**

Williams, Tennessee, 1911–1983. The night of the iguana (Play)

Adaptation by Williams of his short story with the same title

**Clean Copy**

**6.27.1.5 Adaptations and Revisions**

*If:*

an adaptation or revision of an existing work substantially changes the nature and content of that work

*then:*

treat the adaptation or revision as a new work.

Apply these instructions on constructing the authorized access point for the new

work, as applicable:

one person, family, or corporate body responsible for adapting the work of another creator (see 6.27.1.5.1)

more than one person, family, or corporate body responsible for adapting the work of another creator (see 6.27.1.5.2)

creators responsible for adapting their own work (see 6.27.1.5.3).

*If:*

the nature and content of a work has been substantially changed

*and*

the person, family or corporate body responsible for the adaptation or revision is unknown or uncertain

*then:*

apply the instructions at 6.27.1.8 to construct the authorized access point for the new work.

If the work is presented simply as an edition of the previously existing work, treat it as an expression of that work. Use the authorized access point representing the previously existing work. If it is considered important to identify the particular expression, construct an authorized access point representing the expression as instructed at 6.27.3.

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*If:*

the nature and content of an existing work has been substantially changed

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the adaptation or revision is presented as the work of a new creator

*then:*

construct the authorized access point representing the new work by combining (in this order):

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Konrad, der Pfaffe, active 12th century. *Das Rolandslied*

**An adaptation of the anonymous work** *La chanson de Roland*

Chevat, Richie. *The omnivore's dilemma*

**An adaptation for children of the work** *The omnivore's dilemma* by Michael Pollan

### 6.27.1.5.2 More Than One Person, Family, or Corporate Body Responsible for Adapting the Work of Another Creator

*If:*

the nature and content of an existing work has been substantially  
changed

*and*

the adaptation or revision is presented as the work of more than one new  
creator

*then:*

apply the instructions on collaborative works at 6.27.1.3 to construct the  
authorized access point for the new work.

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*If:*

the nature and content of an existing work has been substantially  
changed

*and*

the adaptation or revision is presented as the work of the same creator or  
creators

*then:*

apply the instructions at 6.27.1.2–6.27.1.3 to construct the authorized  
access point for the new work.

### EXAMPLE

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### EXAMPLE

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**Adaptation by Williams of his short story with the same title**