

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Dave Reser, LC Representative
Subject: Revisions to Numeric Designation of a Musical Work (6.16)

Thanks to the JSC Music Working Group for examining the issues related to Numeric Designation of a Musical Work. We think some of the guidance provided in the revisions will be useful, and have suggested some alternative wording where appropriate.

Change #1: 6.16.1.1, Scope

We do not agree with the change proposed. We believe that the intention of the scope change is to define the numeric designation of a musical work as including a “numbering” part and a “caption” part (as noted in the “Issue #1: Definition of Numeric Designation” in the section on “Issues requiring resolution”). However, the second sentence of the scope statement says that a numeric designation is “accompanied by a caption” implying that the caption is not part of the designation. We believe that the numeric designation should include both the caption and the number because without the caption, it is a number lacking any context. We propose the following second paragraph for 6.16.1.1.1 instead of what the MusicWG proposed:

A numeric designation of a musical work may include a numeral, a letter, any other character, or a combination of these, in addition to a caption (e.g., number, opus, BWV, etc.).

Change #2: 6.16.1.3, Recording Numeric Designation of Musical Works

Comment 1:

We are agreeable to the addition of the new second paragraph about language. RDA 5.4 suggests that instructions on language and script are found throughout chapters 6-7; however, this is rarely true. We have this problem with numerous elements in chapter 6 including 6.3 (Form of work), 6.6 (Other distinguishing characteristic of the work), 6.12 (Other distinguishing characteristic of the expression) and 6.17 (Key). We have not provided a list of elements for which there is no language or script instruction in chapter 7 because they are too numerous to list easily.

We think the JSC may want to consider a more general approach that would replace the wording in 5.4 regarding the language and script of identifying attributes with the instruction that is actually intended to apply to these elements. The Alternative proposed for 6.16.1.3 could also be generalized and added to 5.4:

Current 5.4, 3rd and 4th paragraphs:

Record other identifying attributes of a work or expression in the language and script specified in the applicable instructions in chapter 6 **RDA**.

Record the descriptive attributes of a work or expression covered in chapter 7 **RDA** in a language and script preferred by the agency creating the data.

Possible replacement for these two paragraphs with Alternative:

Record other identifying elements of a work or expression in a language and script preferred by the agency creating the data.

Alternative

Record other identifying elements of a work or expression in the language and script in which they appear on the sources from which they are taken.

Comment 2:

We do not agree with the addition of the instruction to “Apply the general guidelines on numbers expressed as numerals or as words at 1.8”. This would require additional changes at 1.8, and the presence of alternatives in the 1.8 instructions would lead to a loss of predictability for recording this element in Chapter 6. We also note that although 6.2.2.9 says to record the numeric designation as a numeral, it does not provide any guidance of what kind of numeral so all of these are possible for a part with the designation "Third Book": 3 Book; III Book; 3rd Book; Book 3; Book III.

We think the JSC may wish to consider a more general approach to recording numbers that could be added after 5.4, or could be a part of 5.4 if the instruction was retitled. In the meantime, we suggest that this instruction (the 3rd paragraph in the proposal) could be used at 6.16.1.3:

Record numbers expressed as numerals. Record numerals in the form preferred by the agency creating the data. Use abbreviations as instructed in appendix B (B.5.4). Use inclusive numbering for an aggregate individual work that is identified by consecutive serial numbers or thematic index numbers in music reference sources and/or thematic indexes. Record a caption accompanying inclusive numbering in the singular.

Comment 3:

Our non-music catalogers found the rationale about replacing "aggregate work" with "individual work" confusing and wondered about the impact on examples and current cataloging. The Hayden and Bach examples at 6.16.1.3 seems to be for compilations of 6 works—H. III, 37-42 is 6 individual quartets and BWV 1046-1051 is six concertos. Should these examples be deleted? Catalogers may need guidance for determining when a range of thematic index numbers represent an “individual” work vs. an “aggregate” work.

Change #3: 6.16.1.3.1, Serial Number

Comment 1:

While we agree to the changes in the first paragraph, we note that recording the number as a cardinal number could run counter to 1.8.5 (one reason not to link this instruction to 1.8 noted above). Our proposed language for 6.16.1.3 (see Change 2, Comment 2) allows for an agency to specify record serial numbers as cardinal numbers and makes the paragraph addressed in Comment 2 below not necessary

Some reviewers were confused about why this instruction had provisions for "numbers" and retention of the example for "no. 6-8". Is each violin sonata in this resource an individual work? If so, then this example is incorrect. If no. 6-8 represents 3 parts of a work, then this example is not appropriate for this instruction because 6.14.2.7 applies.

Comment 2:

We suggest a few slight revisions to the proposed 2nd paragraph to simplify the wording and replace the "i.e." with an "e.g.":

~~In some case,~~ When sources for a consecutively numbered series of works use different forms of numeric designation (~~i.e.,~~ e.g., ordinal and cardinal numbers or different captions). ~~When this occurs,~~ select one form of numeric designation and use it for all the works in the series.

Change #4: Thematic Index Number

We agree.

Change #5: Definition of numeric designation of a musical work

The glossary definition needs to be revised to reflect the changes in the scope at 6.16.1.1 as noted in our comments at Change #1 above.

Additional comment on examples:

We note that examples in 6.28.1.9.1 also require updating:

Monteverdi, Claudio, 1567–1643. Madrigals, book 1
For 5 voices

Monteverdi, Claudio, 1567–1643. Madrigals, book 7
For 1–6 voices and instruments

We think this example in 6.28.3 might require deletion because it seems to be for a compilation, not an individual work:

Beethoven, Ludwig van, 1770–1827. Quartets, violins, viola, cello, no. 1–6, op. 18 (Sketches)

We think this example in 6.28.4.1 might require revision or deletion because of the explanation:

Respighi, Ottorino, 1879–1936. Ancient airs and dances (Orchestral work)

Authorized access point for the work: Respighi, Ottorino, 1879–1936. Antiche arie e danze per liuto, no. 1–3. **Variant title for this work is identical to a variant title for a piano work by Respighi**