

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
**From:** Dave Reser, LC Representative  
**Subject:** Additional element for Medium of Performance of the Expression

The Music Working Group has made a compelling case for recording the medium of performance for expressions of musical works, especially when it is different than the medium intended for the original work (representative expression).

Our preference would be for a separate element related to medium of performance for expressions, rather than revising the current medium of performance instructions for works to apply to expressions. Using one instruction number for two different elements for two different entities would cause considerable difficulties mapping the instructions to the element set. Thus, we have 6.4 Date of Work and 6.10 Date of Expression even though both instructions are about recording dates.

As noted, separate instructions for medium of performance of the expression would have an impact on the numbering of instructions in Chapter 6-- a topic all too familiar and challenging. We have a few other suggestions for the MusicWG to consider:

- Modify the instructions for Arrangements, Transcriptions, Etc. (6.18.1.4) for an Optional Addition (e.g., use of “arranged for ...” rather than just “arranged”). This may not be desirable because it would make medium of performance for the expression be part of the element "Other distinguishing characteristic" rather than its own element.
- Our only other suggestion is to use Chapter 7 for this new elements—either as a new instruction number or to further develop 7.21 (Medium of Performance of Musical Content). However, we realize that Chapter 7 elements have not been used in access points for expressions so this would be a big departure from the current the layout of RDA. If the intention is to use this new element in access points, Chapter 7 is problematic.

In light of the difficulty in adding this element to Chapter 6, the JSC may wish to consider deferring a decision on this until bigger decisions about the structure of RDA have been made.

We agree that the working group will need to analyze the authorized access point instructions, and consider the ramifications of including both medium of performance for the work and the expression in the same access point, and challenges this may have on comprehension by end users. We suggest the MusicWG consider whether "medium of performance of the expression" should be an element that is recorded but not added to authorized access points like 6.7 History of the Work or 7.22 Duration.