

To: RDA Steering Committee
From: Renate Behrens, Europe Region representative
Subject: Additions and revisions to RDA 2.15.3, Plate Number for Music

EURIG - Editorial Committee thanks RSC Music Working Group for this proposal.

EURIG members and national committees submitted comments to the DNB wiki which were discussed by the Editorial Committee in series of web meetings during September.

EURIG – Editorial Committee agrees with the proposal.

However, it seems difficult to evaluate the impact of the proposed alternatives with examples still missing from the text.

We also have some reservations about changing the definition of plate number and giving alternatives that relegate the current practice. This may have the opposite effect to what is intended and could result in complete inconsistency even among experts and would affect even very high-quality records. This point is of some practical importance, because the plate number is one of the identifiers used by OCLC's deduplication algorithm and might also be used in record harvesting. There must also be some risk that non-expert cataloguers or OCR conversions would pick up the numbers of individual plates or pages in a haphazard way and present them as if they applied to the whole. It is much better to keep the current definition but allow inclusion of page-related numbers in the element as an alternative. In a broader sense there is a distinction between recording the plate number as an identifier and transcribing the plate number with page numbering, which may be better expressed in the context of the four-fold path.