

To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Ebe Kartus, ACOC Representative

Subject: Early Printed Resources and Rare Printed Resources

ACOC thanks the Rare Materials Working Group for this proposal regarding RDA's usage of the term "early printed resources", and believes that the recommendations will permit wider use of alternatives and exceptions for early and rare materials in order to support users seeking specialized information.

Issue 1. Definition of early printed resources

We agree to the change to the glossary definition that removes the chronological limit and emphasizes the hand-press period. ACOC notes that the proposed glossary definition uses plural forms where the August 2016 iteration of the Toolkit uses singular terms.

Issue 2. Treatment of rare materials that do not qualify as early

ACOC recognizes the fact that many agencies choose to describe resources in a manner consistent with rare materials description even though these resources do not qualify as early printed resources. ACOC agrees that the preferred resolution for this issue can be found in option 4 (define both "early printed resources" and "rare printed resources" without a statement about the relationship between the two, and use both terms in instructions applicable to both categories). However, we are concerned that the proposed definition for "rare printed resources" does not align with the pattern currently being followed for Glossary terms.

ACOC suggests instead the following definition:

rare printed resources: Printed materials requiring a more detailed description due to age, rarity, fragility, method of production, or value as part of a collection.

ACOC agrees that with the exception of instructions listed on page 4 of the proposal, all other instances of "early printed resources" in RDA should be revised to refer to "early printed resources and rare printed resources" subject to the outcomes of RSC/Rare WG/2, 3, 4, and 5.

Change 3. Revision of 2.15 ("fingerprints" as identifiers)

ACOC agrees to the revision.

Change 4. Revision of 3.22.1.4

ACOC agrees to the revision.