

**To:** RDA Steering Committee

**From:** Bill Leonard, CCC Representative to RSC

**Subject: Early Printed Resources and Rare Printed Resources**

CCC thanks the Rare Materials Working Group for the proposed revisions. CCC is not supportive of all of the changes and offers the following comments.

**Change 1 – Revision of the existing definition of early printed resources**

The revised definition continues to be focused on the advent of printing presses in Europe. Printing processes emerged in other parts of the world at different times. Perhaps the proposed definition could specify that it applies to Western early printed resources, or simply remove the reference to a particular century.

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

CCC prefers option 1. Agencies will make their own decisions about the application of special treatment, and they will express those decisions in their local policy statements. CCC recommends adding a new explanation in chapter 1 to the effect that the suite of listed alternatives intended for early printed resources can also be applied to rare resources at an agency’s discretion. CCC is not convinced the word “printed” needs to be included in the second sentence of the new section 1.12.

1.12 Early and rare printed resources

RDA contains instructions for the provision of more detailed descriptions for early printed resources. Agencies may define their own criteria, for example, age, rarity, fragility, or value as part of a collection, in deciding whether to apply the specialized instructions to rare resources.

**Change 2 – Definition for rare printed resources**

The proposed wording is a scope statement and a justification for special treatment, but it is not a definition. Designation as a ‘rare’ resource is a subjective decision taken by agencies independently. CCC prefers adding a section in chapter 1.

**Issue 3 – Implementation of the term rare printed resources**

CCC does not agree with establishing the term “rare printed resources” in RDA.

**Change 3 – Revision of 2.15 (“fingerprints” as identifiers)**

CCC does not agree with establishing the term “rare printed resources” in RDA.

**Change 4 – Revision of 3.22.1.4**

CCC does not agree with establishing the term “rare printed resources” in RDA.