

To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Ebe Kartus, ACOC Representative

Subject: Revision to RDA 3.12 Book format and related terms

ACOC thanks the Rare Materials Working Group for their analysis of “Book format” and related terms in RDA and their suggested changes to broaden and clarify these terms. We agree in principle to broadening the definition of Book format, and expanding the list of format values, but have some reservations.

Change 1: ACOC is supportive of broadening the scope of book format to include serials, single sheet material and manuscripts. However, we do not agree with the use of the term “Bibliographical format”. While this terminology is well understood in the rare materials community in terms of the book (or manuscript) as a physical object, it has a different meaning in the broader library context (a list of books). Therefore we feel that this term is more likely to cause confusion to users of RDA, than to provide clarity as to the scope of format.

Change 2: ACOC is happy with the proposed wording of the definition, provided that it aligns with the pattern currently being followed for Glossary terms.

Change 3: ACOC is happy in principle for further value terms to be added to the vocabulary list at 3.12.1.3 and in the Glossary. However, we also wonder whether this vocabulary list (and corresponding Glossary terms) should be retained in RDA, or removed and managed as an external vocabulary.