

To: RDA Steering Committee
From: Dave Reser, LC Representative
Subject: Revision to RDA 3.12 Book Format and related terms

Thanks to the Rare Working Group for analyzing the issues related to “book format” in RDA. In general we agree with the proposal, and we’re pleased with the proposed extension beyond printed materials. We offer the comments below on the proposed changes.

Change #1 RDA 3.12 Book Format

1. Book vs. Bibliographical (3.12)

We had no strong feelings on the necessity of this change, or whether the term “bibliographical” solves the perceived problem of not applying to serials and single sheet resources, so we agree to the change.

2. Definition (3.12.1.1)

[Note that the definition in the August 2016 release has a different base text than what was available to the working group.]

We think that “of paper or vellum” could be safely removed. If it remains, we think it should be expanded to “paper, vellum, etc.” to cover sheets made from less common materials. To incorporate the concept of “full sheet” as a format, the phrase “...when that sheet is cut or folded ...” should be changed to “...if that sheet is cut or folded...”. We don’t think the parenthetical phrase at the end of the definition is needed; it could be added as an example explanation if seen as useful. If it is to be retained, the word “gathering” should be removed; a gathering in folio represents the original full sheet (folded in half), not half the sheet.

3. Recording Bibliographical Formats (3.12.1.3)

The introductory phrase “For early printed resources” unnecessarily limits the recording to printed materials, but the definition was changed to incorporate manuscript materials. We think the instruction could just begin with “Record the bibliographical format ...”. We agree with the rest of the changes.

4. Details of Bibliographical Format (3.12.1.4)

Agree with the change; defer examples to RDA Examples Editor.

Change #2 RDA Glossary

See comments at Change #1 above for comments on the definition of “bibliographical format,” that would also apply to “details of bibliographic format.” Note that “18mo” was omitted from the glossary.