

To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Ebe Kartus, ACOC Representative

Subject: Revision of RDA 2.2.2.2 Sources of information

ACOC thanks the Rare Materials Working Group for their work on presenting a more straight forward and applicable approach to determining the preferred source of information. ACOC supports the removal of preference order from the exception, in favour of choosing the source where the information is most formally presented. We have a slight preference for Option 1 but would also be happy to accept Option 2.

However, ACOC wonders whether an order of preference is even required in the main instruction, and would welcome discussion on this. As the Working Group points out, the order of preference is only needed if there is more than one source in the resource that carries a title, and their argument that following the order of preference for rare materials does not benefit the user, may equally be so for any printed resource. For any resource lacking a title page, title sheet or title card, the next best source of information may vary from resource to resource, and an order should not be prescribed.

Removal of the order of preference from the instruction as a whole may eliminate the need for the exception for rare materials.

ACOC acknowledges that order of preference is the general practice in other parts of 2.2 when determining alternative preferred sources of information (2.2.2.3, 2.2.2.4, 2.2.3 and 2.2.4), but suggests that RSC also reconsider the necessity of preference order in this broader context. While a single preferred source should always be identified for each resource type, we believe there needs to be more flexibility when choosing an alternative source when the preferred source is not available. We have also drawn attention to this in our response to RSC/Europe/1