

To: RDA Steering Committee
From: Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative
Subject: Revision of RDA 2.2.2.2 Sources of Information

ALA thanks the Rare Materials Working Group for this proposal to revise RDA 2.2.2.2. We generally support the proposal and prefer Option 2. We offer the following comments and recommendations.

Modify 2.2.2.2, Exception (Option 1 and Option 2)

ALA agrees to remove the priority order given in the current exception. However, we believe that the Working Group's proposal introduces unnecessary information with the new sentence relating to using the colophon for resources printed before 1501. If this information is helpful to cataloguers, it should be in an application profile or a best practices document, not in the RDA text itself.

Note: ALA prefers the wording of the exception in Option 1, which only mentions "or an image of it" once in the first sentence, instead of the variant presented in Option 2.

*Marked-up copy
(base text: Working Group proposal – Option 1)*

Exception

Early printed ~~resources~~ resource. If an early printed resource (or a reproduction of it) lacks a title page, title sheet, or title card (or an image of it), use as the preferred source of information the source within the resource in which the information is most formally presented. ~~For resources printed before 1501, the source will frequently be a colophon (or an image of it).~~

Clean copy

Exception

Early printed resource. If an early printed resource (or a reproduction of it) lacks a title page, title sheet, or title card (or an image of it), use as the preferred source of information the source within the resource in which the information is most formally presented.

Delete final paragraph in 2.2.2.2 (Option 1)

ALA has a minor disagreement with the Working Group's analysis that the order of preference instruction in 2.2.2.2 applies only when two or more sources in the resource have a title. Based on the current wording, once a cataloguer encounters the first of these sources with a title, none

of the other potential preferred sources are considered. Thus, the preferred source might be a caption, even if the colophon exists and has fuller information. This interpretation also applies to the current wording of the Exception, although a different priority order is given there.

If the RSC agrees to option 1, ALA does not agree to the proposed deletion of the final paragraph in the current instruction. Although the final guidance is the same (use another source within the resource), these paragraphs address separate situations. We would be willing to consider language that collapses both situations into a single paragraph, however. We suggest:

If none of these sources has a title, or if the resource lacks all of these sources, use as the preferred source of information another source within the resource that has a title. Give preference to a source in which the information is formally presented.

~~If the resource does not contain a colophon, cover, or caption (or an image of one of them), use as the preferred source of information another source forming part of the resource itself. Give preference to sources in which the information is formally presented.~~

Addition of new final paragraph in 2.2.2.2 (Option 1 and Option 2)

ALA supports the addition of the new paragraph referring to 2.17.2.3, although we think the wording should use the name of the note element (mark-up based on Working Group proposal):

If a source other than a title page, title sheet, or title card (or an image of it) is used as the preferred source of information make a note on the title source (see [2.17.2.3](#)).

We observe that a similar addition needs to be made to 2.2.2.3 (Resources consisting of Moving Images) and 2.2.2.4 (Other Resources). The situation is different in both of these instructions, since these resources never have a “title page, title sheet, or title card (or an image of it).” Thus, we recommend the following wording for a new final paragraph in both **2.2.2.3** and **2.2.2.4**:

Make a note on the title source (see [2.17.2.3](#)).

Option 2

As mentioned above, ALA prefers this option, which streamlines the instruction. However, as noted above, we offer alternative wording for the Exception.

When considering this change, some ALA respondents questioned whether the flexibility offered in the revised Exception for early printed resources should be applicable to all resources. These commenters wonder what the purpose of following a prescribed order is if the cataloguer always supplies a note on the title source when the title page, title sheet, or title card (or an image of it) is not used as the preferred source.