To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Damian Iseminger, Chair, JSC Music Working Group

Subject: Removing lists of terms from the Medium of Performance (6.15) instructions

## Abstract

This proposal removes the closed lists of medium of performance terms from instructions in 6.15 in favor of using an external controlled vocabulary. To address concerns about guidance for those catalogers who do not have access to a controlled list, it is proposed that the terms formerly in 6.15 are moved to a Medium of Performance Guide in the Tools section of the RDA Toolkit.

## Justification

The terms currently present in closed lists in 6.15 have no definitions in the RDA glossary. Either the terms must be defined in the RDA Glossary or the terms need to be removed from the RDA text. Because external lists of terms exist (such as the Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus) or are being developed, it was decided by the Music Working Group that prescribed terms or lists of terms should be removed from 6.15.

## Issues requiring resolution

Terms were removed from the following instructions: 6.15.1.3 (the instruction to use the term *continuo* for a thorough bass part), 6.15.1.5 (list of individual instruments), 6.15.1.7 (list containing *orchestra, string orchestra,* and *band*), 6.15.1.9 (solo voices and ensembles of solo voices), and 6.15.1.10 (choruses).

Further guidance has been added to 6.15.1.3 that medium of performance should be recorded using a controlled list of terms and if such a list does not exist, to use the proposed medium of performance guide for the Tools tab of the RDA Toolkit. Guidance is also added to record a term in the language preferred by the agency creating the data.

The beginning sentences of the affected instructions, along with 6.15.1.4 and 6.15.1.6, have also been revised so the phrase "Record an appropriate term" is located at the beginning of the instruction. The caption for 6.15.1.7 has been revised so that it is clear the instruction is meant to cover ensembles with more than one player to a part. The removal of the terms from 6.15.1.7 necessitated the need for a change in caption.

Finally, a guide for medium of performance has been created for the Tools tab of the RDA Toolkit, using the terms formerly present in 6.15

A note on the examples: the text of the proposal indicates places where additional examples might be needed.

**Impact of the revisions**

The major impact of the revisions is that external vocabularies will be relied upon as the source of medium of performance terms. However to mitigate this impact for libraries that do not have access to a set of terms and have relied on RDA, the guide is being proposed as a way forward for them. Removal of the closed lists of terms for solo voices and chorus could have an impact on authorized access points, since there is no guarantee that the external terms for solo voices and chorus will be the same as those previously used in RDA. However, such an impact could be mitigated if, for access points, libraries used the list of terms in the proposed guide for the Tools tab.

**Change #1: Revisions to 6.15**

### Marked-up verison

## 6.15.1.3 Recording Medium of Performance

Record the medium of performance by applying these instructions, as applicable:

> instrumental music intended for one performer to a part (see 6.15.1.4)
> instruments (see 6.15.1.5)
> accompanying ensembles with one performer to a part (see 6.15.1.6)
> instrumental music for ~~orchestra, string orchestra, or band~~ more than one performer to a part (see 6.15.1.7)
> one or more solo instruments and accompanying ensemble (see 6.15.1.8)
> solo voices (see 6.15.1.9)
> choruses (see 6.15.1.10)
> indeterminate medium of performance (see 6.15.1.11).

Record medium of performance using a controlled list of terms, if available. If such a list is not available, see the listing of medium of performance terms on the Tools tab of the RDA Toolkit: Medium of Performance. Record a term in the language preferred by the agency creating the data whenever possible.

Record medium of performance as a separate element, as part of an access point, or as both.

For instructions on recording medium of performance as part of the authorized access point, see 6.28.1.9–6.28.1.11.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> [remain the same]

If there is more than one part for a particular instrument or voice, record the number of parts.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> [remain the same]

*Exception*

> If the term *percussion* is used (see **6.15.1.4**), record the number of players if there is more than one.
>
> **EXAMPLE**
>
> [remain the same]

~~Use continuo~~ <u>Choose a term and use it consistently</u> for a ~~thorough bass~~ <u>continuo</u> part<u>,</u> ~~whether it is named as basso, basso continuo, figured bass, thorough bass, or continuo, and~~ whether the individual instrument or instruments of the continuo are specified or not.

> <u>**EXAMPLE**</u>
>
> <u>continuo</u>

For guidelines on recording details about the medium of performance, apply the instructions for medium of performance of musical content at **7.21**.

## 6.15.1.4 Instrumental Music Intended for One Performer to a Part

~~For instrumental music intended for one performer to a part, record~~ <u>Record</u> each instrument <u>for instrumental music intended for one performer to a part</u> by applying the instructions at **6.15.1.5** and **6.15.1.11**.

*Exceptions*

> If there is more than one percussion instrument, and the names of the individual instruments are not specified by the composer in the original title, use *percussion*.
>
> If the medium includes a continuo part, record the name of the part (see **6.15.1.3**).
>
> If the medium includes instruments acting as an accompanying ensemble, record a term for the accompanying ensemble (see **6.15.1.6**).

## 6.15.1.5 Instruments

~~When recording names of instruments, use a term in a language preferred by the agency creating the data whenever possible. Use the following list of terms as a guide:~~

> ~~cello *or* violoncello~~
> ~~cor anglais *or* English horn~~
> ~~double bass (*not* bass viol *or* contrabass)~~
> ~~double bassoon *or* contrabassoon~~
> ~~harpsichord (*not* cembalo *or* virginal)~~
> ~~horn (*not* French horn)~~
> ~~kettle drums *or* timpani~~
> ~~piano (*not* fortepiano *or* pianoforte)~~
> ~~viola da gamba (*not* bass viol *or* gamba)~~

~~When alternatives are given, choose a term and use it consistently.~~

<u>Record an appropriate term for an instrument.</u>

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> [Examples are needed]

[Sub-instructions **6.15.1.5.1**—**6.15.1.5.4** remain the same]

## 6.15.1.6 Accompanying Ensembles with One Performer to a Part

Record an appropriate term ~~For~~ for an accompanying ensemble with one performer to a part~~, record~~ Use the appropriate term for the instrument or family of instruments followed by the word *ensemble*.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> guitar ensemble
> string ensemble
> percussion ensemble

~~Record *instrumental ensemble* for an accompanying ensemble with one performer to a part consisting of instruments from two or more families of instruments when a more specific term is not available.~~

*If:*
   an accompanying ensemble with one performer to a part consists of instruments
   from two or more families of instruments
*and*
   a more specific term is not available
*then:*
   record *instrumental ensemble*.

### *Alternative*

> Record an appropriate term ~~For~~ for each instrument of an accompanying ensemble with one performer to a part~~, record the appropriate term for each instrument of the accompanying ensemble~~ instead of the name of the ensemble.
>
> > **EXAMPLE**
> >
> > [Examples remain the same]

## 6.15.1.7 Instrumental Music Intended for ~~Orchestra, String Orchestra, or Band~~ More Than One Performer to a Part

Record an appropriate term ~~For~~ for instrumental music intended for ~~orchestra, string orchestra, or band~~ more than one performer to a part~~,~~. ~~record an appropriate term from the following list:~~

~~orchestra~~
~~string orchestra~~
~~band~~

~~Record *orchestra* for full or reduced orchestra.~~

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### EXAMPLE

[Examples are needed]

</div>

~~Disregard continuo~~ Do not record a term for a continuo part when it is part of ~~an orchestra or string orchestra~~ an ensemble with more than one performer to a part.

## 6.15.1.8 One or More Solo Instruments and Accompanying Ensemble

[Instruction remains the same]

## 6.15.1.9 Solo Voices

Record an appropriate term ~~from the following list to identify~~ for a type of solo voice~~:~~.

~~soprano~~
~~mezzo-soprano~~
~~alto~~
~~tenor~~
~~baritone~~
~~bass~~

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### EXAMPLE

sopranos (2)
alto
instrumental ensemble
Resource described: Stabat Mater : in G minor : for 2 sopranos, alto, 2 violins & basso continuo / Girolamo Abos ; edited by Alejandro Garri ; assisted by Kent Carlson

soprano

</div>

piano
Resource described: Dos canciones para soprano y piano / Federico Ibarra

soprano
accordion
Resource described: Drei Lieder für Sopran und Akkordeon / Horst Lohse ; nach Gedichten von Ingo Cesaro

[Extra examples that used terms from an external vocabulary, such as the Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus, could be appropriate]

~~Record other terms as appropriate.~~

~~EXAMPLE~~

~~bass-baritone~~
~~countertenor~~

Record an appropriate term identifying solo voices as an ensemble ~~If~~ if no specific voice types or ranges can be ascertained for two or more solo voices of different ranges~~, record an appropriate term from the following list~~.

~~mixed solo voices~~
~~men's solo voices~~
~~women's solo voices~~

EXAMPLE

[Examples are needed]

~~Record other terms as appropriate.~~

~~EXAMPLE~~

~~children's solo voices~~

~~For compositions that include solo voices with chorus, record~~ Record the solo voices, the appropriate terms for the chorus (see 6.15.1.10), and the accompaniment, if any, for compositions that include solo voices with chorus.

EXAMPLE

soprano
tenor
mixed voices
orchestra
**Resource described:** Te Deum : for mixed voices (with soprano and tenor solo) and orchestra / Georges Bizet

[Extra examples that used terms from an external vocabulary, such as the Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus, could be appropriate]

## 6.15.1.10 Choruses

Record an appropriate term ~~For~~ for a choral ensemble~~.~~, ~~record an appropriate term from the following list:~~

> ~~mixed voices~~
> ~~men's voices~~
> ~~women's voices~~
> ~~unison voices~~

> EXAMPLE

> [Examples are needed]

~~Record other terms as appropriate.~~

> ~~EXAMPLE~~

> ~~children's voices~~

## 6.15.1.11 Indeterminate Medium of Performance

[Instruction and sub-instruction remain the same]

**Clean version**

## 6.15.1.3 Recording Medium of Performance

Record the medium of performance by applying these instructions, as applicable:

instrumental music intended for one performer to a part (see **6.15.1.4**)
instruments (see **6.15.1.5**)
accompanying ensembles with one performer to a part (see **6.15.1.6**)
instrumental music for more than one performer to a part (see **6.15.1.7**)
one or more solo instruments and accompanying ensemble (see **6.15.1.8**)
solo voices (see **6.15.1.9**)
choruses (see **6.15.1.10**)
indeterminate medium of performance (see **6.15.1.11**).

Record medium of performance using a controlled list of terms, if available. If such a list is not available, see the listing of medium of performance terms on the Tools tab of the RDA Toolkit: **Medium of Performance**. Record a term in the language preferred by the agency creating the data whenever possible.

Record medium of performance as a separate element, as part of an access point, or as both.

For instructions on recording medium of performance as part of the authorized access point, see **6.28.1.9**–**6.28.1.11**.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> [remain the same]

If there is more than one part for a particular instrument or voice, record the number of parts.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> [remain the same]

### Exception

If the term *percussion* is used (see **6.15.1.4**), record the number of players if there is more than one.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> [remain the same]

Choose a term and use it consistently for a continuo part, whether the individual instrument or instruments of the continuo are specified or not.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> continuo

For guidelines on recording details about the medium of performance, apply the instructions for medium of performance of musical content at **7.21**.

## 6.15.1.4 Instrumental Music Intended for One Performer to a Part

Record each instrument for instrumental music intended for one performer to a part by applying the instructions at **6.15.1.5** and **6.15.1.11**.

*Exceptions*

If there is more than one percussion instrument, and the names of the individual instruments are not specified by the composer in the original title, use *percussion*.

If the medium includes a continuo part, record the name of the part (see **6.15.1.3**).

If the medium includes instruments acting as an accompanying ensemble, record a term for the accompanying ensemble (see **6.15.1.6**).

## 6.15.1.5 Instruments

Record an appropriate term for an instrument.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> [Examples are needed]

[Sub-instructions **6.15.1.5.1**—**6.15.1.5.4** remain the same]

## 6.15.1.6 Accompanying Ensembles with One Performer to a Part

Record an appropriate term for an accompanying ensemble with one performer to a part. Use the appropriate term for the instrument or family of instruments followed by the word *ensemble*.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> guitar ensemble
> string ensemble
> percussion ensemble

*If:*
  an accompanying ensemble with one performer to a part consists of instruments
  from two or more families of instruments
*and*
  a more specific term is not available
*then:*
  record *instrumental ensemble*.

### *Alternative*

Record an appropriate term for each instrument of an accompanying ensemble with one performer to a part instead of the name of the ensemble.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> [Examples remain the same]

## 6.15.1.7 Instrumental Music Intended for More Than One Performer to a Part

Record an appropriate term for instrumental music intended for more than one performer to a part.

> **EXAMPLE**

[Examples are needed]

Do not record a term for a continuo part when it is part of an ensemble with more than one performer to a part.

## 6.15.1.8 One or More Solo Instruments and Accompanying Ensemble

[Instruction remains the same]

## 6.15.1.9 Solo Voices

Record an appropriate term for a type of solo voice.

### EXAMPLE

sopranos (2)
alto
instrumental ensemble
Resource described: Stabat Mater : in G minor : for 2 sopranos, alto, 2 violins & basso continuo / Girolamo Abos ; edited by Alejandro Garri ; assisted by Kent Carlson

soprano
piano
Resource described: Dos canciones para soprano y piano / Federico Ibarra

soprano
accordion
Resource described: Drei Lieder für Sopran und Akkordeon / Horst Lohse ; nach Gedichten von Ingo Cesaro

[Extra examples that used terms from an external vocabulary, such as the Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus, could be appropriate]

Record an appropriate term identifying solo voices as an ensemble if no specific voice types or ranges can be ascertained for two or more solo voices of different ranges.

### EXAMPLE

[Examples are needed]

Record the solo voices, the appropriate terms for the chorus (see **6.15.1.10**), and the accompaniment, if any, for compositions that include solo voices with chorus.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> soprano
> tenor
> mixed voices
> orchestra
> Resource described: Te Deum : for mixed voices (with soprano and tenor solo) and orchestra / Georges Bizet
>
> [Extra examples that used terms from an external vocabulary, such as the Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus, could be appropriate]

## 6.15.1.10 Choruses

Record an appropriate term for a choral ensemble.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> [Examples are needed]

## 6.15.1.11 Indeterminate Medium of Performance

[Instruction and sub-instruction remain the same]

**Change #2: Guide for Medium of Performance Terms for Tools tab**

# Medium of Performance

## Continuo: for use with 6.15.1.3

Use *continuo* to identify a continuo part.

## Instruments: for use with 6.15.1.5

Use the following list of terms as a guide:

> cello *or* violoncello
> cor anglais *or* English horn
> double bass (*not* bass viol *or* contrabass)
> double bassoon *or* contrabassoon
> harpsichord (*not* cembalo *or* virginal)
> horn (*not* French horn)
> kettle drums *or* timpani
> piano (*not* fortepiano *or* pianoforte)
> viola da gamba (*not* bass viol *or* gamba)

When alternatives are given, choose a term and use it consistently.

## Instrumental music for more than one performer to a part: for use with 6.15.1.7

Record an appropriate term from the following list:

> orchestra
> string orchestra
> band

Record *orchestra* for full or reduced orchestra.

## Specific solo voices: for use with 6.15.1.9

Record an appropriate term from the following list:

> soprano
> mezzo-soprano
> alto
> tenor
> baritone
> bass

Record other terms as appropriate.

## Two or more unspecified solo voices: for use with 6.15.1.9

Record an appropriate term from the following list:

> mixed solo voices
> men's solo voices
> women's solo voices

Record other terms as appropriate.

## Choruses: for use with 6.15.1.10

Record an appropriate term from the following list:

> mixed voices
> men's voices
> women's voices
> unison voices

Record other terms as appropriate.

**Other changes in RDA**

This proposal does not affect other instructions or references to/from other instructions.

**Changes to the RDA Element Set**

No changes needed.