To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative

Subject: Discussion paper: RDA and WGA treatment of aggregates

ALA thanks the Aggregates Working Group for their further investigation and analysis of the treatment of aggregates in FRBRoo and the final report of the Working Group on Aggregates. With the caveat that very few of the ALA respondents have much familiarity with FRBRoo, we offer the following answers to the Working Group's questions, followed by additional questions and observations.

Aggregates Working Group Questions:

1. *Does the RSC agree that it is important to retain the distinction between a whole-part work and an aggregation work?*

    ALA agrees.

2. *Does the RSC agree that it would be useful to provide simple direct wording to enable a cataloguer to differentiate between a whole-part work vs. an aggregation work? The AWG thinks it might be useful if such wording could start with:*
    - *If a manifestation embodies multiple distinct expressions, and:*
        - *…, then the manifestation embodies an Aggregation Work and Distinct Works*
        - *…, then the manifestation embodies a whole-part Work and its parts.*

    ALA agrees. We endorse the Working Group's observation that whatever wording is used must provide unambiguous, easily applied guidance for cataloguers in making this distinction. If new concepts and terminology such as "Aggregation Work" and "Distinct Work" are introduced into RDA, they will need to be clearly defined. Going forward, we recommend including examples such as a collection of poems, a collection of performed music, and a continuing resource.

3. *Does the RSC agree that an "incorporated in / incorporates" relationship is useful for describing aggregates and a relationship element for it should be added, at some later date, to RDA?*

    ALA agrees that there needs to be appropriate terminology that describes the relationship between a distinct work and the aggregation work. ALA commenters preferred either "incorporated in / incorporates" or "aggregated in / aggregation of". In any case, we observe that RDA will need instructions that clearly show the differences between this pair of designators and the existing "contained in (expression) / container of (expression)".

However, we have some concerns about the logical inferences, since some of the "incorporated" relationships are asymmetrical. In the following diagrams, the solid lines represent cases where users should receive information about manifestations attached to the related expression as well as the expression specifically sought by the user. We believe that the modeling of aggregates needs to account for these asymmetrical relationships.
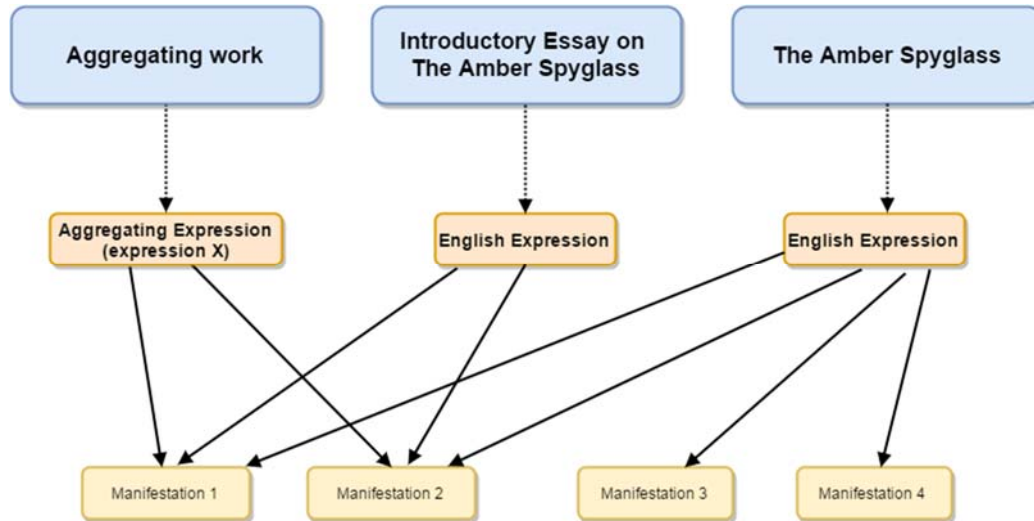
1. If a user is looking for manifestations of English language expression X and X has a translation Y, the user is not interested in the translation and should not be offered manifestations of the translated expression.
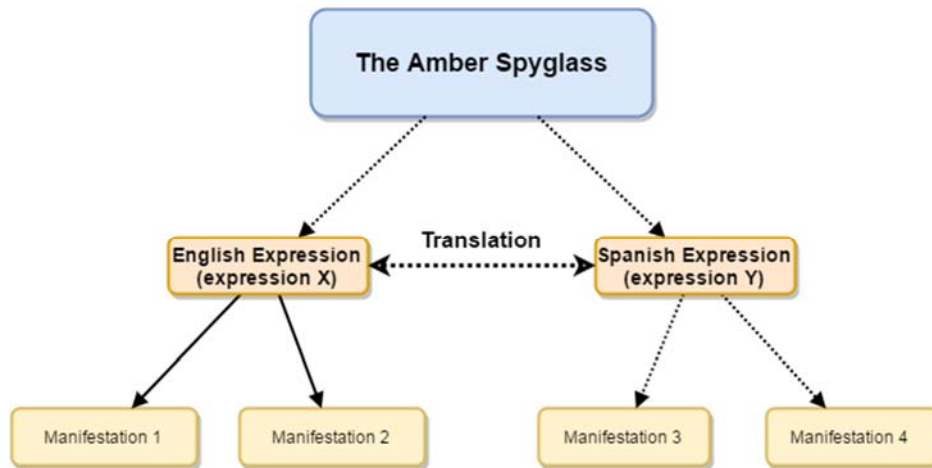

2. If a user is looking for manifestations of expression X, and X has a whole-part relationship with Y, the user will find it helpful to see the manifestations of the larger work, which contain expression X.
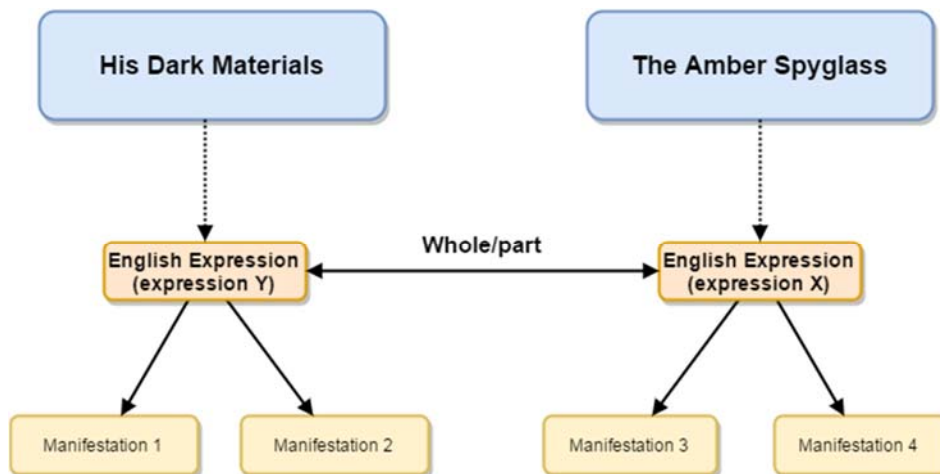
3. If a user is looking for manifestations of a particular aggregating expression X and the relationships are made at the Expression/Manifestation level, the inferences are correct; they work for whatever expression (or combination of expressions), the user is seeking.

4. If an aggregating expression entity is used and a user is looking for a particular expression of a distinct work, manifestations that embody the aggregating expression are relevant. However, if a user is seeking the aggregating expression, not all of the manifestations relating to the distinct works will be relevant. Use cases for this might be someone seeking the Norton edition of Pride and Prejudice or someone seeking all the Norton editions edited by a particular person.
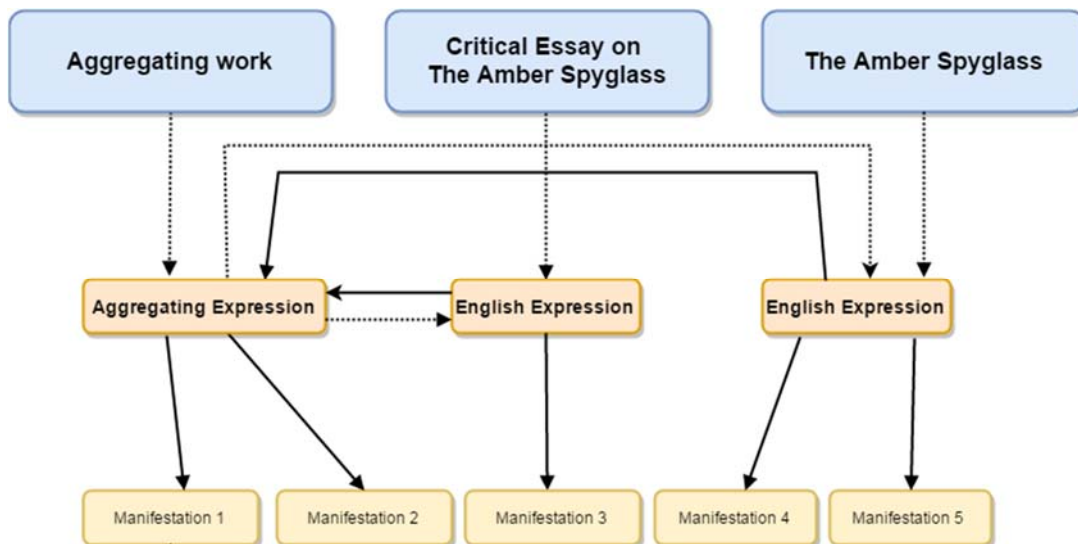
4. *Can the RSC offer guidance on:*
   - *an appropriate label for this relationship element?*
   - *where this relationship element would fit in the hierarchy of Expression relationships at RDA J.3?*

As noted above, ALA can support "incorporates/incorporated in". Because this relationship is different from the existing categories in J.3, it needs to be in a new section.

5. *Does the RSC agree that a "creator of content / creator of content of" relationship is useful for adding short-cut access to an expression of an Aggregated Work when it does not seem necessary to describe distinct works and expression separately, and that a relationship element for it should be added, at some later date, to RDA?*

While some sort of short-cut access would be useful in certain circumstances, ALA has concerns about this recommendation, which adds only one sub-category of creator. In current practice, the vast majority of agents identified as creators are responsible for creating the content. It would be unfortunate to identify an agent as a "creator of content" for a compilation, but not for a separately published work, where only the "creator" relationship would apply.

We observe that the Working Group endorses the current cataloguing practice, which relies on cataloguer's judgment for determining when to identify the separate parts of an aggregating work, and when to ignore some of them selectively. This flexibility means that these relationship designators will not be applied uniformly to parts of different aggregating works. This will happen both among cataloguing "records" from the same agency, as well as when that data is shared among different institutions. Indeed, Example 4 in the paper's Appendix B shows the different relationship designator use for the same resource: Austen as "author" in Option 1, and as "author of content" in Option 2.

Our fundamental difference in viewpoint from the Working Group's recommendation means that we do not support creating sub-properties for "creator of content". We also question why the term "one" is included in the two proposed new relationships which begin "Other One Person…"

In terms of a compilation of works by a single author, we are concerned about the possibility of naming someone other than that author as part of the authorized access point (AAP). The AAP is a form of identifying the compilation, and that identification will be most useful when it conforms to user expectations. For example, we believe that users expect a collection of Shakespeare plays to be identified as being by Shakespeare, and not by the editor of the compilation. This raises a different question: should there continue to be a difference in cataloguing practice for identifying the compilation when the individual works are all by the same agent, vs.

those compilations containing works by different agents? Where do compilations of complete works fall into this discussion?

Overall, we observe that the Aggregation Work is no more or less important than the other works represented in a particular Manifestation. It is the nature of the publication and cataloguer's judgment that will determine what descriptions and relationships are required in each case.

6. *Does the RSC agree:*
   - *that the addition, deletion, or revision of an included expression in an aggregation Expression requires a new aggregation Expression, but not a new Aggregation Work, unless the entire concept of the Aggregation work has changed?*
   - *that an instruction should be added to RDA somewhere to say this?*

ALA agrees with the first bullet, which mirrors RDA's current treatment of works and expressions. Because of that, we do not support adding a separate instruction to RDA, as suggested by the second bullet. Aggregation Works are works. Separate instructions in RDA are only needed if/when particular types of works get a different treatment from the general instructions for works.

Other comments/questions

1. *Which version of FRBR will be the underlying model for RDA in the future: FRBRoo or LRM?*

In our response to 6JSC/AggregatesWG/1, ALA asked the above question, and it remains unanswered. We wonder why the Working Group did not consult the draft FRBR-LRM as part of its comprehensive review of this topic.

Having taken a closer look at these two models and how they address aggregates, we note a significant difference. FRBRoo uses the Publication Expression (F24) to serve as the focus for all of the relationships associated with an aggregation work, while FRBR-LRM relies instead on relationships to the manifestation.

The Working Group has taken a third path, which combines these two different perspectives, allowing for relationships to be expressed at both the Expression and Manifestation levels. Although this offers flexibility, we are not convinced that this is an appropriate approach to modeling. In addition, it does not align with FRBR-LRM. We do not know how much of a problem this represents in moving RDA forward once LRM is finalized.

2. *Should RDA always treat creators of aggregate collections of expressions the same way?*

As noted above, we think there are reasons for RDA to continue the current practice of creating an AAP for a compilation based on whether the works are all by the same creator or not.

We think that the three different types of aggregates detailed in the draft FRBR-LRM should come into play when considering the path forward:
- Aggregate Collections of Expressions
- Aggregates Resulting from Augmentation
- Aggregates of Parallel Expressions

In relation to that final category, members of the music community noted that these also arise in relation to notated music (e.g., vocal scores of operas presented in both the original language and a translation). An aggregate of parallel expressions is another situation where identifying the aggregation work would almost never be useful from an end user perspective.

3. *Should new terminology introduced into RDA relating to the WEMI stack come from FRBRoo?*

Some ALA commenters were confused by the Working Group's introduction of "Distinct Work" and "Single Work" in relation to aggregating works. We wonder if terminology that is already in FRBRoo should be used instead. Are these truly different types of works that FRBRoo has not already accounted for?

4. *How should RDA take into account choices surrounding describing primary and secondary content?*

Having a clear approach to describing and providing access to primary (or predominant) and secondary content is critical in identifying the path forward for RDA and aggregates, especially since different cataloguing agencies will make different decisions based on their own users. Clarity on this topic will also help with the necessary decision-making about which relationship designators currently under "contributor" in Appendix I should be moved or renamed.

See RSC/ALA-CCC/Discussion/1 for related issues/concerns.