

To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Renate Behrens, European Regional Representative

Subject: Revision of RDA 1.10.3 (Quotations in notes)

Background

RDA 1.10.3 applies to quotations in notes. The instruction does not only stipulate the use of quotation marks for the quote, but also explicitly instructs catalogers to record the source of the quote *after* the quotation (“Follow the quotation by an indication of its source ...”). This reflects a common practice in the Anglo-American world, the so-called “quoted note”. Notes in this style are structured like this:

“Quote”—Source

However, this is not the only possible pattern for giving quotations in notes. There is a second style, which is no less common, but structured in a different way. This type starts with a prefatory statement followed by a colon. As the colon already indicates that what follows is transcribed information, quotation marks are not normally used. The source, and sometimes the exact position on the page are included in the prefatory statement.

Many examples for this can be found in RDA 2.17, e.g.:

2.17.2.3:

Title on cover: Strategic sustainable planning

Spine title: Rocque’s map of Shropshire

Title on container: We’re still standing

2.17.3.5:

At head of title: Arctic Biological Station

2.17.7.3:

Publication statement reads: Impressi per me Wilhelmum de Machlinia in opulentissima civitate Londonarium iuxta pontem qui vulgariter dicitur Flete Brigge

2.17.7.5.1:

Volume 2 has variant publisher statement: Printed and published by T.P. Low

However, this pattern is not mentioned in RDA 1.10.3 at all.

This situation is unsatisfactory and confusing for catalogers. On the one hand, RDA 1.10.3 is unnecessarily restrictive: It stipulates to use quotation marks in every case where a note includes information transcribed from the resource (which, by definition, is always a direct quote), even if these are clearly unnecessary. It also allows for only one possible place where the source can be given (after the quote). On the other hand, many examples in RDA 2.17 do not conform to the general rule given in RDA 1.10.3. This

either means that RDA is self-contradictory or that the instruction in RDA 1.10.3 doesn't tell "the whole story" i.e. is not exhaustive.

To solve these problems, we propose a revision for RDA 1.10.3. The aim is to make the instruction less prescriptive. There is no reason why the exact position of the source information should be prescribed. The use of quotation marks can and should be left to cataloguers judgment. Finally, the new phrasing should also take into account that in some cases the source needs to be given although it is the preferred source of information. A case in point are "At head of title: ..." notes, which usually refer to the title page.

We suggest to illustrate the revised rule with two kinds of examples. The existing ones in the "quoted note" style should be supplemented by examples in the "prefatory statement style". For this, examples from RDA 2.17 can be used.

Proposed revision

Marked-up version

RDA 1.10.3 Quotations

~~Record~~ When recording quotations from the resource or from other sources ~~in~~ quotation marks. Follow, indicate the source of the quotation. Use quotation marks, if considered necessary for clarity ~~by an indication of its source, unless that.~~ The indication of the source may be omitted if the source is the preferred source of information for the identification of the resource (see [2.2.2 RDA](#)).

EXAMPLE

"Published for the Royal Institute of Public Administration"

"A textbook for 6th form students"—Preface

"Generally considered to be by William Langland"—Oxford companion to English literature

Title on container: We're still standing

At head of title: Arctic Biological Station

Publication statement reads: Impressi per me Wilhelmum de Machlinia in opulentissima civitate Londonarium iuxta pontem qui vulgariter dicitur Flete Brigge

Clean version

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EXAMPLE

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