To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative

Subject: Replacement of RDA 6.15 Medium of Performance

ALA thanks the Music Working Group for this proposal to completely revise RDA 6.15. We generally support this effort to simplify and internationalize the RDA instructions. We offer the following additional comments and suggestions. We observe that this proposal was based on the RDA text before the August 2016 release, which contained changes that affect these instructions.

Revision of 6.15.1.3, Recording Medium of Performance

ALA recommends rewording the first paragraph for clarity, and to better match existing RDA instructions. Our proposed revision below:

- Considers the new Tools Tab list to be a controlled list of terms for medium of performance, and lists this with other specific examples in an e.g. statement.
- Replaces "controlled list" with "standard list", since this latter term is used in 10 RDA instructions now, and "controlled list" is only used in two.
- Introduces the phrase "term or terms".
- Removes the instruction to "record the most specific term possible", since a cataloguing agency should be allowed to make its own determination, such as giving the term "instrumental ensemble" (or its equivalent), instead of listing each instrument separately.
- Proposes plurals for the e.g. statement in c) – since these are supposed to denote families of instruments or voices.
- Removes the paragraph immediately after the a)-f) list, because its equivalent is now in 6.15.1.1, *Scope*.

Proposed revision

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6.15.1.3 Recording Medium of Performance

Record ~~an appropriate term for an instrument, voice, ensemble, or another~~ the medium of performance using an appropriate term or terms from a ~~controlled~~ standard list ~~of terms, if available~~ (e.g., UNIMARC field 146 Appendix A, the Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus,~~. 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 as many terms as are applicable to the resource being described, such as ~~the most specific term possible. This can be~~:

a) a term for a specific instrument, voice or ensemble (e.g., clarinet, tin can, computer, soprano voice, string orchestra)

b) a term for an unspecified instrument, voice or ensemble (e.g., instrument, voice, ensemble)

c) a term for a family of instruments or voices (e.g., plucked instruments, female voices)

d) a term for an ensemble consisting of the same family of instruments or voices (e.g., string ensemble, women's chorus)

e) a term for the range or general type of instrument or voice (e.g., bass instrument, melody instrument, high voice)

and/or

f) a collective term for other media, etc. (e.g. mixed media, electronics).

~~Record a term in the language preferred by the agency creating the data whenever possible.~~ Record the medium of performance by applying these instructions, as applicable:

alternative instruments and voices (see 6.15.1.4)

doubling instruments and voices (see 6.15.1.5)

number of parts, ensembles, etc. (see 6.15.1.6).

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[*].

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6.15.1.3 Recording Medium of Performance

Record the medium of performance using an appropriate term or terms from a standard list (e.g., UNIMARC field 146 Appendix A, the Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus, the listing of medium of performance terms on the Tools tab of the RDA Toolkit: Medium of Performance). Record as many terms as are applicable to the resource being described, such as:

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[*] Note: this paragraph only references 6.28.1.9, instead of 6.28.1.9-6.28.1.10 as the current RDA text, due to the recommendations in RSC/MusicWG/4.

a) a term for a specific instrument, voice or ensemble (e.g., clarinet, tin can, computer, soprano voice, string orchestra)

b) a term for an unspecified instrument, voice or ensemble (e.g., instrument, voice, ensemble)

c) a term for a family of instruments or voices (e.g., plucked instruments, female voices)

d) a term for an ensemble consisting of the same family of instruments or voices (e.g., string ensemble, women's chorus)

e) a term for the range or general type of instrument or voice (e.g., bass instrument, melody instrument, high voice)

and/or

f) a collective term for other media, etc. (e.g. mixed media, electronics).

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

alternative instruments and voices (see 6.15.1.4)

doubling instruments and voices (see 6.15.1.5)

number of parts, ensembles, etc. (see 6.15.1.6).

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.

Revision of 6.15.1.4 & 6.15.1.5, Alternative & Doubling Instruments/Voices

ALA recommends moving away from using the phrase "the names of" in these revised instructions; instead we recommend using "terms for". In addition, we are uncertain if the new RDA text style now requires the use of the singular. If so, we assume "and" needs to change to "or", resulting in phrases such as "alternative instrument or voice", for example. We have not made this change below.

Proposed revision

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6.15.1.4 Alternative Instruments and Voices

Record ~~the names of~~ <u>terms for</u> alternative instruments and voices. Record the number of parts, hands, or performers (see 6.15.1.6), as applicable

[example unchanged]

6.15.1.5 Doubling Instruments and Voices

Record ~~the names of~~ <u>terms for</u> doubling instruments and voices. Record the number of parts, hands, or performers (see 6.15.1.6), as applicable

[example unchanged]

Optional Omission

Omit doubling instruments and voices.

Revision of 6.15.1.6, Number of Parts, Ensembles, Etc.

By expanding this instruction to encompass "parts or performers", ALA observes that detailed guidance will be needed in application profiles.

ALA commenters wonder about the appropriate placement of the proposed 6.15.1.6.3, *Number of Performers for a Group of Percussion Instruments*. In this case, the percussion instruments are individual instruments, so it appears that they could be encompassed by 6.15.1.6.1 *(Number of Parts or Performers for Each Instrument or Voice)*. ALA recommends this course of action, which includes moving the proposed example to the new exception. With this approach, the optional omission for 6.15.1.6.1 will cover both the main instruction and the exception. This requires renumbering the subsequent instructions in the proposal.

To improve clarity, ALA recommends adding "type of" before ensemble in the proposed 6.15.1.6.4; this modification will better differentiate this instruction from 6.15.1.6.6.

Proposed revision

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6.15.1.6 Number of Parts, Ensembles, Etc.

Record the number of parts, ensembles, etc. by applying these instructions, as applicable:

number of parts or performers for each instrument or voice (see 6.15.1.6.1)

number of hands for each instrument (see 6.15.1.6.2)

number of performers for a group of solo percussion instruments (see 6.15.1.6.3)

number of ensembles (see 6.15.1.6.4)

total number of parts or performers (see 6.15.1.6.5)

total number of ensembles (see 6.15.1.6.6).

6.15.1.6.1 Number of Parts or Performers for Each Instrument or Voice

Record the number of parts or performers for each instrument or voice, if it can be determined.

EXAMPLE

[Examples needed]

Exception

Record the number of performers for a group of percussion instruments, if it can be determined.

EXAMPLE

percussion (3 performers)

Optional omission

Omit the number of parts or performers for each instrument or voice if there is only one part for the instrument or voice.

6.15.1.6.2 Number of Hands for Each Instrument

Record the number of hands for each instrument if other than two.

EXAMPLE

piano, 1 hand

harpsichord, 4 hands

viola, 4 hands

For two or more keyboard or mallet (marimba, vibraphone, xylophone, etc.) instruments, specify the number of hands if other than two per instrument.

EXAMPLE

pianos (2), 6 hands

pianos (2), 8 hands

marimbas (2), 8 hands

but

organs (2)

6.15.1.6.3 Number of Performers for a Group of Percussion Instruments

Record the number of performers for a group of percussion instruments, if it can be determined.

EXAMPLE

percussion (3 performers)

Optional omission

Omit the number of performers for a group of percussion instruments if there is only one player.

6.15.1.6.34 Number of Ensembles

Record the number of ensembles for each type of ensemble, if it can be determined.

EXAMPLE

[Examples needed]

Optional omission

Omit the number of ensembles for each ensemble if there is only one ensemble.

6.15.1.6.45 Total Number of Parts or Performers

Record the total number of parts or performers, if it can be determined.

EXAMPLE

[Examples needed]

6.15.1.6.56 Total Number of Ensembles

Record the total number of ensembles, if it can be determined.

EXAMPLE

[Examples needed]

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6.15.1.6 Number of Parts, Ensembles, Etc.

Record the number of parts, ensembles, etc. by applying these instructions, as applicable:

number of parts or performers for each instrument or voice (see 6.15.1.6.1)

number of hands for each instrument (see 6.15.1.6.2)

number of performers for a group of solo percussion instruments (see 6.15.1.6.3)

number of ensembles (see 6.15.1.6.4)

total number of parts or performers (see 6.15.1.6.5)

total number of ensembles (see 6.15.1.6.6).

6.15.1.6.1 Number of Parts or Performers for Each Instrument or Voice

Record the number of parts or performers for each instrument or voice, if it can be determined.

> EXAMPLE
>
> [Examples needed]

Exception

Record the number of performers for a group of percussion instruments, if it can be determined.

> EXAMPLE
>
> percussion (3 performers)

Optional omission

Omit the number of parts or performers for each instrument or voice if there is only one part for the instrument or voice.

6.15.1.6.2 Number of Hands for Each Instrument

Record the number of hands for each instrument if other than two.

> EXAMPLE
>
> piano, 1 hand
>
> harpsichord, 4 hands

viola, 4 hands

For two or more keyboard or mallet (marimba, vibraphone, xylophone, etc.) instruments, specify the number of hands if other than two per instrument.

EXAMPLE

pianos (2), 6 hands

pianos (2), 8 hands

marimbas (2), 8 hands

but

organs (2)

6.15.1.6.3 Number of Ensembles

Record the number of ensembles for each type of ensemble, if it can be determined.

EXAMPLE

[Examples needed]

Optional omission

Omit the number of ensembles for each ensemble if there is only one ensemble.

6.15.1.6.4 Total Number of Parts or Performers

Record the total number of parts or performers, if it can be determined.

EXAMPLE

[Examples needed]

6.15.1.6.5 Total Number of Ensembles

Record the total number of ensembles, if it can be determined.

EXAMPLE

[Examples needed]