

To: RDA Steering Committee
From: Daniel Paradis, Translation Teams Liaison Officer
Subject: **Proposal to correct the terms “multipart monograph” and “serial”**

General comments:

- In original RDA, the term *serial* is defined as “A mode of issuance of a manifestation issued in successive parts, usually bearing numbering, that has no predetermined conclusion.” As the scope note explains, serials include not only resources such as periodicals and newspapers, but monographic series as well. In official RDA, a serial work has a narrower scope since it is specifically defined as a “successive work that is planned to be realized by *multiple distinct aggregating expressions* [emphasis added] over an indeterminate timespan.” As opposed to a newspaper or a periodical, a monographic series cannot be assumed to contain only or mainly issues that are aggregate manifestations. It is therefore not possible to state as a rule that all series are serial works. A more exact equivalent to *serial* would be *successive indeterminate work*. The scope note in the Glossary for *successive indeterminate plan* does say that it “[i]ncludes periodicals, newspapers, *series* [emphasis added], newsletters, conference proceedings, annual reports, and archived copies of webpages.” Both concepts are indeed defined by the same two criteria: existence of successive parts and an indeterminate timespan. This leads me to believe that in many cases, the term *successive indeterminate work* should be used instead of *serial work* and *serial*.
- RDA no longer prescribes that the basis for the description of a manifestation be the first or earliest issue or unit for multiple unit manifestations or the first iteration for manifestations of integrating works. In fact, Guidance > Resource description > Describing a manifestation does not contain any instructions about choosing a basis for the description. This allows communities who wish to do so to adopt latest entry cataloging for serials. However, some of the instructions covered by this proposal still reflect the approach taken in original RDA and should be revised to correct that situation.
- Recommendations 1 and 4 use the wording “A manifestation consists of two or more units” or a variant thereof for some conditions. In Manifestation: **extent of manifestation**, the wording used is “A manifestation is issued in two or more units.” The word *issued* is not appropriate because it implies that the condition only applies to published manifestations when the element also applies to unpublished manifestations. It is nonetheless important to specify that the existence of multiple units is a characteristic of the manifestation as produced or published, and not as modified at a later point in time, since the description is for the manifestation as it was first created. In the case of manifestations embodying successive works, it is also important to clarify that they are to be treated as multiple unit manifestations when appropriate even though only one issue or unit might exist at the time the description is done, for example when applying the instructions for Manifestation: **note on issue or part or iteration used as basis for identification of manifestation**. Including these explanations in the instructions would require adding several conditions, though. To simplify the wording of the instructions, I suggest using the phrase “A manifestation is a *multiple unit manifestation*” and adding a definition of the term *multiple unit manifestation* in the Glossary to give the proper explanations. See Recommendation 9 below for a suggestion of definition.

Recommendation 1: I support the recommendation in part. I note that the distinction in the current version of the instructions for this element between serials and multipart monographs is not necessary. The options are basically the same for serials and multipart monographs and could be generalized for multiple unit manifestations; there is no need to distinguish between successive determinate works and serial works, and the instructions could therefore be much simplified. As in original RDA, multiple unit manifestations of static works need to be considered too because all the units are not necessarily available when the description is done, even though they may have been produced or published at the same time. The distinction between multiple unit static works and successive indeterminate works may also be difficult to make by an agent who receives and describes the units after the last one has been published; at that time, it may be impossible for the agent to know if the units were originally published together or successively. Finally, the wording should be adjusted to reflect the fact that the description might not be based on the first/earliest issue or unit and that this element can be recorded even though the identification of a manifestation is based on the first issue or unit.¹ These changes would allow simplifying the instructions by combining those for the earliest and latest issues consulted. I suggest the following revisions:

Marked-up version:

~~Issue or part used as the basis for the identification of a multipart monograph or serial-~~

~~OPTION~~

~~In some cases, the identification of a manifestation of a diachronic work is not based on the first released issue or part (see Resource description. Describing a manifestation). When this occurs, record a note identifying the issue or part used as the basis for the identification.~~

CONDITION

A manifestation is a *multiple unit manifestation*.

OPTION

Record a note identifying the issue or unit used as the basis for the identification; include its date of publication if the issue or unit is unnumbered.

~~Numbered serials-~~

~~CONDITION~~

~~Two or more issues or parts have been consulted.~~

~~OPTION~~

¹ The current CONSER practice is to always record this element “even if cataloging is based on the first issue.”

~~Record a separate note identifying the latest issue or part consulted in preparing the description.~~

OPTION

~~Do not make a note of earliest or latest issues or parts consulted if they are the same as those recorded in Manifestation: numbering of sequence.~~

CONDITION

A manifestation is a *multiple unit manifestation*.

Two or more issues or units have been consulted.

The issues or units are numbered.

OPTION

Record a note identifying the earliest or latest issues or units consulted in preparing the description.

OPTION

Do not make a note of earliest or latest issues or units consulted if they are the same as those recorded in Manifestation: **numbering of sequence**.

~~Unnumbered serials~~

OPTION

~~Record a note identifying the earliest issue or part consulted and its date of publication.~~

CONDITION

~~Other issues or parts have been consulted.~~

OPTION

~~Record a separate note identifying the latest issue or part consulted and its date.~~

CONDITION

A manifestation is a *multiple unit manifestation*.

Two or more issues or units have been consulted.

The issues or units are unnumbered.

OPTION

Record a note identifying the earliest or latest issues or units consulted in preparing the description; include their date of publication.

~~Multipart monographs~~

~~OPTION~~

~~Record a note identifying the part of a multipart monograph on which the identification of the manifestation is based and/or its number or publication date, as appropriate.~~

~~CONDITION~~

~~Two or more parts have been consulted.~~

~~OPTION~~

~~Record a separate note identifying the latest part consulted in making the description.~~

~~Iteration used as the basis for the identification of manifestations of integrating works~~

~~OPTION~~

~~Record a note identifying the latest iteration of a manifestation of an integrating work consulted in preparing the description.~~

CONDITION

A manifestation embodies an integrating work.

OPTION

Record a note identifying the latest iteration consulted in preparing the description.

~~Date of viewing of an online resource~~

~~OPTION~~

~~For an *online resource*, record a note identifying the date on which the manifestation was viewed for description.~~

CONDITION

A manifestation is an online resource.

OPTION

Record a note identifying the date on which the manifestation was viewed for description.

Clean version:

CONDITION

A manifestation is a *multiple unit manifestation*.

OPTION

Record a note identifying the issue or unit used as the basis for the identification; include its date of publication if the issue or unit is unnumbered.

CONDITION

A manifestation is a *multiple unit manifestation*.

Two or more issues or units have been consulted.

The issues or units are numbered.

OPTION

Record a note identifying the earliest or latest issues or units consulted in preparing the description.

OPTION

Do not make a note of earliest or latest issues or units consulted if they are the same as those recorded in Manifestation: **numbering of sequence**.

CONDITION

A manifestation is a *multiple unit manifestation*.

Two or more issues or units have been consulted.

The issues or units are unnumbered.

OPTION

Record a note identifying the earliest or latest issues or units consulted in preparing the description; include their date of publication.

CONDITION

A manifestation embodies an integrating work.

OPTION

Record a note identifying the latest iteration consulted in preparing the description.

CONDITION

A manifestation is an online resource.

OPTION

Record a note identifying the date on which the manifestation was viewed for description.

Recommendation 2: I support the recommendation. I note however that this is the only instance of *integrating manifestation* in the Toolkit and that the proper term for this concept is *manifestation of an integrating work*. I therefore suggest the following revision:

Definition and Scope

A note that identifies a ~~part~~ an issue, unit or iteration that is used for the base description of a ~~multiunit~~ multiple unit manifestation or of a manifestation of an integrating work ~~manifestation~~.

Recommendation 3: I support the recommendation for the second option and the first condition.

The first condition/option is derived from 2.17.5.4 in the original Toolkit, where *serial* has a broader meaning which also covers monographic series. In order for the equivalent instructions in the official Toolkit to cover series, it is necessary to use *successive indeterminate work* instead of *serial work* as an equivalent for *serial* in the option. I suggest revising the option thus:

Marked-up version:

OPTION

Record notes on numbering errors, or complex or irregular numbering of a manifestation of a successive indeterminate work ~~serial, or numbering errors~~.

OPTION

Clean version:

Record notes on numbering errors, or complex or irregular numbering of a manifestation of a *successive indeterminate work*.

The second condition/option comes from 2.17.5.5 in the original Toolkit, where *serial* has a broader meaning which also covers monographic series. In order for the equivalent instructions in the official Toolkit to cover series, it is necessary to use *successive indeterminate work* instead of *serial work* as an equivalent for *serial*. The term *issued* is also problematic since it implies that the condition only applies to published manifestations, which should not be the case. I think it is useful to keep “a volume², issue, part, etc.”, with *unit* substituted for *part*, since it helps understand the meaning of the instruction, but I think the full phrase should be used in both the condition and the option. In the option, it is indeed

² In the context of this instruction, I understand *volume* to mean *bibliographic volume* as opposed to *physical volume*, as explained in Entities > [Manifestation](#) > [extent of manifestation](#). It is therefore not a synonym of *unit*.

important to clarify that the period covered is that of “a volume, issue, unit, etc.” and not that of the manifestation of the work as a whole. I suggest revising the condition/option thus:

Marked-up version:

CONDITION

A manifestation of a successive indeterminate work serial is produced or published~~issued~~ annually or less frequently.

The period covered by ~~the~~ a volume, issue, unit, etc., is other than a calendar year.

OPTION

Record a note on the period covered by a volume, issue, unit~~part~~, etc., of a manifestation of a successive indeterminate workserial.

Clean version:

CONDITION

A manifestation of a *successive indeterminate work* is produced or published annually or less frequently.

The period covered by a volume, issue, unit, etc., is other than a calendar year.

OPTION

Record a note on the period covered by a volume, issue, unit, etc., of a manifestation of a *successive indeterminate work*.

I also note that the definition of the element includes the word *part*, which should also be replaced with *unit*. Since the instructions refer specifically to issues as well, that term should be added too in the definition. The definition should read:

Marked-up version:

A note on manifestation that provides information on the range of designators that is used to indicate a sequence of the individual units~~parts~~, issues, or iterations of a manifestation.

Clean version:

A note on manifestation that provides information on the range of designators that is used to indicate a sequence of the individual units, issues, or iterations of a manifestation.

Recommendation 4: I support the recommendation in part. The condition about changes in statements of responsibility that occur between units, issues, or iterations is still implicit, however, and should be made explicit, re-using wording found in Manifestation: title proper > Recording > Recording an unstructured description > Change in a title proper > first condition. Some options include the phrase “if considered important for identification or access”, which is no longer necessary in the official Toolkit and should be deleted. Some conditions and options include wording that assumes that the description will be based on the first/earliest issue (“subsequent unit” and “first/earliest issue”) or on the current iteration, but this assumption no longer holds in the official Toolkit. The distinction in the current version

of the instructions for this element between serials and multipart monographs on the one hand is not necessary. The options are basically the same for serials and multipart monographs and could be generalized for multiple unit manifestations; there is therefore no need to distinguish between the different types of works and the instructions could be simplified. To avoid needless repetition, the condition on changes being numerous could be specified in an option instead. The inclusion of the option to "Record details or other unstructured information" for integrating works seems to be an error since it is not included for serials/successive indeterminate works and could be deleted. I suggest the following revisions:

Marked-up version:

Changes in statement of responsibility

~~Multipart monographs~~

CONDITION

A manifestation is a *multiple unit manifestation*.

A value of Manifestation: **statement of responsibility** that appears on one unit or issue varies from the values that appear on other units or issues.

OPTION

Record notes on the differences in statements of responsibility that occur on the units or issues. ~~a subsequent part of a multipart monograph, if considered important for identification or access.~~

~~Serials~~

~~CONDITION~~

~~Changes have been numerous.~~

OPTION

Record a general note if the changes have been numerous.

~~Manifestations of integrating works~~

CONDITION

A manifestation embodies an integrating work.

A value of Manifestation: **statement of responsibility** that appears on one iteration varies from the values that appear on other iterations.

OPTION

Record notes on the changes in statements of responsibility that occur on the iterations. ~~statements of responsibility no longer present on the current iteration of a manifestation of an integrating work or that appeared in a different form on earlier iterations, if considered important for identification or access.~~

~~CONDITION~~

~~Changes have been numerous.~~

OPTION

Record a general note if the changes have been numerous.

~~OPTION~~

~~Record details or unstructured information.~~

Clean version:

Changes in statement of responsibility

CONDITION

A manifestation is a *multiple unit manifestation*.

A value of Manifestation: **statement of responsibility** that appears on one unit or issue varies from the values that appear on other units or issues.

OPTION

Record notes on the differences in statements of responsibility that occur on the units or issues.

OPTION

Record a general note if the changes have been numerous.

CONDITION

A manifestation embodies an integrating work.

A value of Manifestation: **statement of responsibility** that appears on one iteration varies from the values that appear on other iterations.

OPTION

Record notes on the changes in statements of responsibility that occur on the iterations.

OPTION

Record a general note if the changes have been numerous.

Recommendation 5: I support the recommendation in part. These instructions come from 2.3.2.13.2 in the original Toolkit, where *serial* has a broader meaning which also covers monographic series. In order for the equivalent instruction in the official Toolkit to cover series, it is necessary to use *successive indeterminate work* instead of *serial work* as an equivalent for *serial*. I suggest revising the 7th bullet thus:

Marked-up version:

two or more titles proper used on different issues of a manifestation of a successive indeterminate work-~~serial~~ in a regular pattern

Clean version:

two or more titles proper used on different issues of a manifestation of a *successive indeterminate* work in a regular pattern

I note that the scope of 2.3.2.13.2 in the original, which was limited to serials, has been broadened to cover all diachronic works in the condition. The practice for integrating works is different, however, and the title on the current iteration is always recorded as the title proper, no matter how different it is from previous titles. The option to not record a new Manifestation: **title proper** should therefore not apply to integrating works and the wording of the condition should be revised to limit its scope to successive indeterminate works. I suggest the revising the condition and the first option thus:

Marked-up version:

CONDITION

A manifestation embodies a unit, or ~~issue, or iteration~~ of a ~~diachronic~~ *successive indeterminate* work.

A value of Manifestation: **title proper** varies from the values that appear on other manifestations that embody units, or ~~issues, or iterations~~ of a ~~diachronic~~ *successive indeterminate* work in the following cases:

[Rest of the condition unchanged except for 7th bullet, addressed above]

OPTION

Do not record a new Manifestation: **title proper** for the manifestation that embodies the ~~diachronic~~ *successive indeterminate* work.

Clean version:

CONDITION

A manifestation embodies a unit or issue of a *successive indeterminate* work.

A value of Manifestation: **title proper** varies from the values that appear on other manifestations that embody units or issues of a *successive indeterminate* work in the following cases:

[Rest of the condition unchanged except for 7th bullet, addressed above]

OPTION

Do not record a new Manifestation: **title proper** for the manifestation that embodies the *successive indeterminate* work.

Recommendation 6: I support the recommendation to move the subsection to Prerecording but not to use *serial work*. These instructions come from 19.2.1.1.3 in the original Toolkit, where *serial* has a broader meaning which also covers monographic series. In order for the equivalent instruction in the official Toolkit to cover series, it is necessary to use *successive indeterminate work* instead of *serial work* as an equivalent for *serial*. I suggest revising the Prerecording section thus:

Marked-up version:

Prerecording

Persons considered to be creators of a successive indeterminate work

OPTION

A person is considered to be a creator of a *successive indeterminate work* if they are responsible for the work as a whole, not a few issues.

Indications that a person may be considered responsible for a *successive indeterminate work* as a whole include the following:

1. a value of Person: **name of person** is included in a value of Manifestation: **title proper** of a *successive indeterminate work*
2. a person is a publisher of a *successive indeterminate work*
3. the scope of a *successive indeterminate work* consists of personal opinions, etc.
4. no other agent is associated with a *successive indeterminate work*.

[Example]

CONDITION

Different issues of a *successive indeterminate work* are likely to be created by different persons.

OPTION

Do not consider a person to be a creator.

CONDITION

It is likely that a *successive indeterminate work*~~serial~~ would continue without the responsibility of a person.

OPTION

Do not consider a person to be a creator.

For a person who is a government or religious official, see Work: creator corporate body of work.
Government and religious officials considered to be creator corporate bodies of work.

Clean version:

Prerecording

Persons considered to be creators of a successive indeterminate work

OPTION

A person is considered to be a creator of a *successive indeterminate work* if they are responsible for the work as a whole, not a few issues.

Indications that a person may be considered responsible for a *successive indeterminate work* as a whole include the following:

1. a value of Person: **name of person** is included in a value of Manifestation: **title proper** of a *successive indeterminate work*
2. a person is a publisher of a *successive indeterminate work*
3. the scope of a *successive indeterminate work* consists of personal opinions, etc.
4. no other agent is associated with a *successive indeterminate work*.

[Example]

CONDITION

Different issues of a *successive indeterminate work* are likely to be created by different persons.

OPTION

Do not consider a person to be a creator.

CONDITION

It is likely that a *successive indeterminate work* would continue without the responsibility of a person.

OPTION

Do not consider a person to be a creator.

For a person who is a government or religious official, see Work: creator corporate body of work. Government and religious officials considered to be creator corporate bodies of work.

Recommendation 7: I do not support the recommendation. These instructions come from 19.2.1.1.3 in the original Toolkit, where *serial* has a broader meaning which also covers monographic series. In order for the equivalent instruction in the official Toolkit to cover series, it is necessary to use *successive indeterminate work* instead of *serial work* as an equivalent for *serial*. I suggest revising the condition thus:

Marked-up version:

CONDITION

It is likely that a successive indeterminate work~~serial~~ would continue without the responsibility of a family.

Clean version:

CONDITION

It is likely that a *successive indeterminate work* would continue without the responsibility of a family.

In the rest of the Prerecording section, the term *serial work* should be replaced with *successive indeterminate work*.

Recommendation 8: I support the recommendation in part. However, per its definition, the element applies to all diachronic works, i.e. successive works (including serial works) and integrating works. Limiting the scope of the option to serial and integrating works is therefore too restrictive; to cover all types of diachronic works, the two categories mentioned should be *successive works* and *integrating works*. I also note that the wording still reflects that of the definition of the element in the original Toolkit, which mentioned “update to an integrating resource.” The current definition refers instead to “iteration of a diachronic work”. It would be more consistent to refer to *iterations of* instead of *updates to* an integrating work. I suggest rewording the option thus:

Marked-up version:

Record a *frequency* of the release of issues or units~~parts~~ of a successive~~serial~~ work or the frequency of iterations~~updates of~~ to an *integrating work*.

Clean version:

Record a *frequency* of the release of issues or units of a *successive work* or the frequency of *iterations of an integrating work*.

I also note that the definition of the element includes the word *part*, which should also be replaced with *unit*. The word *issued* implies that the element only applies to published manifestations, which is incorrect. I suggest the following revisions:

Marked-up version:

An interval at which a unit~~part~~, issue, or iteration of a diachronic work is produced or published~~issued~~.

Clean version:

An interval at which a unit, issue, or iteration of a diachronic work is produced or published.

Recommendation 9: I support adding *serial*, *multiple unit* as a “Use for” reference under *multiple unit* but I don’t think that the “Use for” reference *multiple unit serial* should be under *serial work*. As I explained in the general comments, the closest equivalent to the concept of *serial* in the original Toolkit is *successive indeterminate work* in the official Toolkit. The references from *multiple unit serial* as well as from *serial* should therefore be under *successive indeterminate work* instead. Because series cannot be said to be serial works, the reference from *main series* to *serial work* should also be moved under *successive indeterminate work*. This requires adding a definition for that term, but it would be useful to include a definition for it anyway since the term would be used in instructions if my suggestions are accepted. Having a specific definition would also help users who would otherwise have to refer to the definitions of two terms (*successive work* and *successive indeterminate plan*) to understand the concept. The definition I suggest is based on the that of *successive indeterminate plan*. I also suggest adding see also references between *successive indeterminate work* and *serial work* so that both concepts would be connected; this way, the term *serial* would be linked to *serial work*, albeit indirectly, via *successive indeterminate work*.

As mentioned in the general comments, I also suggest adding a definition for *multiple unit manifestation*, based on that for *multiple unit*. I don’t agree however that the latter should not be amended. Its wording is problematic in several respects:

1. It includes the term *issued*, which is misleading, and the term *multipart*, which is a legacy term.
2. The term *intangible* is redundant because *logical unit* is already defined as a “[a] part of an intangible manifestation.”
3. It is paradoxical in that it defines a mode of issuance for manifestations that have two or more units yet characterizes it by using the term *unit* in the singular (“a multipart physical unit or intangible multipart logical unit”); using more explicit language (e.g., “two or more physical or logical units”) would be clearer and would make translation easier.
4. It is not clear that it applies to manifestations that may have only one unit at some time but are planned to have two or more later.

The concept of *multiple unit manifestation* would be further clarified by the addition of *multipart manifestation* and *serial manifestation* as “Use for” references.

Marked-up version:

main series

~~See: serial work~~

See: successive indeterminate work

multipart monograph

See: multiple unit

multipart manifestation

See: multiple unit manifestation

multiple unit

A mode of issuance of a manifestation that is planned to be produced or published in issued as a multipart two or more physical unit or intangible multipart logical units.

Use for: multipart monograph

Use for: serial, multiple unit

See also: multiple unit manifestation

multiple unit manifestation

A manifestation that is planned to be produced or published in two or more physical or logical units.

Use for: multipart manifestation

Use for: serial manifestation

See also: multiple unit

multiple unit serial

See: successive indeterminate work

serial

See: serial work

See: successive indeterminate work

serial manifestation

See: multiple unit manifestation

serial, multiple unit

See: multiple unit

serial work

A successive work that is planned to be realized by multiple distinct aggregating expressions over an indeterminate timespan.

Use for: serial

Use for: main series

See also: successive indeterminate work

successive indeterminate work

A successive work that is intended to be embodied during an open timespan.

Includes periodicals, newspapers, series, newsletters, conference proceedings, annual reports, and archived copies of webpages.

Use for: serial

Use for: main series

Use for: multiple unit serial

See also: serial work

Clean version:

main series

See: successive indeterminate work

multipart monograph

See: multiple unit

multipart manifestation

See: multiple unit manifestation

multiple unit

A mode of issuance of a manifestation that is planned to be produced or published in two or more physical or logical units.

Use for: multipart monograph

Use for: serial, multiple unit

See also: multiple unit manifestation

multiple unit manifestation

A manifestation that is planned to be produced or published in two or more physical or logical units.

Use for: multipart manifestation

Use for: serial manifestation

See also: multiple unit

multiple unit serial

See: successive indeterminate work

serial

See: successive indeterminate work

serial manifestation

See: multiple unit manifestation

serial, multiple unit

See: multiple unit

serial work

A successive work that is planned to be realized by multiple distinct aggregating expressions over an indeterminate timespan.

See also: successive indeterminate work

successive indeterminate work

A successive work that is intended to be embodied during an open timespan.

Includes periodicals, newspapers, series, newsletters, conference proceedings, annual reports, and archived copies of webpages.

Use for: serial

Use for: main series

Use for: multiple unit serial

See also: serial work