To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative

Subject: Revision of RDA 1.8.1 Numbers Expressed as Numerals or as Words

ALA thanks the Rare Materials Working Group for this proposal to revise the alternative for early printed resources in 1.8.1, *General Guidelines* for *Numbers Expressed as Numerals or as Words*. We support the proposal, with some minor revisions.

Changes to RDA 1.8.1, Alternative

ALA agrees with the proposed change to make this an Exception instead of an Alternative, and to add "numbering within series" and "numbering within subseries" to the list of elements.

However, we also offer the following comments and recommendations.

1. To correspond with RSC/RareWG/1/ALA response, we propose using the phrase "rare resources" instead of "rare printed resources" throughout this text.

2. ALA has a number of stylistic questions about the Exception, all of which originate with the current Alternative text:

    a. Shouldn't the element names be capitalized, as they are in the main instruction?

    b. Why does the exception use a shortcut of "numbering of serials", which refers to RDA 2.6, while the main instruction lists all eight of the 2.6 sub-instruction names? ALA recommends that RDA use the same approach in both situations.

    c. Which closing punctuation style is correct: full stop at the end of the list (Alternative – now Exception) or no full stop (main instruction)? ALA recommends a consistent use of punctuation in these two lists.