

To: RDA Steering Committee
From: Dave Reser, LC Representative
Subject: Revision of RDA 1.8.1 Numbers Expressed as Numerals or as Words

Thanks to the Rare Working Group for identifying the issues related to 1.8.1 for early/rare resources.

Issue #1

We agree to add “numbering within series” and “numbering within subseries” to the list of manifestation elements in the alternative.

Editorial: Although not “new” because of the working group’s proposed revision, we’re not sure why the current base instruction lists all eight element subtypes of “numbering of serials” while the current exception collapses these to just the element. We think the approach should be consistent. Note also that the two lists should follow the same pattern for capitalization and use of the final period.

Issue #2

We’re somewhat concerned about a loss of agency flexibility due to the change of an Alternative to an Exception. An agency should be able to decide not to apply the alternative/exception to certain categories of materials, and document that decision. See the general discussion about Alternative vs. Exception in the LC response to RSC/RareWG/1.

Issue #3

See our response to RSC/RareWG/1 regarding “scope.”