

To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Renate Behrens, RSC Chair

Subject: Extent Working Group, 2025

This document sets out the membership, terms of reference, and specific tasks for the Extent Working Group. It supersedes [RSC/Chair/2024/3](#) and extends the completion date to December 2025. Special permission for this extension was obtained from the RDA Board at its meeting in December 2024. The membership list has been updated with the new Technical Team Liaison Officer.

The purpose of the Extent Working Group is to support the improvement of the RDA standard for elements that use measurements, primarily extent and dimensions elements. The primary deliverables are discussion papers or proposals (or both, broken into manageable pieces, if needed) to raise issues of concern for consideration by the RSC and to move forward with implementation of the AUQ (aspect-unit-quantity) model.

## 1 Background

Extensive work was done on this topic over the last decade in the context of the original Toolkit:

- [6JSC/ALA/17 and responses](#): Machine-Actionable Data Elements in RDA Chapter 3: Discussion Paper (2012)
- [6JSC/ALA/Discussion/1 and responses](#): Machine-Actionable Data Elements in RDA: Discussion Paper (2013)
- [6JSC/ALA/Discussion/5 and responses](#): Machine-Actionable Data Elements for Measurements, Extent of the Carrier, Pagination and Foliation, Dimensions, Extent of the Content, and Duration – Discussion Paper (2015)

In 2016, a [briefing paper](#) with a [detailed appendix](#) was prepared for the RSC meeting in Frankfurt. Extent issues were noted as a problem, but specific next steps were not determined.

The topic was not discussed at the Chicago or Madrid (2017) RSC meetings due to the demands and priority of the 3R Project.

The minutes to the 2018 RSC meeting in Montreal meeting say:

132.1 The RSC agreed that there is insufficient time before the English text stabilization to consider the analysis and revision of the extent of manifestation element. Problems with this element have been known for years; the American Library Association's Task Force on Machine-Actionable Data Elements in RDA Chapter 3 produced the 2015 ALA discussion paper (205 pp.) [6JSC/ALA/Discussion/5](#). Some major re-engineering of the element will be required to implement the quantity/unit/aspect substructure outlined in that report, and to tease out extent of expression instructions. This element will be added to a list of post-3R development efforts.

At the 2019 meeting in Santiago, it was agreed to set up a Working Group to address extent issues as part of the 2021 work plan. The group noted that extent issues are complicated and would mean atomizing parts of the Aspect-Unit-Quantity model.

## 2 Membership

Thomas Brenndorfer, Canada, Chair

Gordon Dunsire, UK

Keith Knop, USA

Liz O'Keefe, USA

Mark Scharff, USA

Alice Robinson, Switzerland

Christopher Holden, Technical Team Liaison Officer, *ex officio*

## 3 Terms of Reference

The Working Group operates within [RSC/Operations/3](#), the general terms of reference for RSC Working Groups. As a task-and-finish group, the Working Group has a two-year term, 2022-2023, which has been extended by one year.

## 4 Tasks

1. At a minimum, review the following elements, subtypes, and other elements that use a measurement in the official RDA Toolkit in the context of the 2012 Discussion Paper [6JSC/ALA/17](#) and the other Reference sources found in section 5. Consult the original Toolkit as needed. The Working Group may also identify other elements for consideration and review during the course of its work.

- Manifestation: extent of manifestation

- Expression: extent of expression
  - Expression: duration
  - Manifestation: dimensions
  - Manifestation: dimensions of cartographic image
  - Manifestation: dimensions of still image
  - Work: extent of representative expression
  - Work: duration of representative expression
2. Discuss and develop the process to implement the AUQ (aspect-unit-quantity) model in the official Toolkit. Identify problem areas where further consultation is needed.
  3. Prepare discussion papers or proposals (or both, broken into manageable pieces, if needed) for RSC review.

A discussion paper may request RSC feedback on issues or options, ask questions and/or suggest possible next steps. Discussion papers typically precede formal proposals to choose among multiple possibilities, or if the path isn't clear.

A proposal should have specific implementation recommendations for elements and/or guidance, including for the RDA Registry (new or re-defined elements, semantics, hierarchy) and for RDA instructions (guidance, principles, conditions and options).

Either document may identify problem areas where further consultation is needed and provide recommendations for next steps where feasible. More information is available in [RSC/Operations/4](#) and [RSC/Operations/5](#), and proposals that can be considered models are on the [2023 Documents page](#). Questions may be sent to the RSC at any time from the working group chair to the RSC Chair.

4. Provide progress reports to the RSC, ideally four weeks before each meeting, *viz*:
  - i. 10 March 2025 for the April meeting
  - ii. 16 June 2025 for the July meeting
  - iii. 20 October for the November meeting.

Note: The report at 4.iii may be your final report (see section 5) if you would like the group to be discharged at the November meeting, or it may be an update similar to those at 4.i and 4.ii if you would like the group to be discharged at the January 2025 meeting.

5. Provide a final report to the RSC in December 2025. See note at section 4 if you feel your work is completed sooner, you can submit your final report in October.

## 5 Reference sources

- Extent: Issues involved in a current implementation of some of the changes in ALA/Discussion/5 (Briefing paper prepared for Frankfurt meeting, 2016) – available in the restricted documents section of the Working Group’s basecamp.
- Appendix to briefing paper (2016) – available in the restricted documents section of the Working Group’s basecamp.
- [6JSC/ALA/Discussion/5 and responses](#): Machine-Actionable Data Elements for Measurements, Extent of the Carrier, Pagination and Foliation, Dimensions, Extent of the Content, and Duration – Discussion Paper (2015)
- [Minutes of the 2015 RSC meeting](#) -- agenda item 556 describes RSC discussion and decisions for 6JSC/ALA/Discussion/5
- [6JSC/ALA/Discussion/1 and responses](#): Machine-Actionable Data Elements in RDA: Discussion Paper (2013)
- [Minutes of the 2013 RSC meeting](#) – agenda item 420 describes RSC discussion and decisions for 6JSC/ALA/Discussion/1
- [6JSC/ALA/17 and responses](#): Machine-Actionable Data Elements in RDA Chapter 3: Discussion Paper (2012)
- [Minutes from the 2012 RSC meeting](#) – agenda item 327 describes RSC discussion and decisions for 6JSC/ALA/17