

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
**From:** Dave Reser, LC Representative  
**Subject:** Major and minor title changes for serials in languages which do not divide text into words: proposal for new wordings and instructions

LC thanks the ISSN International Centre and the ISSN Review Group for this follow-up to the 2013 discussion paper 6JSC/ISSN/2. Although the current paper is not designed as a proposal to change RDA instructions, we believe that this was the intention of the ISSN Review Group. Since codifying the proposed ISSN practice is not intended to change current practice in the ISSN or RDA environment, we believe that now is an opportune time to approve these changes in RDA to assure functional alignment with the ISSN instructions that will be revised later this year. For this reason, we have taken the liberty of re-formulating the concepts from ISSN into RDA instruction changes, should the JSC agree with this approach. LC also wonders whether there would be merit to establishing a protocol with the ISSN Review Group similar to the protocol with the ISBD Review Group and FRBR Review Group.

### **Proposed Changes**

#### **2.3.2.13.1 Major Changes**

For major changes in the title proper of a serial, apply these instructions, as appropriate:

languages and scripts that divide text into words (see 2.3.2.13.1.1)

languages and scripts that do not divide text into words (see 2.3.2.13.1.2)

##### **2.3.2.13.1.1 Languages and Scripts That Divide Text into Words**

In general, consider the following to be major changes in a title proper written in a language and script that divides text into words:

- a) the addition, deletion, change, or reordering of any of the first five words (the first six words if the title begins with an article) unless the change belongs to one or more of the categories listed as minor changes (see [2.3.2.13.2 RDA](#))
- b) the addition, deletion, or change of any word after the first five words (the first six words if the title begins with an article) that changes the meaning of the title or indicates a different subject matter
- c) a change of name for a corporate body included anywhere in the title if the changed name is for a different corporate body.

### **2.3.2.13.1.1 Languages and Scripts That Do Not Divide Text into Words**

In general, consider the following to be major changes in a title proper written in a language or script that does not divide text into words:

- a) the addition, deletion, change, or reordering of any component of the title proper that changes the meaning of the title or indicates a different subject matter
- b) a change of name for a corporate body included anywhere in the title if the changed name is for a different corporate body.

### **2.3.2.13.2 Minor Changes**

In general, consider the following to be minor changes in a title proper:

- a) a difference in the representation of a word, or words, or other component anywhere in the title (e.g., one spelling vs. another; abbreviated word or sign or symbol vs. spelled-out form; arabic numeral vs. roman numeral; number or date vs. spelled-out form; hyphenated word vs. unhyphenated word; one-word compound vs. two-word compound, whether hyphenated or not; an acronym or initialism vs. full form; or a change in grammatical form (e.g., singular vs. plural))
- b) the addition, deletion, or change of articles, prepositions, or conjunctions (or, in languages which do not use those, analogous parts of speech that have little lexical meaning but express grammatical relationships) anywhere in the title
- c) a difference involving the name of the same corporate body and elements of its hierarchy or their grammatical connection anywhere in the title (e.g., the addition, deletion, or rearrangement of the name of the same corporate body, the substitution of a variant form)
- d) the addition, deletion, or change of punctuation, including initialisms and letters with separating punctuation vs. those without separating punctuation, anywhere in the title
- e) a different order of titles when the title is given in more than one language on the source of information, provided that the title chosen as title proper still appears as a parallel title proper
- f) the addition, deletion, or change of words or components anywhere in the title that link the title to the numbering
- g) two or more titles proper used on different issues of a serial according to a regular pattern

- h) the addition to, deletion from, or change in the order of words or components in a list anywhere in the title, provided that there is no significant change in the subject matter
- i) the addition, deletion, or rearrangement anywhere in the title of words or components that indicate the type of resource, such as "magazine," "journal," or "newsletter" or their equivalent in other languages.

In case of doubt, consider the change to be a minor change.

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languages and scripts that do not divide text into words (see 2.3.2.13.1.2)

#### **2.3.2.13.1.1 Languages and Scripts That Divide Text into Words**

In general, consider the following to be major changes in a title proper written in a language and script that divides text into words:

- a) the addition, deletion, change, or reordering of any of the first five words (the first six words if the title begins with an article) unless the change belongs to one or more of the categories listed as minor changes (see [2.3.2.13.2 RDA](#))
- b) the addition, deletion, or change of any word after the first five words (the first six words if the title begins with an article) that changes the meaning of the title or indicates a different subject matter
- c) a change of name for a corporate body included anywhere in the title if the changed name is for a different corporate body.

#### **2.3.2.13.1.1 Languages and Scripts That Do Not Divide Text into Words**

In general, consider the following to be major changes in a title proper written in a language or script that does not divide text into words:

- a) the addition, deletion, change, or reordering of any component of the title proper that changes the meaning of the title or indicates a different subject matter
- b) a change of name for a corporate body included anywhere in the title if the changed name is for a different corporate body.

### 2.3.2.13.2 Minor Changes

In general, consider the following to be minor changes in a title proper:

- a) a difference in the representation of a word, words, or other component anywhere in the title (e.g., one spelling vs. another; abbreviated word or sign or symbol vs. spelled-out form; arabic numeral vs. roman numeral; number or date vs. spelled-out form; hyphenated word vs. unhyphenated word; one-word compound vs. two-word compound, whether hyphenated or not; an acronym or initialism vs. full form; or a change in grammatical form (e.g., singular vs. plural))
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- f) the addition, deletion, or change of words or components anywhere in the title that link the title to the numbering
- g) two or more titles proper used on different issues of a serial according to a regular pattern
- h) the addition to, deletion from, or change in the order of words or components in a list anywhere in the title, provided that there is no significant change in the subject matter
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