

**To:** ALA/ALCTS/CCS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access  
**From:** Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative to the Joint Steering Committee  
**Subject:** Problems with RDA 3.4.5.9, Leaves or Pages of Plates

**Background:**

The current text of RDA 3.4.5.9 reads:

### 3.4.5.9 Leaves or Pages of Plates

If the leaves or pages of plates in a resource are not included in the numbering for a sequence or sequences of pages or leaves of text, etc., record the number of leaves or pages of plates at the end of the sequence or sequences of pagination, etc. Record the number of leaves or pages of plates after the pagination, etc., whether the plates are found together or distributed throughout the resource.

**EXAMPLE**

246 pages, 32 pages of plates  
x, 32, 73 pages, 1 leaf of plates

If the resource contains both leaves and pages of plates, record the number in terms of whichever is predominant.

**EXAMPLE**

323 pages, 19 unnumbered pages of plates  
Contains 16 pages and 3 leaves of plates

If the numbering of the leaves or pages of plates is complex or irregular, see [3.4.5.8](#).

*Exception*

**Early printed resources.** For early printed resources, if the leaves and pages of plates are numbered, or if there are both numbered and unnumbered plates, record each sequence of leaves and pages of plates in the appropriate terms.

**EXAMPLE**

246 pages, 38 leaves of plates, 24 pages of plates

Disregard unnumbered sequences of plates, unless:

- a) an unnumbered sequence of plates forms a substantial part of the resource  
(see also [3.4.5.8](#))

*or*

- b) an unnumbered sequence includes plates that are referred to in a note.

#### EXAMPLE

xii, 24 pages, 212 leaves of plates, 43 unnumbered leaves of plates

Unnumbered sequence constitutes substantial part

xvi, 249 pages, 12 unnumbered leaves of plates

Unnumbered sequence includes a plate referred to in a note

A number of problems have been identified with the current wording:

- There is a conflict between the instruction in the first paragraph to record the number of leaves or pages of plates and the final paragraph which says to disregard unnumbered sequences of plates unless they meet certain criteria.
- In this instruction, “plate” is defined obliquely, without reference to the RDA Glossary definition.
- The instruction mentions the ability to record unnumbered plates, but does not contain information about how to do so. Language could be incorporated from 3.4.5.3.1. Inclusion of this guidance would also address how to record an approximate number of unnumbered plates, which is also absent from 3.4.5.9.
- The Exception for Early printed resources seems to be misplaced. It probably belongs after the paragraph about disregarding unnumbered sequences of plates. The order of instructions here could be informed by 3.4.5.3.1.

#### Questions for discussion:

1. Does CC:DA agree that this instruction should be clarified? If so:
2. Are there additional problems beyond those mentioned above that should be addressed in a revision proposal?
3. Do you have initial thoughts about how to approach solving these problems?
4. Who should work on developing a proposal?