

**To:** ALA/ALCTS/CCS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access  
**From:** Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative to the Joint Steering Committee  
**Subject:** Core elements in Distribution and Manufacture Statements: what constitutes “applicable and readily ascertainable”?

**Background:**

The core element statement at RDA 2.8, Publication Statement reads:

Place of publication, publisher's name, and date of publication are core elements for published resources. Other sub-elements of publication statements are optional.

This core element statement thus requires recording these elements, even if the resource contains no publication information. If the cataloger does not supply probable content, the publication statement would be:

[Place of publication not identified] : [publisher not identified], [date of publication not identified]

For publication statements such as these, the question arises about how to appropriately interpret the related core element statement for RDA 2.9 (Distribution Statement):

Place of distribution is a core element for a resource in a published form if the place of publication is not identified. Distributor's name is a core element for a resource in a published form if the publisher is not identified. Date of distribution is a core element for a resource in a published form if the date of publication is not identified. Other sub-elements of distribution statements are optional.

RDA contains similar “core if” element statements for Manufacture Statement (RDA 2.10) and Copyright Date (RDA 2.11).

***Interpretation #1:***

If distribution elements must be provided in the absence of related publication elements, then a distribution statement will be recorded, even if no distribution information appears in the resource.

If no distribution elements are identified, then the related manufacture elements must be recorded, even if the resource contains no information about its manufacture.

This interpretation leads to constructions such as the following:

[Place of publication not identified] : [publisher not identified], [date of publication not identified]

[Place of distribution not identified] : [distributor not identified], [date of distribution not identified]

[Place of manufacture not identified] : [manufacturer not identified]

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### ***Interpretation #2:***

The definition of core elements at RDA 1.3 states that these are only provided when they are “applicable and readily available.” Since most manifestations do not contain information about distribution or manufacture, this information is not applicable or readily available and can be omitted.

### **1.3 Core Elements**

When recording data identifying and describing a manifestation or item, include as a minimum all of the following elements that are applicable and readily ascertainable.

...

#### **Publication statement**

Place of publication (if more than one, only the first recorded is required)

Publisher’s name (if more than one, only the first recorded is required)

Date of publication

#### **Distribution statement**

Place of distribution (for a published resource, if place of publication not identified; if more than one, only the first recorded is required)

Distributor’s name (for a published resource, if publisher not identified; if more than one, only the first recorded is required)

Date of distribution (for a published resource, if date of publication not identified)

#### **Manufacture statement**

Place of manufacture (for a published resource, if neither place of publication nor place of distribution identified; if more than one, only the first recorded is required)

Manufacturer's name (for a published resource, if neither publisher nor distributor identified; if more than one, only the first recorded is required)

Date of manufacture (for a published resource, if neither date of publication, date of distribution, nor copyright date identified)

**Copyright date**

Copyright date (if neither date of publication nor date of distribution identified)

...

**Questions for discussion:**

1. Which interpretation above reflects RDA's current approach?
2. Which interpretation is desired?
3. What changes need to be made to RDA, if any, to ensure the desired outcome?