

To: ALA/ALCTS/CC:DA Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access

From: Nathan Putnam, Chair, Task Force to Investigate the Instructions for Recording Relationships in RDA

Subject: Revision to 3.1.4, Resources Consisting of More than One Carrier Type

Background

The Task Force to Investigate the Instructions for Recording Relationships in RDA has been considering the instructions relevant to the description of accompanying material. This concept is part of a sequence of instructions dealing with resources that have more than one part. Our investigation has revealed a problem with those instructions.

This sequence of instructions begins with guidelines in **1.5.2**:

When using a comprehensive description for a resource that has more than one part, record details about the parts of the resource in any of the following ways that are applicable:

- a) as part of the description of the carrier (see [3.1.4](#))
- b) as a relationship to a related work (see [25.1](#))
- c) as a relationship to a related manifestation (see [27.1](#))

For describing multipart resources *as part of the description of the carrier*, **1.5.2** refers us to **3.1.4**. At **3.1.4**, there are additional instructions about recording information about physical parts as part of the carrier description:

When preparing a comprehensive description for a resource consisting of more than one carrier type, apply the method that is appropriate to the nature of the resource and the purpose of the description:

- 1) record only carrier type and extent of each carrier (see [3.1.4.1](#))
- or
- 2) record carrier type, extent, and other characteristics of each carrier (see [3.1.4.2](#))
- or
- 3) record the predominant carrier type and extent in general terms (see [3.1.4.3](#)).

Record additional characteristics of particular carriers if considered important for identification or selection (see [3.6–3.20](#)).

However, there is a major disjunction between **1.5.2** and **3.1.4**. The former covers *all* resources in more than one part, and refers to **3.1.4** for describing them “as part of the description of the carrier”. However, **3.1.4** is limited to “Resources of more than one *carrier type*” [emphasis added]. There is nothing in **3.1.4** that covers resources with parts of the *same* carrier type, such as a book with a physically separate supplement or index, or a book accompanied by a volume of maps or illustrations. One would assume that this was considered to be obvious: the single content type would be recorded, and the extent of the resource would be recorded by applying **3.4.1.3**. Unfortunately, this apparently went without saying — which is never a good idea.

There are other difficulties with **3.1.4**.

Resources consisting of more than one physical carrier may need multiple instances of various elements:

- Media Type (3.2) [not current included in 3.1.4]
- Carrier Type (3.3)
- Extent (3.4)
- Additional carrier characteristics (3.6–3.20)]

The instructions are currently organized by three categories, based on the actions to be taken:

- Record only carrier type and extent of each carrier
- Record carrier type, extent and other characteristics of each carrier
- Record predominant carrier type and extent in general terms.

These categories do not currently cover the case in which there are multiple carriers of the same type. Furthermore, the first category does not allow the cataloger to distinguish between predominant and accompanying carriers; and the third category does not allow for recording extent of predominant and accompanying carriers separately (these being two ways of introducing the concept of accompanying material).

Accommodating both the additional elements and the concept of predominant carrier in the current structure could be quite complicated. Therefore, we suggest restructuring 3.1.4 to give separate instructions for each element. Many of these will turn out to be rather simple, the exception being the recording of extent.

The Task Force proposes the following revisions to **3.1.4**:

1. Revise 3.1.4 so that it covers resources on multiple carriers, whether of the same type or of different types. We propose to do this by deleting the word “type” from the phrase “carrier type” in the caption and instruction at 3.1.4.
2. Replace the current sub-instructions based on methods of describing resources consisting of more than one carrier type with a sequence of instructions for recording media type (proposed 3.1.4.1), carrier type (proposed 3.1.4.2), extent (proposed 3.1.4.3), and other carrier characteristics (proposed 3.1.4.4).
3. Revise the instruction that allows additional characteristics to be recorded (currently 3.1.4, 2nd paragraph; proposed 3.1.4.4) to include the possibility of recording the dimensions of each carrier.

Proposed Revision:**Marked-up copy:****3.1.4 Resources Consisting of More Than One Carrier ~~Type~~**

When preparing a comprehensive description for a resource consisting of more than one carrier ~~type~~, apply the method that is appropriate to the nature of the resource and the purpose of the description record the following elements for each carrier, as applicable:

~~1) record only carrier type and extent of each carrier (see [3.1.4.1](#))~~

~~or~~

~~2) record carrier type, extent, and other characteristics of each carrier (see [3.1.4.2](#))~~

~~or~~

~~3) record the predominant carrier type and extent in general terms (see [3.1.4.3](#)).~~

1) media type (see [3.1.4.1](#))

2) carrier type (see [3.1.4.2](#))

3) extent (see [3.1.4.3](#)).

Record additional characteristics of particular carriers if considered important for identification or selection (see ~~3.6–3.20~~ [3.1.4.4](#)).

Record details of the carriers in a note if considered important for identification or selection (see [3.21.2.3](#)).

For instructions on recording information about the carrier of accompanying material, see [27.1](#) (related manifestation).

~~For instructions on recording extent for a comprehensive description of a collection, see [3.4.1.11](#).~~

[DELETE the remainder of the current **3.1.4** (see Appendix for the current text of 3.1.4) and replace with the following new instructions:]

3.1.4.1 Media Type

When the carriers are of different media types, record each media type (see [3.2.1.3](#)).

EXAMPLE

computer

audio

unmediated

Media types for a resource consisting of a computer disc, an audio disc, study prints, and a folded sheet

Alternative

Record only the media type of the predominant carrier.

EXAMPLE

projected

Media type for a resource consisting of slides, an audiocassette, and a leaflet, in which the slides are the predominant component

When the carriers are of the same media type, record that media type (see 3.2.1.3).

EXAMPLE

unmediated

Media type for a resource consisting of a volume of text accompanied by a volume of maps

3.1.4.2 Carrier Type

When the carriers are of different carrier types, record each carrier type (see 3.3.1.3).

EXAMPLE

computer disc

audio disc

sheet

Carrier types for a resource consisting of a computer disc, an audio disc, study prints, and a folded sheet

Alternative

Record only the carrier type of the predominant carrier.

EXAMPLE

slide

Carrier type for a resource consisting of slides, an audiocassette, and a leaflet, in which the slides are the predominant component

When the carriers are of the same carrier type, record that carrier type (see 3.3.1.3).

EXAMPLE

volume

Carrier type for a resource consisting of a volume of text accompanied by a volume of maps

3.1.4.3 Extent

Record the extent of each carrier (see 3.4.1.3).

EXAMPLE

1 computer disc

1 audio disc

4 study prints

1 folded sheet

Extent of a resource consisting of a computer disc, an audio disc, study prints, and a folded sheet

Optional omission

If the number of units cannot be readily ascertained or approximated, omit the number.

EXAMPLE

various pieces

Number of pieces omitted**Optional addition**

If the carriers are in a container, record the extent by naming the container.

EXAMPLE

12 slides

1 audiocassette

1 map

box

Extent of a resource consisting of slides, an audiocassette, and a map, all in a container**Alternative**

If one or more carriers are predominant, record the extent of the predominant carrier.

EXAMPLE

50 slides

Extent of a resource consisting of slides, an audiocassette, and a leaflet, in which the slides are the predominant component

For instructions on recording extent for a comprehensive description of a collection, see [3.4.1.11](#).

3.1.4.4 Other Characteristics

Record other characteristics of each carrier (see [3.65–3.20](#)), if considered important for identification or selection.

EXAMPLE

16 × 30 × 20 cm

Dimensions of a container for a resource consisting of slides, an audiocassette, and a map

10 × 7 cm, 4 mm tape

analog

mono

Dimensions, type of recording, and configuration of playback channels for the audiocassette in the same resource**Clean copy:****3.1.4 Resources Consisting of More Than One Carrier**

When preparing a comprehensive description for a resource consisting of more than one carrier, record the following elements for each carrier, as applicable:

- 1) media type (see [3.1.4.1](#))
- 2) carrier type (see [3.1.4.2](#))
- 3) extent (see [3.1.4.3](#)).

Record additional characteristics of particular carriers if considered important for identification or selection (see [3.1.4.4](#)).

Record details of the carriers in a note if considered important for identification or selection (see [3.21.2.3](#)).

For instructions on recording information about the carrier of accompanying material, see [27.1](#) (related manifestation).

3.1.4.1 Media Type

When the carriers are of different media types, record each media type (see 3.2.1.3).

EXAMPLE

computer
audio
unmediated

Media types for a resource consisting of a computer disc, an audio disc, study prints, and a folded sheet

Alternative

Record only the media type of the predominant carrier.

EXAMPLE

projected

Media type for a resource consisting of slides, an audiocassette, and a leaflet, in which the slides are the predominant component

When the carriers are of the same media type, record that media type (see 3.2.1.3).

EXAMPLE

unmediated

Media type for a resource consisting of a volume of text accompanied by a volume of maps

3.1.4.2 Carrier Type

When the carriers are of different carrier types, record each carrier type (see 3.3.1.3).

EXAMPLE

computer disc
audio disc
sheet

Carrier types for a resource consisting of a computer disc, an audio disc, study prints, and a folded sheet

Alternative

Record only the carrier type of the predominant carrier.

EXAMPLE

slide

Carrier type for a resource consisting of slides, an audiocassette, and a leaflet, in which the slides are the predominant component

When the carriers are of the same carrier type, record that carrier type (see 3.3.1.3).

EXAMPLE

volume

Carrier type for a resource consisting of a volume of text accompanied by a volume of maps

3.1.4.3 Extent

Record the extent of each carrier (see 3.4.1.3).

EXAMPLE

1 computer disc

1 audio disc

4 study prints

1 folded sheet

Extent of a resource consisting of a computer disc, an audio disc, study prints, and a folded sheet

Optional omission

If the number of units cannot be readily ascertained or approximated, omit the number.

EXAMPLE

various pieces

Number of pieces omitted

Optional addition

If the carriers are in a container, record the extent by naming the container.

EXAMPLE

12 slides

1 audiocassette

1 map

box

Extent of a resource consisting of slides, an audiocassette, and a map, all in a container

Alternative

If one or more carriers are predominant, record the extent of the predominant carrier.

EXAMPLE

50 slides

Extent of a resource consisting of slides, an audiocassette, and a leaflet, in which the slides are the predominant component

For instructions on recording extent for a comprehensive description of a collection, see [3.4.1.11](#).

3.1.4.4 Other Characteristics

Record other characteristics of each carrier (see [3.65–3.20](#)), if considered important for identification or selection.

EXAMPLE

16 × 30 × 20 cm

Dimensions of a container for a resource consisting of slides, an audiocassette, and a map

10 × 7 cm, 4 mm tape

analog

mono

Dimensions, type of recording, and configuration of playback channels for the audiocassette in the same resource

APPENDIX

Current Text of RDA 3.1.4

3.1.4 Resources Consisting of More Than One Carrier Type

When preparing a comprehensive description for a resource consisting of more than one carrier-type, apply the method that is appropriate to the nature of the resource and the purpose of the description:

- 1) record only carrier type and extent of each carrier (see [3.1.4.1](#))
- or*
- 2) record carrier type, extent, and other characteristics of each carrier (see [3.1.4.2](#))
- or*
- 3) record the predominant carrier type and extent in general terms (see [3.1.4.3](#)).

Record additional characteristics of particular carriers if considered important for identification or selection (see [3.6–3.20](#)).

For instructions on recording information about the carrier of accompanying material, see [27.1](#) (related manifestation).

For instructions on recording extent for a comprehensive description of a collection, see [3.4.1.11](#).

3.1.4.1 Recording Only Carrier Type and Extent of Each Carrier

If a detailed description of the characteristics of the carriers is not considered necessary, record only

- 1) the applicable carrier type or types (see [3.3](#))
- and*
- 2) the extent of each type of carrier (see [3.4](#)).

EXAMPLE

computer disc
audio disc
sheet

Carrier types for a resource consisting of a computer disc, an audio disc, study prints, and a folded sheet

1 computer disc
1 audio disc
4 study prints
1 folded sheet

Extent of the same resource

Optional addition

If the carriers are in a container, name the container and record its dimensions (see [3.5.1.5](#)).

EXAMPLE

slide

audiocassette

sheet

Carrier types for a resource consisting of slides, an audiocassette, and a map, all in a container

12 slides

1 audiocassette

1 map

Extent of the same resource

box 16 × 30 × 20 cm

Name and dimensions of the container of the same resource**3.1.4.2 Recording Carrier Type, Extent and Other Characteristics of Each Carrier**

If a detailed description of the characteristics of each carrier is considered important for identification or selection, record:

- 1) the applicable carrier type (see [3.3](#))
and
- 2) the extent of each carrier (see [3.4](#)).
and
- 3) other characteristics of each carrier (see [3.5](#)– [3.19](#)).

EXAMPLE

slide

46 slides

5 × 5 cm

Carrier type, extent, and dimensions for the slides in a resource consisting of slides and an audiocassette

audiocassette

1 audiocassette

10 × 7 cm, 4 mm tape

analog

mono

Carrier type, extent, dimensions, type of recording, and configuration of playback channels for the audiocassette in the same resource***Optional addition***

If the carriers are in a container, name the container and record its dimensions (see [3.5.1.5](#)).

EXAMPLE

audiocassette

1 audiocassette

10 × 7 cm, 4 mm tape

analog

4.75 cm/s

Carrier type, extent, dimensions, type of recording, and playing speed for the audiocassette in a resource consisting of an audiocassette, and a leaflet in a container

volume
24 pages
15 cm

Carrier type, extent, and dimensions for the leaflet in the same resource

container 18 × 12 × 2 cm

Name and dimensions of the container of the same resource

3.1.4.3 Recording Predominant Carrier Type and Extent in General Terms

For a resource consisting of many different types of carriers, record:

- 1) the predominant carrier type (see [3.3](#))
and
- 2) the extent of the resource as a whole, describing the units as various pieces (see [3.4.1.5](#)).

EXAMPLE

sheet
27 various pieces

Predominant carrier type and extent recorded using a general term

Record details of the pieces in a note if considered important for identification or selection (see [3.21.2.3](#)).

Optional omission

If the number of units cannot be readily ascertained or approximated, omit the number.

EXAMPLE

sheet
various pieces

Predominant carrier type and extent recorded using a general term, omitting the number of pieces

Optional addition

If the carriers are in a container, name the container and record its dimensions (see [3.5.1.5](#)).

EXAMPLE

sheet
42 various pieces

Predominant carrier type and extent recorded using a general term

box 20 × 12 × 6 cm
Dimensions of the container