

ISBD and DCRM into RDA: An Opportunity for Convergence?

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“The term ‘rare materials’ is used to refer to any special materials that repositories have chosen to distinguish from general materials by the ways in which they house, preserve, or collect them. Rarity in the narrow sense of ‘scarce’ may or may not be a feature of these materials.”

- *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)*, page 11 (footnote)

Why a need for cataloging rules for rare materials?

“... materials in special collection often present situations not ordinarily encountered in the cataloging of typical modern publications ... and may require additional details of description in order to identify significant characteristics (e.g., bibliographical format, typefaces, etc.). Such details ... permit the ready identification of copies of a resource (e.g., as editions, impressions, or issues), and ... provide a more exact description of the resource as an artifact.”

- *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)*, page 12

A (very) short history of rare materials cataloging codes

Rules for Descriptive Cataloging in the Library of Congress
(1949)

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(1949)

- contained a separate chapter on incunabula (Chapter 11)

Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (AACR)
(1967)

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(1967)

- also included a separate section on incunabula (Chapter 8)

Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, Second Edition (AACR2)
(1978)

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- chapter devoted specifically to “Early printed monographs” (2.12)

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(1978)

- chapter devoted specifically to “Early printed monographs” (2.12)
- based on the general framework for the description of library materials, the *General International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD(G))*

*International Standard Bibliographic Description for Older Monographic
Publications (Antiquarian) (ISBD(A))
(1980)*

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(1980)

- international review included the participation of the Bibliographic Standards Committee of the Rare Book and Manuscript Section

Bibliographic Description of Rare Books (BDRB) (1981)

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- combined AACR2's chapters 1 (General Rules for Description) and 2 (Books, Pamphlets, and Printed Sheets) and ISBD(A) rules

Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, Second Edition, 1988 Revision (AACR2R)
(1988)

*International Standard Bibliographic Description for Older Monographic
Publications (Antiquarian), Second Revised Edition (ISBD(A))
(1991)*

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Books (DCRB)
(1991)

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books) (DCRM(B))
(2005)

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books) (DCRM(B))
(2005)

- expanded guidance and more rigorous approach to transcription

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Serials) (DCRM(S))
(2008)

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Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Graphics) (DCRM(G))
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Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Cartographic) (DCRM(C))
(2016)

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Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Cartographic) (DCRM(C))
(2016)

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Manuscript) (DCRM(MSS))
(2016?)

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Serials) (DCRM(S))
(2008)

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Graphics) (DCRM(G))
(2013)

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Cartographic) (DCRM(C))
(2016)

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Manuscript) (DCRM(MSS))
(2016?)

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Music) (DCRM(M))
(2016?)

Resource Description and Access (RDA)
(2010)

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(2010)

- adopted by the Library of Congress in 2013

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials Task Force

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- will be a much more concise set of instructions that lightly extend RDA wherever there is need for rare materials guidance

An international standard for rare materials cataloging?
How?

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RDA Steering Committee

North America

Europe

Asia

Chair of RDA Board

Latin America
& the Caribbean

Africa

Oceania

ALA Publishing

Chair

Technical Team Liaison

Secretary

Translations Team Liaison

Examples Editor

Wider Community Engagement

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 - a. the general standard must fully acknowledge the needs of a specialist community
 - b. an international rare materials standard should have a fully international governing body
 - c. the standard must be translated for use in diverse communities

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5. Should integrate with the current data landscape
6. Should be responsive to the needs of users

IFLA Professional Statement on Universal Bibliographic Control (2012)

“Web technologies offer new possibilities of sharing data at a global scale and beyond the library domain, but also show a need for authoritative and trusted data.”

Thank you.

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