

Date: May 31, 2013

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From: Cataloging Advisory Committee
Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA)

Subject: Proposal to revise LC-PCC PS 25.1 to add artist monographs, exhibition and other art catalogs to the list of resource types that do not require conventional collective titles (hereafter CCTs)

Background:

For the past year the art cataloging community has been discussing the impact of the introduction of CCTs for art catalogs based on RDA 6.2.2.10.2, RDA 6.2.2.10.3, and LC-PCC PS 25.1 and the “Art catalogs” PowerPoint training material developed by LC. It normally takes the form of this example:

Matisse, Henri, 1889-1954. Works. Selections.

This practice is a major departure from former cataloging practices, and its introduction has not been sufficiently justified. None of the art libraries that were RDA testers interpreted RDA as calling for the inclusion of CCTs of this type in their test records for art catalogs. On behalf of ARLIS/NA catalogers, the Cataloging Advisory Committee of ARLIS/NA recommends the discontinuation of this practice for the following reasons:

1. Under the current guidelines, almost every resource in an art library is considered a compilation, since almost every resource contains some reproductions of art works. The resulting proliferation of additional access points makes them meaningless.
2. Once CCTs are added to records, art catalogers are required to create the corresponding authority records, an additional burden that is not justified by the benefit to our users.
3. There is a general confusion in the application and choice of terms for specific types of art work. We have observed CCTs that use “Postcards” as the material type for a work that reproduces postcards reproducing paintings by an artist. Moreover, the fact that some

artists create both textual works and art works in various media renders “Works. Selections” confusing and unhelpful.

4. All instances of CCTs covered by LC-PCC PS 25.1 treat reproductions of art works as if they were the same as the art works themselves. The nature of a literary text is unaltered by reproduction. Users access the same short story whether it appears in a book, a periodical, or a pdf file; the carrier varies, the content is unchanged. A reproduction of an artist’s work, however, is not the same as the original. The access point “Artist. Works. Selections” might be appropriate for the description of the contents of a museum gallery containing the artist's work or a portfolio of his drawings, but not for reproductions of the artist's work used to illustrate a book.

At this point the art cataloging community does not wish to open up the question of whether this practice is sustainable in the long term, when descriptions of bibliographic resources and of art works will co-exist in the same universe. We recommend discontinuing the practice because it is unhelpful even in our present environment of purely bibliographic description.

In conclusion: The Cataloging Advisory Committee of ARLIS/NA therefore proposes that “artists’ monographs, exhibition and other art catalogs” be added to the list of exclusions in LC-PCC PS 25.1, and requests that the Library of Congress revise its “Art catalogs” training material.

Proposed revision (in red):

LC-PCC PS for 25.1:

CORE ELEMENT FOR LC

Related work is a core element for LC for compilations: give a MARC 505 contents note unless the contents are indicated in another part of the description (e.g., in MARC 245 \$a because no collective title is present). There is no limit on the number of works in the contents note unless burdensome. For compilations of works, give an analytical authorized access point for the predominant or first work in the compilation when it represents a substantial part of the resource. Disregard contributions such as a preface or introductory chapter. Generally, do not apply this core element to anthologies of poetry, hymnals, conference proceedings, journals, collections of interviews or letters, **artists' monographs, exhibition and other art catalogs**, and similar resources.