

Gunilla Jonsson 2006-02-22



Changes and revision in ISBD(A), 2006 draft

General issues

A general, editorial revision has been carried out. It has involved minor and major changes, one typical change being the introduction of the phrase “if it is considered important to the users of the catalogue” in many cases. The term “item” has in most cases been replaced by “publication”. The editorial revision has been fairly comprehensive, but as it generally doesn’t change the meaning of the stipulations, such changes will only be indicated exceptionally.

The term “imprint” (to the regret of several in the group) has in most cases been replaced by “publication, printing, etc.” and similar phrasings (publisher, printer, etc.).

The stipulation to explain or give supplementary information in a note has been added in many cases.

Cross references between paragraphs have also been inserted in many cases.

Many, many examples have been added, some have been deleted, and many have been corrected and supplied with original punctuation, when possible. Some examples have been moved to new paragraphs or contexts, where they did fit better. Some of the original examples are images, and we couldn’t do anything about the text in those. In 1.3.3, e.g., “aretini” should be corrected to Aretini.

Special sections and paragraphs

0.1.1 Scope – the second paragraph has been expanded to make it clearer that ISBD(A) covers publications even of very limited circulation. Stipulation about facsimile reproductions also clarified.

0.2 Definitions – the term “publication” removed. In most ISBDs it isn’t included, and the group believes that the reason to have it in A was to extend the scope of A to things of limited circulation. We expanded the scope note instead.

Revised definitions, and sometimes revised terms, have:

Alternative title

Broadsheet (replacing the term “Broadside”)

Edition

Facsimile reproduction (replacing the term “Facsimile reprint”)

Format

Impression

Issue

Multi-part publication (replacing the term “Multi-volume publication”)

Numbering

Plate

Section title

Series

State

Statement of responsibility

Title proper

New terms are:

Bound with

Collective title

Gathering

Half-sheet

Inset/Insert

Issued with

Sheet

0.4 Punctuation

0.4.1 Slightly expanded, see 0.4.1.1.

0.4.1.1 Deleted, relevant parts integrated in 0.4.1. The option to record exact punctuation is now given in a much simpler way.

0.4.7 Abridged and simplified, in consistency with the changes to 0.4.1

0.6 Language and script of the description

Stipulation about giving interpolations in areas 1, 2, 4 and 6 in the language and script of those parts of the description changed into giving it in the language of the cataloguing agency if taken from external sources.

Stipulation for handling spaces intentionally left blank moved here from 0.10 and expanded.

0.7 Abridgements and abbreviations

Editorial revision and limiting of the use of abridgements not appearing in the source.

0.7.6 Italicizing or underlining options removed. Note recommending construction of uniform titles in certain cases removed.

0.8 Capitalization

This whole paragraph is considerably expanded. Two options are introduced: one is to follow the actual capitalization of the publication being described, the other one concerns the transcription of I, J and U, V if original capitalization is not followed. There is now an option to transcribe them as i, j and u, v even when converted to lower or upper case. For the sake of interoperability, this would actually be the safest way, but the conversion option is also there. The conversion rules are, however, revised, and hopefully more consistent and clearer than before.

0.9 Examples

Last paragraph deleted.

0.10 Misprints

Stipulation on how to deal with intentional blank spaces moved to 0.6. Stipulation added on how to handle variants with misprints.

0.12 Imperfections

The term “ideal copy” deleted – it has caused so much misunderstanding in the library world that it is better not to use it.

Stipulations on how to record the extent of imperfect copies moved to 5.1.2.6.

1 Title and statement of responsibility area

1.1.2.5 Stipulation simplified, just stating that the title proper can include numbers or letters.

1.1.2.7 Option introduced to quote individual titles in area 1 or in area 7 regardless of whether linguistically linked or not.

1.1.2.10 The idea that a publication has no title proper if it lacks a collective title is removed! This also had consequences for the definitions and in a number of other paragraphs: 1.1.4.2 with 1.1.4.2.1, 1.2.4, 1.3.4.3, 1.4.4.4 & 1.4.4.4.1, 1.5.4.13 with 1.5.4.13.1. – This is maybe a controversial change, but we believe that the definitions we propose are more strictly logical than the previous notions.

1.1.4.2.1 The last stipulation in the paragraph changed into conveying the character of the contents in a note only, and not making a devised title but to quote the title as instructed in the beginning of the paragraph.

1.5.2.1 Stipulation clarified to exclude information that is linguistically linked to other elements or area 1.

1.5.2.7 Stipulation not to quote extent information as part of title information deleted. – Left to local decisions.

1.5.4.3 Option introduced to give explanation of complicated intellectual responsibility circumstances in a note instead of inserting clarification within square brackets.

1.5.4.6 Phrasing changed: Initials, etc., are considered part of the statement of responsibility. They are transcribed when necessary linguistically. Omissions may be made, etc.

1.5.4.10 Option introduced to explain misleading intellectual responsibility statements in a note instead of inserting clarification within square brackets.

1.5.4.12.1 Complicated option to “exceptionally” give a parallel statement of responsibility after the parallel title to which it applies instead of before it (if it appears before it) removed. – No one could produce any example of this or recall having ever seen such a book.

2 Edition area

Introductory note Abridged, to be more cautious – it is not possible to assume that a new edition, in the sense of the technical definition, is always implied by certain phrases used in the prescribed sources for information.

2.1.1 Brought in consistency with the revised definition of the term “Edition”. A and B conditions for what constitutes an edition removed. Last sentence removed as being superfluous.

2.1.2 Simplified and clarified – prescription of when standard abbreviations are allowed clearer.

2.1.3 Stipulation about the changes that qualify as constituting a new edition changed to be more precise and content neutral.

4 Publication, printing or distribution, etc., area

Introductory note The “bookseller” role added to the list of functions.

Contents – Simplified to greater consistency with other ISBDs.

Punctuation pattern

E – Clarification as to when to use round brackets (()) for the statement of printing.

Prescribed sources – Changed to make it clearer that a colophon is a source on a different (and higher) level than half-titles, etc. Also changed to make it clearer when the source shall be accounted for in a note, and when square brackets must be used in addition.

Form and order of elements – New paragraph introducing option to follow both form *and* order of the publication. Option A basically gives instructions for the traditional ISBD style. Option B gives instructions for a more faithful transcription in area 4. Instructions for option B are gathered in a separate section.

4.1 Place(s) of publication, printing, etc.

4.1.3 Simplified to prescribe for how to handle two or more places of publication, printing, etc., without the complication of one or more of them being the “principal” place – we were unable to find any examples to illustrate these conditions. – As a consequence, “principal” has been deleted in 4.1.5, 4.1.6, 4.1.8, 4.1.9

Old 4.1.4 – Deleted, in consequence with above! All agreed that it is not applicable to hand press publications.

New 4.1.4 – New paragraph introduced on how to handle place of publication when a single description is made for a multi-part publication or for a publication containing several, individual title pages.

4.1.6 – Phrasing simplified. Clarification inserted, concerning the kind of identification in question.

4.1.7 – Stipulation considerably expanded. The use of “i.e.” strictly limited to corrections. Stipulation to give alternative within square brackets in a “standardized form chosen by the cataloguing agency”. – This stipulation applied also in 4.1.9, 4.2.7.

4.2 Statement of publisher, printer, etc.

4.2.1 The term “preferred” deleted, in consequence with the new phrasing of Prescribed sources. The same deletion carried out in 4.2.3.1, 4.2.3.3, 4.2.6, 4.7.1

4.2.2 Stipulation changed to recommend giving all names performing any function, and to separate them with prescribed punctuation only if they are not linked by connecting words or phrases. Omissions still permitted, but assumed to be the exception, instead of the main route. Alternatives allowed, either to insert clarification of the omissions in square brackets, or to explain in a note.

4.2.3.1 Stipulation to generally omit qualifications as “printer to the King” and addresses, changed into the opposite. They may be omitted, but are always given when they aid in identifying or localizing the publication. Stipulation to omit “insignificant information” also changed from mandatory to optional, it *may* be omitted.

4.2.3.2 Stipulation changed from optional to mandatory, and expanded.

4.2.3.3 Expanded, and stipulation to explain in a note added.

New 4.2.3.4 New paragraph introduced on how to handle publisher, printer, etc., when a single description is made for a multi-part publication or for a publication containing several, individual title pages.

Old 4.2.3.4 renumbered 4.2.3.5.

Old 4.4.2 split on two paragraphs.

New 4.4.2 Stipulates how to transcribe dates of publication, including words and phrases grammatically linked to the date.

New 4.4.3 Incorporates most of old 4.4.2. Changes the stipulation to always giving the date in the context where it appears, and if it is not separable as the date element, to repeat it as the date element within square brackets.

Stipulation added on transcribing dates in roman numerals and supplying arabic numerals in square brackets.

Option to add a later year if known changed to mandatory prescription (still if known, of course).

Old 4.4.3 renumbered 4.4.4.

New 4.4.5 New paragraph stipulates how to handle conflicting dates in a publication.

Old 4.4.5 renumbered 4.4.6 New phrasing and new prescription on how to record privilege dates in place of publication dates.

New 4.4.7 New paragraph on how to give a privilege or copyright date note.

Old 4.4.6 renumbered 4.4.8 Expanded guidance on how to give uncertain dates.

Old 4.4.7 renumbered 4.4.9 Limited to the case of a single description made for a multi-part publication. Last paragraph expanded with stipulation on how to handle conflicting dates in such a case.

Option B

Cataloguing agencies that work a lot with hand press materials usually attach great importance to imprint information. Many of them do not omit anything from this area, and they record the information as faithfully as possible. Such agencies usually provide the interpretation of the information that ISBD(A) aspires to give by making authority records, or supplying controlled forms, for place names and publisher/printers/booksellers as well as recording the dates in controlled form. ISBD(A) has not provided any guidance to agencies that follow these procedures. They have had to work outside the standard, and will undoubtedly continue to do so if ISBD(A) does not consider their needs.

Option B is intended to meet the needs of standard guidance for such cataloguing agencies. It has fewer rules and is considerably simpler than option A. It basically prescribes to follow form and order, including punctuation in the prescribed sources of information for the area. Prescribed punctuation is only to be added when it can be done without distorting the original and when it is clear that different roles of place of publication – place of printing, publisher – printer apply. Several of the rules from A still apply and are repeated here, in some instances with some minor adjustment.

A slim majority of the group wants to simplify further by putting the label “colophon:” within square brackets in front of information taken from a colophon. Example:

. – In Venetia apresso di Ciotti. [Colophon:] In Venetia, M.DC.XXI.
Nella Stamperia dio Gio Battista Ciotti

The other part of the group, however, would prefer to account for this circumstance in a note instead:

. – In Venetia apresso di Ciotti. In Venetia, M.DC.XXI. Nella
Stamperia dio Gio Battista Ciotti
Note: Colophon: In Venetia, M.DC.XXI, etc.

The “colophon” label, however, would only be used in option B. At least one member of the group wanted it put forward for wider consultation, although he would himself probably only use option A.

5 Physical description area

Introductory note Expanded with a paragraph about the purpose of the physical description. Next paragraph expanded regarding the basis of the description.

5.1.2.3 Stipulation extended to give total number of pages or leaves in addition to columns.

5.1.2.4 Option to record both roman and arabic numeration introduced.

5.1.2.6 The order of the stipulations changed; stipulation about how to handle blank leaves introduced; stipulation on how to record imperfections introduced as last paragraph.

5.1.2.7 Changed to give only one alternative; examples changed accordingly.

5.1.2.9 Leaves of insets included in the stipulations. The expression “pages or leaves containing text” replaced by “pages or leaves of the publication – plates and insets are sufficiently defined in Definitions and should be identified on technical criteria, not on content criteria. Separately printed (disjunct) errata leaves or errata slips included in the stipulations.

5.1.3 & 5.1.3.1 The expression “unit other than a volume” has caused much discussion. It seems clear from the following prescriptions and examples that other formats than the common book format are concerned. We have not been able to find any completely satisfactory replacement but make a try with “the common book format”.

5.1.3.2 Stipulations about pagination of a “sheet” deleted as being unnecessary and confusing. – A single leaf should be described as [2] p. ; 2:o (or whatever format designation applies), and the example of a “sheet laid out in pages”, as the deleted text put it, should be described as [16] p. ; 8:o.

5.1.4.2 Option to give an explanation in a note, with amended example, introduced as alternative to the first example. Last example changed to account for the sequences of pagination in note only.

5.2 Illustration statements

Illustration statements have been made optional in the other ISBDs and in accordance have been declared optional even in A. Many members of the group, however, would actually want to have the recording mandatory in A. This is of course always possible in local policies.

5.2.1 Expanded with the option to record the technique (woodcuts, steel engravings, etc.) in a note.

5.2.5 Expanded with stipulation to give information of colouring in a note, if it is not certain that colouring is intended to appear in all copies of the publication.

5.3 Format and/or dimensions

5.3.1 Stipulation changed to prescribe a standard designation chosen by the cataloguing agency for the bibliographic format. Option to record designation of half-sheet, etc., imposition and stipulation on how to do it added. Broadsheet and half-sheet introduced as alternative format designations for 1:o and ½:o. Stipulations for recording added.

5.3.2 Recording of dimensions strictly limited to cases of standardized publisher’s binding or publisher’s wrappers. Option to give other dimensions as copy specific information in a note and stipulation on how to do it added. . – This is an issue of some concern to the

study group. Standardized measures did not appear until the 1820s at the earliest, when industrial machinery was beginning to come in use and made standard dimensions possible. Before that time, it isn't meaningful or even possible to give dimensions as part of the information common to an edition. It may always be given as copy specific information in a note, of course, but that should be a local policy decision and not prescribed in the standard.

All following examples edited in consistency with these changes.

5.3.3. Changed to prescribe for when to use the additional designation “oblong”, and to account for unusual dimensions or shapes in a note.

5.3.4 Changed stipulation on how to do when the bibliographic format cannot be determined.

5.3.5 Revised to limit recording of dimensions to standardized publisher's bindings or publisher's wrappers. Expanded stipulations for multi-part publications with volumes in different formats.

6 Series area

Comprehensive editing has been done, in accordance with editorial revision in other ISBDs. They do not, however, affect the stipulations as such. An important decision, however, was to use the term “publication” instead of “continuing resource” in area 6 in A.

A number of examples have been supplied where there were no examples before.

7 Note area

Examples added in many paragraphs.

7.5 Instructions on register of signatures and on giving a proper collation expanded and reference to the collation system to be used added.

7.8 Limitation of binding of an *edition* inserted.

7.9 Grouping of notes relating to copy in hand introduced.

8 Fingerprint area

8.1.2 Reference to the fingerprint method implemented by the Dutch STCN has been added.

Appendices A-C have not been changed in any way.

The Index is updated.