MARC DISCUSSION PAPER NO. 2023-_____

HARMFUL LANGUAGE STATEMENT: This discussion paper contains historical language and content that is offensive or harmful, for example, language used to refer to racial, ethnic and cultural groups.

DATE: MM/DD/YY
REVISED:

NAME: Adding Subfield $t to Field 245 in the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format

SOURCE: Rare Book and Manuscripts Section of ACRL (Bibliographic Standards Committee)

SUMMARY: This paper examines the possibility of adding subfield $t (Source of Title) to field 245 (Title Statement) to indicate the derivation of a transcribed title when that title contains harmful language and the title is from a source not readily apparent to general users. The subfield $t would be a new, non-repeatable brief statement about who provided the title, when the title proper is from a source other than the title page. This subfield would be especially valuable for unpublished and non-book materials. The use of this subfield would be optional and does not need to be applied retrospectively.

KEYWORDS: Field 245 (BD); Source of Title (BD); Type of Title (BD); Subfield $t, in Field 245 (BD)

RELATED: none

STATUS/COMMENTS:
MM/DD/YY – Made available to the MARC community for discussion.

Discussion Paper No. 2022-DP__: Adding Subfield $t to Field 245

1. BACKGROUND

Current Definition of Field 245

Field 245 is currently defined, in part, in the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format as follows:

245 - Title Statement (NR)

First Indicator	**Second Indicator**
Title added entry	*Nonfiling characters*
0 - No added entry	0 - No nonfiling characters
1 - Added entry	1-9 - Number of nonfiling characters

Subfield Codes

- $a - Title (NR)
- $b - Remainder of title (NR)
- $c - Statement of responsibility, etc. (NR)
- $f - Inclusive dates (NR)
- $g - Bulk dates (NR)
- $h - Medium (NR)
- $k - Form (R)

- $n - Number of part/section of a work (R)
- $p - Name of part/section of a work (R)
- $s - Version (NR)
- $6 - Linkage (NR)
- $7 - Data provenance (R)
- $8 - Field link and sequence number (R)

FIELD DEFINITION AND SCOPE

Title and statement of responsibility area of the bibliographic description of a work.

Title Statement field consists of the title proper and may also contain the general material designation (medium), remainder of title, other title information, the remainder of the title page transcription, and statement(s) of responsibility. The title proper includes the short title and alternative title, the numerical designation of a part/section and the name of a part/section. …

2. DISCUSSION

In the past, librarians expected users to know that an unbracketed title was transcribed from printed words provided by the creator or publisher of the resource being described. This assumption no longer holds true.

Researchers today are questioning libraries about harmful language in transcribed titles. This is especially true in cases where the title source is not readily apparent to researchers. Furthermore, librarians and archivists increasingly recognize that language in titles can harm and offend the users of library catalogs.

The addition of a $t (Source of Transcribed Title) to field 245 (Title Statement) can help reduce this ambiguity by identifying the source for transcribed titles that contain culturally insensitive language. Including source of title information as part of the Title Statement can provide immediate context for racist, homophobic, ableist, and similar words that appear in the titles of many types of materials, including manuscripts and grey literature, cartoons, maps, moving images, photographs, posters, and sheet music. Additionally, the title is not inherently manifest with many unique formats.

The types of culturally insensitive language for which the proposed $t should be used are those that fall within the definition of "Prejudicial works" and "Hate works" recommended by the Prejudicial Materials Working Group of the Rare Book and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) Controlled Vocabularies Group. The group recently summarized the scope of Prejudicial Works as: "… works that exhibit bias in relation to a particular group or groups of people based on religion, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ability, creed, national origin, etc." Hate Works are defined as "… works that express hatred or advocate harm toward a particular group of people."

Today, guidelines for inclusive description recommend making the source of racist language explicit. Notably, the Society of American Archivists recently adopted as a formal standard *Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia: Anti-Racist Description Sources* (2019). This guideline advises, "Consider your audience and the potential for harm when making decisions about whether to preserve problematic creator-supplied language. In most cases, preserve but contextualize creator-sourced original description when racism is an important context for understanding records." (page 8, https://archivesforblacklives.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/ardr_final.pdf)

Harmful language statements, which many libraries and other cultural institutions have adopted as a way to contextualize legacy descriptions, describe entire collections. The proposed $t will allow institutions to embed specific contextual information directly in a catalog record, where users are most likely to see and understand it. The $t should not be a harmful language statement per se, but rather a way to provide clear context for prejudicial language in the 245 field

The current provisions for identifying the source of a title are in fields 500 (General Note) and 588 (Source of Description, etc., Note). These note fields are not directly connected to field 245 (Title Statement) and are hard for catalog users to notice among other notes. The proposed subfield ($t) clearly associates the source of title information with the title field.

Retaining the original title is an important part of the context of a work, because it represents the original presentation, purpose, and impact of the work. Replacing harmful language in the original title can obscure the original context of an item and disassociate an item from the time and place of its creation.

Using the published title is also important for helping users locate information about a work in other sources. The *Descriptive Cataloging for Rare Materials* (RDA Edition) requires: "1.21.3.1 Transcribe the Title proper in the form and order in which it is presented on the preferred source of information, unless specifically instructed otherwise (see Transcription, 0.4.94.05)."

Uses for Subfield $t in MARC Bibliographic Field 245

1. Source of title information, such as "Title provided by original publisher" and "Title transcribed from item" can help catalog users recognize the creator and context of a title.

2. The use of $t can facilitate existing requirements in several cataloging guidelines.

   a. The visual resources and museum communities have long provided for metadata about the source of a title. Cataloging Cultural Objects (2006) has a specific element called "Title Type" in Section 1.2.2.3 (page 69). The recommended controlled vocabulary for this element suggests the following terms, among others: owner's title, repository title, inscribed title, creator's title, descriptive title, constructed title, published title, and collective title.

   b. *Descriptive Cataloging for Rare Materials: Graphic (DCRMG)* requires a source of title note because the titles of visual materials are so difficult for users to recognize as transcribed vs. devised by staff or supplied from another source. Section 7B3.1 (page 127), "Always make a note on the source of the title proper."

      Title from item
      Title from Pennington
      Title from artist's pencil note on back
      Title engraved below image
      Title devised by library staff

   c. *Descriptive Cataloging for Rare Materials: Manuscripts* also requires a note for the source of formal titles and transcribed titles. 1C1.2. Transcription. Transcription is required only for formal titles that appear on the title page, colophon, or caption (for instances when transcription is not appropriate, see 1C1.2.1). Use judgment as to whether to transcribe or paraphrase titles from other sources. When transcribing the title, do so exactly as to wording, order, and spelling, but not necessarily as to punctuation or capitalization. Make a note when the title is transcribed.

3. PROPOSED CHANGES

In field 245 (Title Statement) of the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format, add and define the following new subfield:

$t – Source of transcribed title (NR)

Optional text to identify the source of the title. Subfield $t should follow transcribed elements in order to allow the 245 field non-filing indicators to be effective with $a.

4. EXAMPLES

4.1 Photographs
245 02 $a A pair of little Indian papooses from the West … $t Title transcribed from item.[1]
245 02 $a *See https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2018651012/* $t Title transcribed from item.

245 10 $a Deaf & dumb children of St. Rita's School, Cincinnati, singing Star Spangled Banner … $t Title provided by publisher in 1918.[2]
245 10 $a *See https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2016826637/* $t Title provided by publisher in 1918.

245 00 $a G-men, sheriff aides, hunt Jap spies Los Angeles, Calif. … $t Title provided by newspaper in 1942.[3]
245 00 $a *See https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2018648096/* $t Title provided by newspaper in 1942.

4.3 Sheet Music
245 12 $a A real coon rag. … $t Title from cover.[4]
245 12 $a *See https://www.loc.gov/item/2016761411/* $t Title from cover.

4.4 Cartographic materials
245 10 $a 1960 winter Olympic games: Squaw Valley, California. … $t Title from item[5]
245 10 $a *See https://worldcat.org/en/title/1014028387* $t Title from item.

4.5. Ephemeral materials
245 10 $a Squaw Valley : $b Alpine meadows. … $t Title from item[6]
245 10 $a *See https://worldcat.org/en/title/1014028387* $t Title from item.

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[1] For image, see *https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2018651012/*

[2] For image, see https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2016826637/

[3] For image, see https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2018648096/

[4] For image, see https://www.loc.gov/item/2016761411/

[5] OCLC record, see https://worldcat.org/title/773624811?oclcNum=773624811

[6] OCLC record, see https://worldcat.org/en/title/1014028387

4.6. Art works
245 14 $a The unrivalled nigger of the Royal Standard. … $t Title transcribed from item.[7]
245 14 $a *See* https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2003665254/ $t Title transcribed from item.

5. BIBFRAME DISCUSSION
No special provisions anticipated.

6. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

6.1. How broad a concern is harmful language among libraries?

>   See List of statements on bias in library and archives description.

6.2. Have we demonstrated that there is sufficient need for defining subfield $t for the 245 field, even though RDA 2.2.4 advises that a source of title indication is not necessary?

>   RDA 2.2.4: "Do not indicate that the information was taken from a source outside the manifestation itself if the manifestation is of a type that does not normally carry identifying information (e.g., a photograph, a naturally occurring object, a collection)."   Previous RDA text: "Exception: when cataloging a resource that doesn't typically have bibliographic information on the resource (e.g., photograph, sculpture), you do not need the square brackets."

6.3. How can guidance available in descriptive cataloging manuals be helpful for encouraging consistent language in 245$t? The DCRM(G) manual already requires a source of title note in all cases and suggests wording. *Cataloging Cultural Objects* has a list of controlled vocabulary for title source information. Other cataloging manuals could consider adding guidance to offer consistent language for 245 $t as interest in inclusive description continues.

6.4. Are there other potential issues that need to be taken into account?

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[7] For image, see https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2003665254/