
Research Papers

A STUDY OF THE AACR2R RULES FOR THE ‘STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY’ IN THE “TITLE AND STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY AREA” IN VIEW OF THE MARC (MACHINE READABLE CATALOGUING)

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Abstract

In library cataloguing, we come across some of the descriptive elements like statement of responsibility, parallel statement of responsibility, etc. AACR2R and ISBD have set some rules as how to render these descriptive elements while cataloguing. Unfortunately some of the rules of AACR2R are not in compatible with the MARC21 (Machine Readable Cataloguing). This article is a study of the rules dealing with ‘Statement of Responsibility’ and the interpretation of these rules using examples from different library catalogues in view of the Machine Readable Cataloguing.

Keywords: AACR2R, Cataloguing, Title and Statement of Responsibility, Title Proper, Alternative Title, Parallel Title, General Material Designation (GMD).

1. INTRODUCTION:

Statement of Responsibility is a general way of describing words that usually appear in the chief source of information to show who has written, composed, edited, illustrated or in other ways contributed to the existence of the item. While transcribing the statement of responsibility, PSG Kumar¹ says, not to add words such as “by” or “and” unless these appear on the title page. “And” will be transcribed as “and”; the ampersand of and “&” will be transcribed as “&”.

2. AACR2R Rules for Statement of Responsibility

2.1 AACR2R Rule 1.1F1

To extract the information for this descriptive element AACR2R Rule 1.1F12 says, “transcribe the statement of responsibility appearing prominently in the item in the form in which they appear there. If a statement of responsibility taken from any other source, enclose it in square brackets”.

Example: All that jazz [GMD] / Fast Waller

2.2 AACR2R Rule 1.1F2

In case, if the statement of responsibility does not appear prominently, mention it in a note and do not include in the title and statement of responsibility area. i.e. AACR2R Rule 1.1F22. According to Rule 1.1F33, “if a statement of responsibility precedes the title proper, transpose it to its required position

unless it is an integral part of title”.

Jeng⁴, conducted a pilot study to investigate the general patterns and the level of applicability of rules of title and statement of responsibility area in AACR2. He suggests that “a knowledge base for cataloguing rules must base its defining unit on the Condition and Action (C/A) pair and not the rule number. The structure of each C/A pair in the knowledge base must contain the application domain, the procedural interpretation, the level of applicability, and the condition and action as stated in the text”.

According to Clarke⁵, “the concept of the statement of responsibility is poorly defined, and therefore the whole title area may be incapable of adequately identifying works; the restoration of multiple statements of responsibility and a more rational organisation of the notes area should result in considerable improvement”.

2.3 Statement of responsibility – Upto three person(s) / corporate body(bodies)

According to AACR2R Rule 1.1F43, “Transcribe a single statement of responsibility as such whether two or more persons or corporate bodies named in it perform the same function or different functions”.

Example:

Thinking and reasoning [GMD] : selected readings /edited by P.C. Wason and P.N. Johnson-Laird

2.4 Statement of responsibility – More than three person / corporate body

According to AACR2R Rule 1.1F53, “If a single statement of responsibility names more than three persons or corporate bodies performing the same function, or with same degree of responsibility, omit all but the first of each group. Indicate the omission by (...) and add et al. in square brackets”.

Example:

America’s radical right [GMD] / Raymond Wolfinger ... [et al.]

Dickens 1970 [GMD]: centenary essays / by Walter Allen ... [et al.]; edited by Michael Slater

Perhaps, in card cataloguing and pre-automation, the space was limited and entering number of authors would have created space problem. So it was assumed that the first author would be enough. But, today we cannot afford to have only one author statement as the latest computer titles are coming even more than 10 authors and having almost equal contribution. It is possible to easily accommodate the same using the bibliographic database packages.

If we consider, AACR2R approach of using ‘... [et al.]’ is right in database management environment too, then the authors of the following titles will not be reflected either on the catalogue or in search. Titles below published by Wrox Publication⁶ and authored by 18-20 authors where almost everybody sharing equal degree of responsibility

Example:

1. Professional Java Server Programming J2EE Edition by Subrahmanyam Allamaraju, Andrew Longshaw, Daniel O'Connor, Gordon Van Huizen, Jason Diamond, John Griffin, Mac Holden, Marcus Daley, Mark Wilcox, Richard Browett, Rod Johnson, Sameer Tyagi, Alexander Nakhimovsky, Tom Myers, Sing Li, Stefan Zeiger, Don Reamey, Andy Hoskinson, Karl Avedal *

2. Professional Windows DNA Christopher Blexrud, Matthew Bortniker, Jonathan Crossland, Dino Esposito, Jason Hales, Whitney Hankison, Vishwanath Honnaya, Tim Huckaby, Slava Kristich, Edward Lee, Rockford Lhotka, Brian Loesgen, Stephen Mohr, Simon Robinson, Ash Rofail, Brad Sherrell, Scott Short, Dan Wahlin*

* Source : British Library, Pune (India). Accession Number : PN66574

Example 2 indicates that the authors on the title page are listed in an alphabetical order, not indicating the primary author. Example 1, one can guess that the authors are arranged by their degree of responsibility (as there is no particular order), but not necessarily. According to AACR2R, the statement

of responsibility will be entered on the first author resulting injustice remaining authors. When a reader (for whom the catalogue is prepared) searches for any of the author other than the first, the catalogue will not display any entry.

About punctuation mark ‘ ; ’ in statement of responsibility, Bowman⁷ says, “this is probably the only place in AACR2 where repetition of an element uses a different punctuation from that for the first occurrence”. It looks as if the statement is exaggerated because AACR2 uses the punctuation ‘ ; ’ at ‘subsequent place of publication’, for ‘dimensions in Extent of item’, ‘subsequent statement of responsibility for edition statement’ (which AACR2R has not defined), etc.

Again it’s a matter of debate why AACR2R uses ‘ ; ’ as separator in above descriptive elements and ‘ , ’ for descriptive elements like additional edition statement (which according to AACR2R does not exist), and ‘ . – ’ to separate the ISBNs and the content note for items with collective title. It indicates the inconsistency in the use of punctuation marks. After all this is done for the reader who does not know, which distinctive punctuation marks are used for each descriptive element? This raises the question, whether the catalogue is for the readers or the cataloguers?

2.5 More than one statement of responsibility

According to AACR2R Rule 1.1F63, “If there is more than one statement of responsibility, give them in the order indicated by their sequence on, or the layout of, the chief source of information. If not, give the order that makes more sense”.

Example:

Bits of paradise [GMD] : twenty-one uncollected stories / by F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald ; selected by Scottie Fitzgerald Smith and Mathew J. Brucoli ; with a forward by Scottie Fitzgerald Smith

2.6 Titles of abbreviations

Regarding the titles of abbreviation in the statement of responsibility, AACR2R Rule 1.1F78 says “Include titles, abbreviations of titles of nobility, address, honor, distinction, initials of societies, qualifications, date(s) of founding, mottos, etc., if:

- a) such data are necessary grammatically
... / ... ;prologo del Excmo. Sr. D. Manuel FragaIribarneee
- b) the omission would leave only a person’s given name or surname
... /by Miss Jane
- c) the title is necessary to identify a person
... /by MrsCharles H Gibson
- d) the title is a title of nobility
... /by Sir Richard Acland
- else

Omit all such data from statements of responsibility. Do not use mark of omission
... /by Harry Smith (Dr. is omitted)”

2.7 Qualifier to statement of responsibility

Sometimes a cataloguer may come across a document where the role/function of the statement of responsibility is not clear but the item demands it then there is a provision in AACR2R Rule 1.1F88. It says, “add a word or short phrase to the statement of responsibility if the relationship between the title of the item and the person(s) or body (bodies) named in the statement is not clear”.

Example:

Baijun ballads [GMD] / [collected by] Chet Williams.

2.8 Symbols that cannot be reproduced

According to AACR2R Rule 1.1F99, “Replace symbols or other matter that cannot be

reproduced by the facilities available with the cataloguer's description in square bracket. Make an explanatory note, if necessary"

Example:

Over the border [GMD] / by [E.B.C.]

Note: Author's initials represented by musical notes on the title page

2.9 Item with Parallel Title but Statement of Responsibility in one or more languages

AACR2R Rule 1.1F109 can be summarized as, if an item has a parallel title but a statement(s) of responsibility in

- i) only one language, transcribe the statement of responsibility after all the parallel titles or other title information.
- ii) more than one language, transcribe each statement after the title proper, parallel title, or other title information.

AAruna10, syntactically, represented the same rule in the following ways:

i) Title proper, Parallel Title, Statement of Responsibility

Title (language x) = Parallel Title (language y) / statement(s) of responsibility (language x)

ii) Title Proper, Other title, Statement of Responsibility, Parallel Title, Parallel Other Title, Parallel Statement of Responsibility

Title (language x) : Other Title (language x) / statement(s) of responsibility (language x) = Parallel Title (language y) : Other Title (language y) / statement(s) of responsibility (language y)

If it is not practical to give statement of responsibility after the titles to which they relate, transcribe the statement of responsibility in the language of the title proper and omit the others.

2.10 Item without Parallel Title but Statement of Responsibility in one or more languages

There may be cases, where the item has a title in only one language but statement(s) of responsibility in one or more languages. In such cases, Rule 1.1F119 says,

- i) transcribe the statement in the language of title proper, or
- ii) transcribe the one that appears first. Optionally,
- iii) transcribe the parallel statements, each preceded by an equals sign.

AAruna10, again illustrated the same syntactically as below.

- i) Title (language x) / Statement of Responsibility (language x)
- ii) Title (language x) / Statement of Responsibility (language y)
- iii) Title (language x) : Other Title (language x) / statement of responsibility (language x) = statement(s) of responsibility (language y) = statement(s) of responsibility (language y)

2.11 Noun phrases used in Statement of Responsibility

According to AACR2R Rule 1.1F129, treat a noun phrase occurring in conjunction with a statement of responsibility as other title information,

- a) if it is indicative of the nature of the work, write it as other title information,
Characters from Dickens : dramatized adaptations / by Barry Campbell
- b) If it is indicative of the role of person(s)/ body (bodies), treat it as part of statement of responsibility,
Roman Britain / research and text by Colin Barham
- c) In case of doubt, treat it as part of statement of responsibility
- d) Omit the phrases or statements which don't fall either in a) or b) or c)

From the above options, it is clear that the options c) and d) lead to the subjectivity and ambiguity.

2.12 Noun associated with statement of responsibility

As per AACR2R Rule 1.1F1311, "When a name associated with responsibility for the item is transcribed as part of the title proper or other title information, do not make any further statement relating to that name unless such a statement is required for clarity, or unless a separate statement of responsibility including or consisting of that name appears in the chief source of information".

Example:

The John Franklin Bardin omnibus [GMD] / John Franklin Bardin.

In the above example name of the author appears separately in the chief source of information as well as in the title proper. Here the entry is made because the name appears separately in the chief source of information

2.13 Statement of Responsibility without any statement

According to AACR2R Rule 1.1F1411, "Transcribe a statement of responsibility even if no person or body is named in that statement". Further it says, "a statement of responsibility may include words or phrases that are neither names nor linking words". First part of this rule is a bit ambiguous.

Example:

Call of Love / translated from the Danish
... / Written by Jobe Hill in 1812

2.14 Statement not constituting other title or statement of responsibility

Lastly, according to AACR2R Rule 1.1F1511, "Omit statements found in the chief source of information that neither constitutes other title information nor form part of statement of responsibility".

3. ITEMS WITHOUT COLLECTIVE TITLES

3.1 One work Predominates

According to AACR2R Rule 1.1G111, "If, in an item lacking a collective title, one work is predominant part, treat the title of that work as the title proper and name the other work in a contents note". Simply put the more known title should be treated as title proper.

Example:

Partial contents : Introduction / Howard H Brinton – William I Hull : a biographical sketch / Janet Whitney – George Fox as a man / Frank Aydelotte.

Contents : Vol. 1. Plain tales from the hills – v. 2-3. Soldiers three and military tales – v. 4. In the black and white – v. 5. The phantom rickshaw and other stories – v.6. Under the deodars. The story of the Gadsbys. Wee Willie Winkie

3.2 No work Predominates – Rule 1.1G3

1. One statement of responsibility – Write all works separated by ‘;’
2. If works are by same person(s)/ body(bodies), then write all the titles, separated by semicolon

Example:

Clock symphony : no. 101 ; Surprise symphony : no. 94 [GMD] / Haydn.

3. If the works are by different person(s) / body (bodies), then follow the title of each work by its parallel title(s), other title information and statement of responsibility. Separate each group by the symbol ‘;’

Example:

Saudades do Brasil : suite de danses pour orchestre / Darius Mihaud. Symphonie concentrate pour

trompetteorchestre / Henry Barraud [GMD]

4. CONCLUSION

Even though the objective of the study is not to criticize AACR2R but during the study it is found that in case of more than three authors, the very idea of omitting all but the first author is not at all desirable. It does not serve the basic purpose of cataloguing. The authors might have played an equal degree of function or the authors might have been arranged in alphabetical order. The end user may look for the author who is not reflected in the catalogue card and find no results. Thus the catalogue fails to serve the purpose. Similarly, AACR2R does not distinguish between the information supplied by the cataloguer and the information taken from other than the chief source of information. It recommends to enter both in the '[]'. AACR2R rules are quite complex with regard to various titles, statements of responsibility and GMD. But the same can be incorporated in the computer program that will take care of the order of descriptive elements and the respective punctuation marks.

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