

The Very Model of a Minor/Major Change: A Current Look at Serials Cataloging Title Change Rules

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This article provides serials professionals with explanations and examples of rules for minor and major changes in the 2002 revision of *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, 2nd ed. (AACR2), as applied to serials. The authors outline minor/major rules and Library of Congress Rule Interpretations (LCRIs) and give examples for each rule. They also discuss initiatives and meetings leading up to these changes and provide key definitions as well as explore various problems with AACR2 and the intended goals for the revision. Additional discussion focuses on the impact of the minor/major changes on areas such as workflow in technical services, shelving, binding, and training. *Serials Review* 2004; 30:90–100.

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Title changes are an accepted fact of life in the world of serials. If someone mentions a title change to a serialist (especially a seemingly unnecessary change), more often than not, the serials professional will jump into an immediate tirade about the callousness of the publishing world and rail about what enormous work these title changes create. The term “title change” has become accepted jargon among serialists, and it is both celebrated and despised in serials lore. The serials section of the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), even recognizes the worst serial title change of the year.

Ironically, even this one constant of the serials world—the title change—has changed. The 2002 revision of the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, 2nd ed. (AACR2), redefined terminology for the title change. Instead of using the term “title change” to describe all situations for which a new record is created, the 2002

revision borrows the terms ‘major change’ and ‘minor change’ from International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) and International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) standards in order to achieve consistency among these standards.¹ For a better understanding of these changes, this article will provide explanations and examples of the minor/major rules for changes in serials as outlined in the 2002 revision of the AACR2 cataloging rules. Throughout the article, the phrase “title change” will refer to any change (major or minor) in the title proper of a serial. The authors outline how and why these revisions came about and discuss their potential impact on librarians and patrons.

Timeline of the 2002 Revisions

Several articles and reports outline the progression of events from 1997 to 2002 leading to the revision of AACR2. Crystal Graham’s presentation “What’s Wrong with AACR2: A Serials Perspective” at the AACR2000 Preconference in 1995 was a catalyst to these events.² Her insightful article, based on that presentation, outlines the core problems of AACR2 and expresses “the dissatisfaction the serials community has with the code.”³ Following is a timeline of events that took up the gauntlet thrown down by Graham’s article.⁴

- October 1997—International Conference on the Principles and Future Development of AACR2 in

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Toronto. Jean Hirons and Crystal Graham present a paper, "Issues Related to Seriality," and Jean Hirons receives commission from the Joint Steering Committee for the Revision of AACR (JSC) to write a report on rule revisions.

- January 1998 to January 1999—Four Cooperative Online Serials (CONSER) working groups were established to investigate the following areas:
 - defining continuing resources and new forms of publications
 - descriptive rules for print and electronic serials
 - minor and major changes
 - organization of the code
- April to October 1999—Hirons' report, "Revising AACR2 to Accommodate Seriality" is submitted and discussed by the JSC.
- February 2000 to October 2001—Rule revisions proposals are submitted, discussed, and accepted by the JSC.
- August 2002—Publication of the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, 2nd ed., 2002 revision.
- December 1, 2002—Library of Congress implements the 2002 revision of AACR2.

The Minor/Major Rules from the AACR2 Revisions

From the work of those five years (1997–2002) came the 2002 AACR revisions. Craig Dowski has observed that under the new rules there will be "more items cataloged as serials, and the revised rules will include more provisions for minor changes over time and allow more flexibility. Also, the term 'latest entry' cataloging has been renamed 'integrating entry' so resources such as loose-leaf publications and Web sites that undergo title fluctuations and changes will be more effectively cataloged."⁵

In the past, serials catalogers have called any change significant enough to create a new, successive entry record a "title change" even if the change was not in the title itself but occurred elsewhere in the bibliographic record (i.e., change in corporate body main entry). Conversely, not all changes to a title were significant enough to create a new record. Instead of creating a new record in these cases, access to the title variations was given as added entries or notes on an existing record.⁶ In some cases, a change in a nontitle element was called a "title change"; in other cases, a title change was not a "title change." With the 2002 revisions, the use of the terms "major change" and "minor change" should eliminate some of this confusion. The following definitions are key concepts in understanding the revised rules.

Major change: a change in the title proper, uniform title, main entry, or physical format that requires the creation of a new serial bibliographic record.

Minor change: a change in the title proper that does not require the creation of a new record. Minor changes may be noted in the serial bibliographic record.

Title proper: Subfields \$a, \$n, and \$p in the 245. Subtitles are not part of the title proper. Compare the title proper on the bibliographic record with the chief source of information on the piece being cataloged.

The definitions of major and minor change specifically refer to changes in title proper of serial publications. Cataloging rules related to integrating resources are not covered. Additional examples/exercises are provided in the Appendix.

Background for Selection of Examples

In order to find examples for this article and to get a general sense of how the revised rules will affect the future cataloging of serial title changes, the authors chose examples of title changes from 1992 to 2002 represented in the Mississippi State University Libraries' catalog. A report was structured to find and list bibliographic titles that had either a preceding title (780 MARC tag) or a succeeding title (785 MARC tag) or both. The report listed the title as found in the title proper (245 MARC tag), the preceding title (780), and/or the succeeding title (785). The list was further defined by the date the title started (fixed field date 1). The title proper was then compared with the 780/785 titles. Each variation in title was identified as either minor or major.

Keep in mind that these are title changes that occurred under past practice. The current major and minor rules would not be used to revise the cataloging of these titles. These rules were only applied for the sake of practice. CONSER libraries may occasionally collapse successive records for changes, which are now considered minor, but only in cases where the records to be collapsed are not CONSER authenticated and do not have a separate ISSN assigned. CONSER libraries have also been instructed to consider various criteria including the length of time that the serial carried the minor change, the number of holdings on the records, and the quality and completeness of the records. Even though none of the records examined for this article would be collapsed, we can still use them to predict the impact that some of the major and minor rules would have in the future.

Major Changes Outside the Title Proper

There are some changes in a serial that occur outside the title proper and always require that a new bibliographic record be created. One of these situations is a change in physical format. The current Library of Congress Rule Interpretation (LCRI) defines this as, "The physical medium in which the serial is issued changes as expressed in the specific material designation area (not a reproduction or the same serial in another manifesta-

tion). Such a change could be from paper to microfiche, from paper to online, etc.”⁷

Examples: (uniform title = UT)

UT: *Update (Music Educators National Conference (U.S.) : Print)*:

to:

UT: *Update (Music Educators National Conference (U.S.) : Online)*—major change
(Change of physical format, print no longer published)

Scientific American (in print)

to:

Scientific American (in microfilm)—minor change
(Microfilm is a reproduction of the print; both are currently published.)

Another major change is defined in the same LCRI. This interpretation explains that if “the edition statement changes and the change indicates a change in subject matter or a change in physical medium,” then a major change has occurred.⁸ If a serial was published in a U.S. edition and then divides into West Coast and East Coast editions, that would be a major change. Please note that if the edition statement is added, dropped, or changed and no significant change is implied, then this is a minor change.

A third major change is presented in AACR2 rule 21.3B1a: “Make a new entry for a serial when any of the following conditions arises, even if the title proper remains the same: a) if the heading for a corporate body under which a serial is entered changes, or b) if the main entry for a serial is under a personal or corporate heading and the person or body named in that heading is no longer responsible for the serial, or c) if the main entry for a serial is under a uniform title with a corporate heading as a qualifier and the corporate heading changes or the body named in that heading is no longer responsible for the serial.”⁹ Please note that a change in place name, frequency, or other qualifier used in a uniform title is a minor change.

Examples: (uniform title = UT)

UT: *Compass (United Business Schools Association)*
to:

UT: *Compass (Association of Independent Colleges and Schools)*
(Note: the title proper remained *Compass* on all issues.)

UT: *Journal (Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation)*

to:

UT: *Journal (Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance)*
(Note: the title proper remained *Journal* on all issues.)

Both examples are major changes because the name of the corporate body changes in the uniform title.

Numbering Changes

The AACR2 rule 12.3G1 states, “If the numbering starts a new sequence with a different system, give the designation of the first and/or last issues or parts under the old system, followed by the designation of the first issue or part under the new system. If a new sequence is accompanied by wording to differentiate the sequence, such as *new series*, include this wording. Distinguish such wording from that of a section title that is to be placed after a common title. If a new sequence with the same system as before is not accompanied by wording such as *new series*, supply [*new ser.*] or another appropriate term Give a note for other variations in designations that do not constitute a new sequence if the change is considered to be important.”¹⁰ Basically, this rule partially explains that variations in numbering are transcribed in the dates and/or sequential designation field (362 MARC tag) or described in a note but do not constitute a major change. This is true for numbering systems starting over or changing. The cataloger supplies “new ser.” (or some other appropriate wording that follows an existing numbering pattern) if it does not appear on the piece.

Example:

Vol. 1, no. 1 (date)-v. 10, no. 12 (date) ; 2nd ser., v. 1, no. 1 (date)-v. 10, no. 12 (date) ; [3rd ser.], v. 1, no. 1 (date)-v. 10, no. 12 (date)—minor change

Major Changes in the Title Proper

AACR2 21.2A defines major and minor changes. There are several things for a serials professional to remember when determining a major change or a minor change: (1) that multiple minor changes in the title do not equal a major change; (2) compare the title from the chief source of information on the piece in hand to the title proper (245 subfields \$a, \$n, and \$p) recorded in the title area in the serial bibliographic record;¹¹ (3) always compare changes in title to the title proper, not to later variants given in field 246;¹² and (4) use the same chief source of information when the piece in hand is compared to the bibliographic record. If the bibliographic record states that the title was from the cover, then the cover should be used as the chief source of information for the piece in hand. A true title page should always be used as the chief source of information over any other source, but periodicals often do not have a true title page.

In examining AACR2 21.2A1, there are three categories dealing with major changes in the title proper that are fairly straightforward. The first category is described in the following rule: “In general, for all bibliographic resources except integrating resources, consider as a major change in a title proper the addition, deletion, change, or reordering of any of the first five words (the first six words if the title begins with an article) unless

the change belongs to one or more of the categories listed in 21.2A2.”¹³ Count every word after the initial article (no matter how small) to determine the first five words.

Examples:

Heating, Piping and Air Conditioning

to:

Heating/Piping/Air Conditioning Engineering—major change

Accounting Technology

to:

Computers in Accounting—major change

Poultry and Avian Biology Reviews

to:

Avian and Poultry Biology Reviews—major change

The second category of major title changes presented in AACR2 21.2A1 is described in the following rule: “Consider also as a major change the addition, deletion, or change of any word after the first five words (the first six words if the title begins with an article) that changes the meaning of the title or indicates a different subject matter.”¹⁴ In other words, if the variations found in the comparison change the scope or focus of the title, it is a major change.

Examples:

World Meetings on Social & Behavioral Sciences, Education & Management

to:

World Meetings on Social & Behavioral Sciences, Human Services, & Management—major change

Journal of the Optical Society of America. \$nA, \$p Optics, and Image Science

to:

Journal of the Optical Society of America. \$nA, \$p Optics, Image Science, and Vision—major change
(Note: subfields \$n and \$p are part of the title proper.)

Journal of Health and Human Resources Administration

to:

Journal of Health and Human Services Administration—major or minor change

(Depends on the cataloger’s interpretation of “change in scope” as related to the words “resources” and “services”)

The third category of major title changes discussed in AACR2 21.2A1 is described in the following rule: “Also consider as a major change in title proper a change in a corporate body name given anywhere in the title if it is a different corporate body.”¹⁵ Therefore,

if a corporate body name appearing in a title changes (i.e., requires a different name authority record), then it is a major change. However, if the change only represents a variant name (i.e., a name in a different language, in a shorter or longer form, etc.) and is not truly a name change, then consider the change in title to be a minor change.

Examples:

Reports of the Institute of High Speed Mechanics, Tohoku University

to:

Reports of the Institute of Fluid Science, Tohoku University—major change

Journal of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists

to:

Journal of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists—major change

Minor Changes in the Title Proper

Of the three categories discussed in AACR2 21.2A1, the first category is the only one that is tested against the nine minor changes presented in AACR2 21.2A2a-i. If there is an addition, deletion, change, or reordering in the first five words, test the title from the chief source against the title proper in the existing bibliographic record. If one or more of the categories from 21.2A2 applies, then the change is minor. In case of doubt, consider the change to be a minor change. Titles characterized by categories two and three would always result in a major change.

AACR2 21.2A2a states: “In general, consider the following to be a minor change in a title proper: a difference in the representation of a word or words anywhere in the title proper. For example, one spelling vs. another; abbreviated word or sign or symbol vs. spelled-out form; arabic numeral(s) vs. roman numeral(s); numbers or dates vs. spelled-out form; hyphenated words vs. unhyphenated words; one-word compounds vs. two-word compounds, whether hyphenated or not; an acronym or initialisms vs. full form; or a change in grammatical form (e.g., singular vs. plural, possessive vs. not possessive, adjective vs. noun, and genitive vs. nominative).”¹⁶

Examples:

Fishery Report

to:

Fisheries Report—minor change

Open House

to:

OpenHouse—minor change

Chemical Marketing Reporter
to:
Chemical Market Reporter—minor change

Mississippi Gulf Coast Tourist Industry
to:
Mississippi's Gulf Coast Tourist Industry—minor change

AQ
to:
Australian Quarterly—minor change

Hardware Age Home Improvement Market
to:
Hardware Age Home Improvement Marketplace—major change
(“Market” and “marketplace” are two different words.)
AACR2 21.2A2b states, “In general, consider the following to be a minor change in a title proper: the addition, deletion, or change of articles, prepositions, or conjunctions anywhere in the title.”¹⁷

Examples:

Vacation Planner for Washington, D.C.
to:
Vacation Planner to Washington, D.C.—minor change

Roster, licensed architects
to:
Roster of licensed architects—minor change
AACR2 21.2A2c states, “In general, consider the following to be a minor change in a title proper: a difference involving the name of the same corporate body and elements of its hierarchy or their grammatical connection anywhere in the title proper (e.g., the addition, deletion, or rearrangement of the name of the same corporate body or the substitution of a variant form).”¹⁸ “Consider the presence or absence of the name of the official of the body to be a minor change. Consider the presence or absence of the body to whom a publication is presented to be a minor change”¹⁹

Examples:

Means Square Foot Costs
to:
Square Foot Costs—minor change
(*Means*, the publisher)

Report to Congress on Water Usage
to:
Report on Water Usage—minor change
(Report still presented to Congress)

COA General Report
to:
General Report of the Council on Agriculture—minor change
(Variant form of name in a different place in the title)

Report of the Secretary, Office of School Development in the Dept. of Education
to:
Report of the Office of School Development in the Dept. of Education—minor change
(Absence of named official)

Working Papers of the Center for Studies on Biology
to:
Working Papers of the Center for Studies in Biology—minor change
(Changes in preposition in corporate body does not necessarily make it a name change: see LCRI 24.2.)

ACM Ada Letters
to:
Ada Letters—minor change
(Name of corporate body deleted)

Amalgamated Engineering Union Monthly
to:
AEU Monthly—minor change
(Change in representation of name)

Annual Report of the Commissioner of the Dept. of Education
to:
Annual Report of the Director of the Dept. of Education—major change
(LCRI 21.2A cites presence or absence of named official as minor. Although this is not a change of corporate body, it is a change of named official in the first five words.)

Banc One Annual Report
to:
Bank One Annual Report—major change
(Change in corporate body name)

Journal of the Midsouth Academy of Economists
to:
Journal of the Southern Academy of Economists—major change
(Change in corporate body name)

Personal names, however, are not corporate bodies. When a person's name is added or dropped from the title, one must determine whether the person is also serving as publisher or whether the name might be an abbreviated form of the publisher's name. If the person's name is part of the publishing statement and if the same publishing statement appeared on both old and new

titles, then the addition or deletion of the person's name from the title would be minor. If, however, the person is not also the publisher and the person's name is added or dropped, the change is major.

Examples:

Germany [pub. by Fodor's Travel Publications]
to:
Fodor's Germany [pub. by Fodor's Travel Publications]—minor change
(Personal name associated with both titles)

Irreverent Guides. Manhattan [pub. by MacMillan]
to:
Frommer's Irreverent Guides to Manhattan [pub. by MacMillan]—major change
(Frommer's is a commercial publisher of other guides, but MacMillan has always published this particular guide.)

AACR2 21.2A2d states, "In general, consider the following to be a minor change in a title proper: the addition, deletion, or change of punctuation, including initialisms and letters with separating punctuation vs. those without separating punctuation, anywhere in the title proper."²⁰

Example:

GBB Newsletter
to:
G.B.B. Newsletter—minor change

AACR2 21.2A2e states, "In general, consider the following to be a minor change in a title proper: a different order of titles when the title is given in more than one language in the chief source of information, provided that the title chosen as title proper still appears as a parallel title."²¹ The title proper has to appear on the chief source. Titles in multiple languages can appear in any order on the chief source, but if the title chosen as the title proper is dropped from the chief source, it is considered a major change. "Also consider the situation to apply when the title is given in more than one script. Do not consider there to be a major change if the addition of the title in another language or script on a later issue would affect the choice of title proper if the description were based on that issue. Consider that there has been a major change if there is evidence that the publisher intentionally changed the title; such evidence may include, for example, a statement by the publisher or a new ISSN printed on the publication."²²

Example:

Heat and Mass Transfer = Wärme- und Stoffübertragung
to:
Wärme- und Stoffübertragung = Heat and Mass Transfer
(Both titles are on the chief source)—minor change

AACR2 21.2A2f states, "In general, consider the following to be a minor change in a title proper: the addition, deletion, or change of words anywhere in the title that link the title to the numbering."²³

Examples:

OSMRE Annual Report for the Year Ending. . .
to:
OSMRE Annual Report—minor change

Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce in the United States
to:
Summary of Foreign Commerce in the United States—major change
(Title not connected to numbering and a frequency word not considered to be numbering; frequency words describe the publication cycle.)

AACR2 21.2A2g states, "In general, consider the following to be a minor change in a title proper: two or more titles proper used on different issues of a serial according to a regular pattern."²⁴ This rule is further defined by LCRI 21.2A, "Also consider the situation to apply when the language of the title varies according to the language of the text. Consider that there has been a major change if there is evidence that the publisher intentionally changed the title; such evidence may include, for example, a statement by the publisher or a new ISSN printed on the publication."²⁵ Another aspect of LCRI 21.2A states, "Apply category 'g' to titles of short duration only when cataloging retrospectively and no records exist in shared databases and there are no ISSN assignments to the different titles. A title of short duration exists when it seems clear that the publisher did not intend to change the title or most issues carry one title but one or a few issues, either randomly spaced or in sequence, have another title. Determine that the number of issues are few by comparing the number of issues with the other title with the total number of issues published."²⁶

Examples:

Even numbered issues are: *Nurses on call*; odd numbered issues are: *Doctors on call*—minor change
(The publisher clearly states in the first issue that the publication will alternate titles.)

Geography
to:
Royal Geographical Society Magazine
to:
Geography—minor change
(The magazine title was used only for one issue; it was not the publisher's intent to change the title; this title was cataloged retrospectively.)

Textile Horizons

to:

Textile Horizons International

to:

Textile Horizons—minor change

(The middle title was only published for two volumes; titles were cataloged retrospectively. If cataloged as the issues were published, it would be a major change.)

AACR2 21.2A2h states, “In general, consider the following to be a minor change in a title proper: the addition to, deletion from, or change in the order of words in a list anywhere in the title proper, provided that there is no significant change in the subject matter.”²⁷ A list is three or more terms and both titles being compared must have three or more terms. It is a judgment call as to whether the change affects coverage.

Examples:

Journal of Forest Resources, Lumber and Timber

to:

Journal of Timber, Forest Resources and Lumber—minor change

IEEE Transactions on Components, Packaging, and Manufacturing Technology

to:

IEEE Transactions on Components and Packaging Technologies—major change

(Both titles must have at least three items to qualify for a “list.”)

LCRI for AACR2 21.2A2i states, “In general, consider the following to be a minor change in a title proper: the addition, deletion or rearrangement anywhere in the title of words that indicate the type of resource such as ‘magazine,’ ‘journal,’ or ‘newsletter’ or their equivalent in other languages.”²⁸ AACR2 rule 21.2A2i currently only specifies addition or deletion of a resource type word as a minor change. The corresponding rule interpretation adds “rearrangement” to these two conditions. Most likely “rearrangement” will be added to the AACR rule with the next revision. The LCRI further stipulates that a “change from ‘journal’ to ‘magazine’ is a major change. A word denoting frequency (e.g., ‘monthly’) does not indicate a type of resource.”²⁹ Other types of resources include abstracts, bulletins, gazettes, letters, newspapers, papers, proceedings, reviews, series, studies, transactions, and white papers, etc. A major change would occur if an additional word indicating a type of resource is added or deleted that indicates a change in the resource type (e.g., *Proceedings of ABC* changes to *Proceedings and yearbook of ABC*).

Examples:

Social Work Research and Abstracts

to:

Social Work Research—major change

(The earlier title indicates that the work contains something research related and abstracts; the deletion of the word abstracts is indicative of a change in resource type, not just the deletion of a resource type word.)

Textiles

to:

Bulletin of Textiles—minor change

Journal of Software Testing, Verification, and Reliability

to:

Software Verification, Testing, & Reliability Journal—minor change

Review of Organic Chemistry

to:

Journal of Organic Chemistry—major change (“Review” changes to “journal”—this is a made up example to illustrate the rule.)

Ivey Business Quarterly

to:

Ivey Business Journal—major change (“Quarterly” is not a word indicating type of resource.)

Radiation Effects Letters Section

to:

Radiation Effects Letters—major change (“Section” is not a type of resource.)

Additional Guidelines for Serials Cataloging

The authors gathered additional “rules of thumb” from an advanced serials cataloging workshop (part of the Serials Cataloging Cooperative Training Program; SCCTP) and the accompanying trainee manual.³⁰

- If the title appearing on the chief source changes, then create a new record even if the old title appears elsewhere on the piece. Apply AACR2 21.2A1 and 21.2A2 as necessary.
- If a journal adds a true title page after having been published for many issues, the true title page becomes the chief source. If the title is different on the title page, then follow the rules to determine if a major change has occurred.
- Use the chief source when testing for major changes in title proper. If using a cover title as the chief source, use the cover across all issues unless a true title page is added to a later issue. Thereafter, use the title page as the chief source over all possible chief sources.
- A title page cannot have table of contents or other information on it.

- In selecting the earliest piece from which to catalog, consider the numbering on the piece, not the chronology.
- Do not use a sample issue as the earliest issue.
- Inaccuracies are not transcribed in the title area of the bibliographic record.
- Introductory words such as “Welcome to” or “Acme presents” are ignored when cataloging a serial.
- The full form of the title is preferred no matter how large the font of any initialism.
- The common title and section title must appear on the chief source together. Transcribe the common title first even if it appears last on the chief source. A source other than the one specified by AACR2 rule 12.0B2 can be selected as the chief source if it presents both common title and section title and the source identified by rule 12.0B2 does not.
- Consider any changes to the choice of entry separately from changes in the title proper. A change in main entry may require a new record even if the title proper remains unchanged.
- When making decisions for major vs. minor cases that are not clear cut, ask the following types of questions: Is there a change in the overall work? Would patrons be likely to see this as a change? What will the overall impact be?

Problems with AACR2 Leading to Revisions

The 2002 revisions were designed to address the many ways that AACR2 failed to accommodate seriality. Graham describes three shortcomings of the older rules: “They use book-oriented rules to describe serials; the rules were designed for the card catalog instead of an online catalog environment; and ‘new forms of media, such as electronic journals and online databases,’ are not considered.”³¹ These shortcomings resulted in the creation of inflexible cataloging rules unable to accommodate “volatile” areas of description such as “title information, statements of responsibility, place, publisher, and physical description.”³² In addition, AACR2 offers no instruction for handling the amorphous nature of online resources such as databases and electronic journals, which often contain both continuous and integrating elements.³³ Hirons states that “there is no question about what brought about this revision: the Internet, e-serials, Web sites, and databases.”³⁴ Online resources underscored AACR2’s inability to describe resources that do not fit into monographic or serial categories.

One reason for AACR2’s inherent lack of flexibility can be traced back to one of its initial goals, to “pay particular attention to developments in the machine processing of bibliographic records.”³⁵ The attempt to create data elements easily read by a computer places less reliance on cataloging decisions and more on computer logic.³⁶ Unfortunately, the cataloger ends up with

records designed for readability by computers and not humans. Cataloging rules should be written to achieve goals enhanced by technologies rather than to accommodate these technologies.

There are a few additional problems with AACR2. First, AACR2 lacks consistency with ISSN and ISBD standards. “There is no harmonization with the ISSN, so there is no one-to-one ratio between ISSN and catalog records.”³⁷ The lack of harmonization creates a difficult environment for cooperative cataloging. Another problem of AACR2 is its inability to accommodate multiple formats. Hirons states that “the special chapters for categories of materials—maps, music, sound recordings, graphical materials, and moving images—lack of rules for serials in these categories and the chapter on serials lacks rules for anything other than print.”³⁸ Again this problem points out the difficulty of using AACR2 to describe items outside of the print monograph/serial box.

Problems Specific to Minor and Major Changes Leading to Revisions

Graham also comments on the unnecessary number of title changes that are created by following the AACR2 cataloging rules. She states, “In our zeal to achieve consistency in cataloging, we have again abandoned any semblance of common sense. Why not treat minor title variations as added access points to the existing record rather than create a whole new record?”³⁹ This statement is in reference to AACR2’s requirement for successive entry, which “requires a new record each time the title (and/or entry element) changes and the records are linked with notes (MARC21 field 78X) to the immediately preceding and succeeding titles.”⁴⁰ Graham does not recommend ending the use of successive entry cataloging. She suggests, rather, that it “should be reserved for intentional title changes that reflect political or social realities, a new focus, or updated terminology.”⁴¹ There should be an attempt to achieve a balance between latest (current title as entry) and successive entry cataloging. Cataloging rules need to be flexible enough to allow the cataloger to choose the appropriate manner of cataloging depending on the nature of the resource. “While multiple records for seemingly insignificant changes do not serve any of us well, neither does the record that is so generalized in order to avoid change that the work it describes cannot be identified.”⁴²

Goals for the 2002 Revision

The ultimate goal of the 2002 rule revisions concerning minor/major changes is for catalogers to create fewer records for minor or insignificant changes. Overarching goals for the 2002 revisions are as follows:⁴³

- Include new rules for integrating resources
- Accommodate seriality throughout the code

- Harmonize AACR2 with ISBD(S) and ISSN
- Take a more holistic approach to the cataloging of continuing resources
- Focus on identification rather than transcription
- Focus on constants rather than variables
- Provide rules that take advantage of and acknowledge the current environment of online catalogs and cooperative cataloging

The primary purpose of all of these goals is to create a set of cataloging rules flexible and robust enough to allow for cataloging of both continuous and integrating resources in multiple formats in an electronic environment. Records created should be consistent and user-friendly. Mary Curran observes that “they aim at amending the cataloging code in ways that will make it more applicable to the melding of various existing formats, as well as allowing for the easy introduction of new combinations and new formats in the future.”⁴⁴

Impact of 2002 Rule Revisions for Minor and Major Changes

If the minor/major rules from the 2002 rule revisions are able to meet the goals above, cataloging records will focus on the publication as a whole, instead of individual attributes of description or individual issues. Senseless creation of multiple records will be avoided, and cataloging records will become truer to the bibliographic nature and intent of the serial title.

Until December 2002, however, current cataloging workflows were designed around the original AACR2 cataloging rules. Changes as dramatic as the 2003 rule revisions have a tremendous impact on organizational procedures of both libraries and other organizations, such as abstracting and indexing services (A&I), subscription agencies, and consortia. One noticeable effect is shelving of periodicals. Libraries that shelve alphabetically will have to “shelve periodicals by the title or by one of its minor changes listed as a variant title in a catalog record.”⁴⁵ If the library decides to shelve by the title proper or main entry, then some type of “dummy” volume may have to be placed in the stacks to provide a “see reference” from each variant title.

There are additional complications for shelving if A&I services decide not to accommodate the major and minor rule changes. For example, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) initially decided to delay implementation of some of the major and minor changes internally in order to monitor their effects.⁴⁶ This situation emphasizes the possible implications of A&I services not implementing the major/minor rule changes. For example, patrons who use citations from an indexing service that has chosen not to incorporate the major/minor rules into their indexing and who then search for journal articles in libraries that shelve by title proper and not the variant title found on the actual cover may be confused about the correct location of the desired article. As long as A&I services operate under proce-

dures different from those in libraries, citations in A&I databases and bibliographic records will continue to be inconsistent.

Of course, the apprehensions regarding major and minor changes presented by A&I services like NLM are valid. Diane Boehr and Christa Hoffman from the NLM eloquently outline some of these key issues in an e-mail message sent to AUTOCAT, a cataloging discussion list. Their primary concern surrounded “those changes defined as minor where the first word of a title significantly differs from previous issues.”⁴⁷ If the article retains an earlier journal title, but the indexing record, which “can only carry a single form of the citation,” contains the current title, the patron may become confused “particularly when there has been a significant change to the first word of the title.”⁴⁸ For these instances, the user may not recognize they have the same publication.

NLM catalogers are now following CONSER practice in OCLC, but locally they are creating a new record if there has been a change in the first five words that affects the abbreviated citation title. Since December 2002, NLM has had only two titles where this is the case (i.e., a minor change that would significantly change the MEDLINE abbreviated journal title for which they would have created a new record under pre-2002 rules).⁴⁹

Publications listing titles indexed by A&I services are also affected by the major/minor changes. Users may not recognize that a particular A&I service indexes titles “such as *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, if the publication was to change its title to *Biological Chemistry*.”⁵⁰ Another concern is that publishers will expect A&I services to use citations that reflect the actual titles on the physical piece.⁵¹

In addition to shelving and A&I concerns, libraries that shelve periodicals by title will need to consider how the major/minor changes affect the binding process. Once the library determines how the title should be shelved, the spine title for the piece will need to be in accordance with this decision. Therefore, if a library decides to shelve using the title proper, the spine title may be different than the cover title of the actual piece.

Technical services areas will also be affected by these rule revisions. The biggest hurdle to overcome at this point is awareness of the new changes and training of how to specifically incorporate minor/major changes into cataloging procedures. Steve Shadle believes that “the e-resources cataloging community, as a whole, was not really aware of the extent of the changes to Chapter 12, and there might be a small amount of panic out there when individual catalogers start seeing catalog records that include notes and tagging conventions that are different from what they’re used to seeing.”⁵² Once catalogers discover these changes, they may want to attend training sessions before applying the new rules in their libraries.

Once training needs have been met, serials and cataloging staff should begin to recognize these minor/major changes as they come across their desks. For

serials acquisitions units, minor and major changes should result in fewer check-in records to create.⁵³ This decrease should streamline the serials check-in process. Cataloging workflow will be altered as well. “Fewer successive entry serial records will be created,”⁵⁴ but the existing records will require more maintenance. As minor changes are identified, they should be added as variant titles to the existing record for the title.

Another area these revisions will impact is cooperative cataloging. Since the 2002 revisions have been written to harmonize the AACR2, ISSN, and ISBD standards, cataloging of continuing resources should become more consistent.⁵⁵ Due to the creation of more consistent records, Hiron believes that the “revision of AACR and harmonization are going to have a positive impact on international cooperation of serials cataloging.”⁵⁶

Perhaps the patron searching for serial materials will benefit most from these changes through improved access to serial material with fewer records and more access points. In addition, the serial records created will represent true changes in the scope of the title instead of focusing on minutia elements like initial articles, punctuation, and word order. If a minor change occurs, the cataloger can easily provide additional access points for insignificant changes in title using a variant title field (246 MARC tag). Patrons searching for insignificant title variations in an online catalog will then be linked back to the appropriate resource.

Conclusion

The 2002 AACR2 revisions represent a coming of age for cataloging in the online catalog environment. The minor and major cataloging rules prevent insignificant changes or computer logic from redirecting the focus of the catalog record. They provide serials catalogers with the tools and guidance needed to describe the complex and often nonlinear relationships inherent in serials. In addition, since there is less impetus for creating a multitude of records, these relationships may even be described in one record. This holistic approach creates the flexibility needed to incorporate seriality into AACR2. The serials cataloger can maintain the integrity of the title proper and create appro-

priate access points through a network of links using variant title fields. Graham provides a wonderful analogy of the catalog record as a magic carpet that transports users where they need to go. The online catalog environment serves as conduit for this magic carpet ride and the network of links created by the cataloger “transport[s] users . . . to related records in the catalog and beyond.”⁵⁷ Hopefully, the minor and major changes from the 2002 revision are a reflection of Graham’s vision.

Appendix

Exercises—Indicate if change is major or minor

- 1) *Mississippi Libraries* changes to *Mississippi Libraries [electronic resource]*
- 2) *Scholastic* changes to *Scholastic (Teachers ed.)* and *Scholastic (Principles ed.)*
- 3) *Mississippi. Dept. of Transportation. Annual Report* changes to *Mississippi. Transportation Commission. Annual Report*
- 4) *Directory of Dentists, Dental Specialists, and Dental Hygienists Registered in Mississippi* changes to *Directory of Dentists, Dental Specialists, and Dental Hygienists Licensed and Registered in Mississippi*
- 5) *Journal of Commerce* changes to *JoC week*
- 6) *Review of World Conservation* changes to *World Conservation*
- 7) *Oral History* changes to *Oral History Magazine*
- 8) *Nonlinear Studies* changes to *Nonlinear Times and Digest*
- 9) *Chilton’s Automotive Digest* changes to *Automotive Digest by Chilton* changes to *Automotive Digest*
- 10) *Proceedings of the APL* changes to *Proceedings of the Applied Physics League*
- 11) *Market Research* changes to *Marketing Research* changes to *Marketplace Research*
- 12) *Mississippi Farm Bureau Country* changes to *MFB Country* changes to *Mississippi Farm Country*
- 13) *Poultry and Avian Biology Reviews* changes to *Avian and Poultry Biology Reviews*
- 14) *Radiation Effects Letters* changes to *Radiation Effects Letters Section*

Answers

14. major	13. major	12. minor and major	11. minor and major	10. minor
9. minor and minor	8. major	7. minor	6. minor	5. major
4. major	3. major	2. major	1. major	

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