13.6. Multi-level Description (multi-part methodology)

13.6.AS. Multi-level description is commonly used in national bibliographies and by cataloguing institutions that create catalogue records that require complete identification in one single record by the part as well as of the object as a whole. The description of the object as a whole is primary. This description method can be used as an alternative to ”in-analytics”.

13.6BS. Prescribed sources. Collect the data that are recorded from the primary source for the medium to which the object at hand belongs. Follow the prescribed source (sources) for each area in the description of the respective medium. For volume designation use the same prescribed sources as for edition, for volume title the same as for title and statement of responsibility.

13.6CS. Divide the description into two or more levels. At the first level (in the main [parent] record) only register data, which are valid for the object as a whole. At the part [child] level, register data, which are valid for the group of parts or the single volume, which are to be described. If the data at the child level refer to a group of parts, register those data, which are valid for single parts at a second child level. Construe the levels in a distinct way with the help of layout or typography. When all parts have been received, elements that earlier have been left open are added.

The distribution of data between the levels (parent and child record, respectively) is done according to the following scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARENT RECORD</th>
<th>CHILD RECORD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title proper</td>
<td>Volume designation and/or volume title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parallel titles (those which are common)</td>
<td>Parallel titles (specific to the part)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other title information (common)</td>
<td>Other title information (specific)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of responsibility (common)</td>
<td>Statement of responsibility (specific)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edition statement (common)</td>
<td>Edition statement (specific)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13.6DS. **Volume designation.** At the child level (in the children records) the description starts with volume designation (a word for part, a number or other designation) if such a designation is present in the object. Use abbreviations (according to a prescribed list) and numbers instead of words. The volume designation is always given before the volume number. The volume number is given in Arabic numerals if the object has a number designation or with the combination of letters that is used [in the object]. If the volume designation consists of symbols that are neither numerical nor alphabetical, give it as a number within square brackets. Volume designation is only supplied if it is missing because of a misprint or by mistake, or if volume designation has been introduced in the course of publication.

Volume title that follows the volume designation is preceded by a space, colon, space.

For physical description at one level (in one record) of objects in several parts, see 2.5B20.

[Selected examples]


2: Quadrille ; La Pèlerine écossaise ; Le veilleur de nuit. – 1959. – 317 s.
6: Le comédien ; Un sujet de roman ; Pasteur. – 1961. – 279 s.

P. 1 : The Tāo the king. The writing of Kwang-tsze, Books I-XVII. – 1891. – xxii, 396 s.
13.6ES. **Change in data.** If data in the area for title and responsibility are changed in the process of publication, the respective information is given at the part level of the description.

[Example]

Svensk musik / Arne Aulin, Herbert Connor. – Stockholm : Bonnier, 1974-1977. – 2 vol. : ill., musiknoter ; 22 cm

If the title proper of the object is changed during publication, a subsequent title proper can in some cases be given as the title proper for the complete object. For change in responsibility, see 21.3A2.

13.6FS. **Description in several levels can even be applied too associated works [in separate manifestations]** that are not covered by the rule in 21.28. (For description of an appendix, cfr even 1.9.) If both the main work [sic!, = manifestation of the main work] and the appendix [/supplement] are at hand, give a complete description of the main work at the parent level and of the appendix at the child level (as a child record).

[Example]

Falkman, Pär

Övningsbok / Peter Öhman. – 86 s. ; 30 cm. – ISBN 91-44-04075-X : SEK 298:00


(Both objects at hand)

If only the appendix is at hand, give only the data that are common to the main work and the appendix at the parent level, while the complete description of the appendix is given at the child level.


(Appendices only at hand)

Description in several levels can also be applied to single issues of a serial publication, e.g. an annual issue of a yearbook, if "In"-analytics is not considered appropriate. The issue etc. is described at the child level (in a child record) subsidiary to the serial publication.

[Example]


Comment by the rulemaking committee

The main principle is to provide a single record for each independently published manifestation and at the same time to achieve a clear, hierarchical layout of the whole. It is, however, possible to use description at a single level, applying 2.5B20 for the physical description, as well, although it hasn’t been much used. That solution has sometimes been applied for multi-part publications where the parts do not have any distinctive titles of their own and/or pagination is continuous. On the whole, single level description has not been used for the national bibliography.

13.6 has been followed in both union databases in Sweden, the LIBRIS database, a national union catalogue, and the database Burk, a commercial database comprising records for the majority of city and municipal libraries. As of last year, however, the LIBRIS database, which is the biggest one, has changed from the native, UK-MARC like format LIBRIS-MARC to MARC21. That format change has forced the LIBRIS libraries to abandon 13.6. Our old format provided a convenient way of linking parent and child records and produced clear and logical displays of the relations even for more than two levels. MARC21 cannot produce that
linked, hierarchical organisation of records. After thorough discussions and investigation into existing solutions, e.g. in the LC database, we chose to use 1.1B9 as the main rule for the libraries which catalogue in MARC21. The UK had the same problem when changing to MARC21, and 1.1B9 was pointed to as one solution in the British report MARC Harmonisation: a report to the British Library / from the Book Industry Communication Bibliographic Standards Technical Subgroup. – October 1999. – http://www.bl.uk/services/bbsd/nbs/marc/repmast.html (this link doesn’t work any more, unfortunately).

It means that every independently published manifestation gets a separate record with both title proper for the whole and the respective volume designation and volume title in the title area. The former division into parent and child records is not retained.

When there are more than two levels, we will in many cases resort to serial methodology, or analytics, one requirement then being that the volume titles are independent. This is also a kind of conceptual reorientation on our part, because we have been used to reserving serial methodology to what we understand as true series, that is, in principle open ended publications.

You could say that the American approach to multi-part publications is primarily influenced by the definition of the work as a whole (all the manifestations comprising one work are accounted for in one record), whereas our approach is primarily manifestation biased (an independently published manifestation gets a record of its own).

There are several reasons why we chose 1.1B9 as our main rule. We don’t want to split the common, manifestation based approach in the cataloguing community as a whole more than necessary. 13.6 is still applied in the Burk database. Further, we believe it’s easier to uphold a reasonably consistent level of cataloguing with this model, and consequently also easier to provide clear guidance to users. We also see less risk of duplication of records and effort this way, and for the national bibliography, which almost never receives all parts in a multi-part publication simultaneously, this seems as the most logical and consistent model.

Description at a single level, is of course also a possibility, applying 2.5B20 for the physical description, but we try to limit it to the same situations as before, for cases with no distinctive part titles and/or continuous pagination.

Examples

Rosdolsky, Roman

Rosdolsky, Roman
Guitry, Sacha
Théâtre. 2, Quadrille ; La Pèlerine écossaise ; Le veilleur de nuit / Sacha Guitry. – Paris : Livre contemporain, 1959. – 317 s. ; 22 cm

Guitry, Sacha
Théâtre. 6, Le comédien ; Un sujet de roman ; Pasteur / Sacha Guitry. – Paris : Livre contemporain, 1961. – 279 s. ; 22 cm

Sameutredningen

Sameutredningen

Falkman, Pär

Öhman, Peter