ISBD and DCRM into RDA: An Opportunity for Convergence?

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“The term ‘rare materials’ is used to refer to any special materials that repositories have chosen to distinguish from general materials by the ways in which they house, preserve, or collect them. Rarity in the narrow sense of ‘scarce’ may or may not be a feature of these materials.”

- Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books), page 11 (footnote)
Why a need for cataloging rules for rare materials?

“... materials in special collection often present situations not ordinarily encountered in the cataloging of typical modern publications ... and may require additional details of description in order to identify significant characteristics (e.g., bibliographical format, typefaces, etc.). Such details ... permit the ready identification of copies of a resource (e.g., as editions, impressions, or issues), and ... provide a more exact description of the resource as an artifact.”

- *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)*, page 12
A (very) short history of rare materials cataloging codes
Rules for Descriptive Cataloging in the Library of Congress (1949)
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- contained a separate chapter on incunabula (Chapter 11)
Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (AACR) (1967)
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- also included a separate section on incunabula (Chapter 8)

• chapter devoted specifically to “Early printed monographs” (2.12)

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- based on the general framework for the description of library materials, the General International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD(G))
International Standard Bibliographic Description for Older Monographic Publications (Antiquarian) (ISBD(A)) (1980)
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• international review included the participation of the Bibliographic Standards Committee of the Rare Book and Manuscript Section
Bibliographic Description of Rare Books (BDRB) (1981)
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- combined AACR2’s chapters 1 (General Rules for Description) and 2 (Books, Pamphlets, and Printed Sheets) and ISBD(A) rules
Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Books (DCRB) (1991)
Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books) (DCRM(B)) (2005)
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- expanded guidance and more rigorous approach to transcription
Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Serials) (DCRM(S)) (2008)

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Graphics) (DCRM(G)) (2013)
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Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Cartographic) (DCRM(C)) (2016)
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(2008)

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(2013)

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(2016)

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Manuscript) (DCRM(MSS))
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(2016)

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Manuscript) (DCRM(MSS))
(2016?)

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Music) (DCRM(M))
(2016?)
Resource Description and Access (RDA)
(2010)
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- adopted by the Library of Congress in 2013
Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials Task Force
Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials Task Force

- new DCRM will be consolidated into a single set of guidelines
Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials Task Force

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- will be a much more concise set of instructions that lightly extend RDA wherever there is need for rare materials guidance
An international standard for rare materials cataloging?
How?
Primary requirements
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1. A rare materials standard should be a lightweight extension of a standard for general cataloging
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   a. the general standard must fully acknowledge the needs of a specialist community
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   a. the general standard must fully acknowledge the needs of a specialist community

   b. an international rare materials standard should have a fully international governing body
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<td>Wider Community Engagement</td>
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1. A rare materials standard should be a lightweight extension of a standard for general cataloging
   a. the general standard must fully acknowledge the needs of a specialist community
   b. an international rare materials standard should have a fully international governing body
   c. the standard must be translated for use in diverse communities
Primary requirements

1. Should be a lightweight extension of a standard for general cataloging

2. Should embrace the prevailing model(s) for bibliographic description
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6. Should be responsive to the needs of users
IFLA Professional Statement on Universal Bibliographic Control (2012)

“Web technologies offer new possibilities of sharing data at a global scale and beyond the library domain, but also show a need for authoritative and trusted data.”
Thank you.

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