

Serials and other continuing resources in Russian Cataloguing Rules

Section "Serials and other continuing resources" in new Russian Cataloguing Rules (RCR) is currently under development. Previous standard and rules for serials being in use at the moment were published in 1984 and 1986 respectively.

In new rules the section for serials will describe all kinds and forms of documents, as it is done in ISBD(CR) and AACR2.

Definition of serials in previous standards and rules was similar to the definition in ISBD(CR) and AACR2. Serials included periodicals, continuing resources and series. Serials were defined as publications issued over definite (periodicals) or indefinite (continuing publications) periods of time in successive parts bearing numeric or chronological designations. So, old cataloguing rules used to define continuing resources as a kind of serials.

New rules will provide new definitions, which will correspond to new ISBD(CR), i.e. serials will be defined as a kind of continuing resources.

Old standards and rules did not include concept of integrating resources. Even such traditionally well-known resource as updating loose-leafs did not have clear definition, and there were no clear rules regulating describing this kind of resources.

One of peculiarities of cataloguing practice in Russian libraries (as regards serials and multipart items) is using multilevel description, which in the old rules was called "union description". For serials multilevel description may have more complicated structure than for multipart items. In this case two or more records of different levels are created being linked hierarchically. One record (first level record) is created for the whole or main publication. Second level record(s) may be created for series or sub-series as a section of the serial. This type of record may have more than one hierarchical sublevel. Lower hierarchical level includes records for every individual volume or other physically separated unit. For yearly numbered periodicals year set of issues may be considered as a physical unit.

At the same time, in cataloguing practice of our libraries continuing resources, which are considered as numbered book series, are catalogued as monographs, i.e. there is a monograph record for every issue, where title of series and/or sub-series and number of the issue within series or sub-series are given in the series area. Approach to choosing way of describing separately numbered successively published issues may vary depending on whether the issue is a part of monograph series or a part of a periodical series. Here certain problems may arise because of polygraphic appearance of the document, which often is not clear enough. Sometimes it is quite difficult with the issue, which came first to determine which type of publication it is. These problems concern processing organisation rather than rules proper. But in co-operative cataloguing such kind of problems become more important.

For updating loose-leafs as a kind of integrating resources the old rules provided three ways of description: a) for updates separate monograph records may be created; b) for updates in multilevel description separate second level records may be created as for accompanying materials to a serial; c) updates may not be catalogued - single record is

created for the whole integrated resource, where data on updates may be given in the notes area (serials) or physical description area (monographs). In current cataloguing practice only the third way is used (updates are not catalogued separately).

Russian participants propose that in the future International Cataloguing Code for bibliographic description and access ways of describing multilevel description of multipart items and continuing resources should be presented in detail; mentioning in appendix as an alternative is not enough.