

Terminology:

Some RDA terminology differs from that of AACR2:

AACR2	RDA
heading	authorized access point (AAP)
uniform title	preferred title ; conventional collective title
physical description sound disc, etc.	carrier audio disc, etc.
author	creator (includes composers, librettists, performer lyricists)
chief source	contributor
general material designator	preferred sources content, media, and carrier type

Abbreviations:

From Kathy Glennan, MLA-L, 1/17/2014

- RDA generally eschews abbreviations. The primary exceptions are for:
 - Units of measurement
 - Abbreviations that are regularly used in resources and are commonly understood by users (e.g., "SATB", "op.")
 - Abbreviations that a resource uses to identify itself (e.g., "BWV" instead of "Bach-Werke-Verzeichnis")

Abbreviations are used only when they appear on the resource. The exceptions are **no.** and **op.** (which will be used the same way as they were in AACR2: in the title area, abbreviate only when abbreviated on the item; abbreviate in access points), thematic index numbers, voice range (SATB, etc.), and units of measurements.

Use "in." for inches; however, "cm" is no longer considered to be an abbreviation

Use "stereo" and "mono" (also no longer considered to be abbreviations), but spell out other terms ("quadrophonic," etc.)

AACR2	RDA
p.	pages
ca.	approximately
i.e.	that is
acc.	accompanied
unacc.	unaccompanied
arr.	arranged
ill.	illustrations
col.	color
facsim.	facsimile
ed.	edition
S.l.	[place of publication not identified]
s.n.	[publisher not identified]

[n.d.](#)

[date of publication not identified]

Examples of *some* of changes to abbreviations used in the physical description (extent of item)

AACR2	RDA
3 vol.	3 volumes
ca. 200 p.	approximately 200
48 [i.e. 96] p.	pages
[16] p. of plates	48, that is, 96 pages
	16 unnumbered
	pages of plates

[Dimensions:](#)

AACR2: the system of measurement used to record dimensions varies depending on the type of resource.

RDA: metric units are used. (LCPS 3.5.1.3 allows for using inches for discs (RDA 3.5.1.4.4))

Metric units:

AACR2: they are considered abbreviations and are followed by a full stop (e.g., cm.)

RDA: they are treated as symbols and are not followed by a full stop (e.g., cm).

Examples of changes to abbreviations used in [dates](#) in authorized access points representing persons (formerly known as name headings)

AACR2	RDA	LC practice
b. 1825	born 1825	1825-
d. 1859	died 1859	-1859
fl.	flourished	active
ca. 1837	approximately 1837	
1836 or 7	1836 or 1837	
18th cent.	18th century	
16th/17th cent.		active 16th century- 17th century