PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AREA
OTHER PHYSICAL DETAILS (300 Field, subfield "b")

The following types of physical details are used for cartographic resources:

> layout
> production method
> number of maps, etc., in an atlas
> colour
> base material
> applied material
> mount

NOTE: Apply each or all of the above *only* as it regards the main map(s) involved.

Generally, nothing has changed in practice with AACR2 except for no longer abbreviating words such as "color" and "manuscript". Probably the biggest change between the two standards is that each type of physical detail has its own Instruction, whereas in AARC2 they fell under one rule (3.5C).

See **3.11** in RDA for Layout; **3.9** for Production method and **3.14** for Polarity, which is associated with production methods; **3.6** for Base Material ("material"); **3.7** for Applied Material ("medium"); and **3.8** for Mount ("mounting"). See instruction **7.17** for information about color/colour. Explanations for each of these items, with the exception of *number of maps, etc., in an atlas*, are given below.

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Specifics of what goes into subfield "b" of the 300 field

A. Layout (RDA 3.11)

Subfield "b" allows the cataloger to provide information about the physical arrangement and/or production aspects of the map (specifically whether color was used). The *layout* of the map (i.e., when it extends from one side of the sheet to the back *or* when multiple maps are printed on both sides of the sheet) is denoted by use of the "both sides" phrase.

> 300   1 map : $b color ; $c …
> 300   1 map : $b both sides ; $c …
> 300   1 map : $b both sides, color ; $c …
> 300   2 maps on 1 sheet : $b both sides, 1 color ; $c …

Application of "both sides" vs. "back to back"

In the vast majority of cases the cataloger will be describing the situation of maps, or portions of a single map, appearing on both sides of the single sheet, using the phrase "both sides" in subfield "b". This is outlined in instruction **3.11.1.3**. However, there is a specific circumstance when, even though a main map does appear on each side of the sheet, the phrase "back to back" must be applied, again see **3.11.1.3** (this phrase in French is known as *tête-bêche*). In *Cartographic Materials*, Rule 5D1j states, "If the cartographic item has maps printed on both sides, one of which is a translation of the other, record the dimensions of the map. Add the sheet size, if considered necessary," and the example given shows the use of "back-to-back" in this situation. The key point is that one map must be a *translation* of the other; needless to say this is a fairly rare occurrence.

300   2 maps on 1 sheet : $b back to back, color ; $c …

B. Production method (RDA 3.9)

The method of production is given if considered significant. If the map has been mechanically reproduced, as in the case of diazo (blue-line or black-line) prints or xerographic (commonly known as Xerox) copies, one needs to indicate this. Specify the mechanical production method itself, such as

"blueline print," in 300 $b. The phrase "computer printout" is also included in this area. Previous cataloging rules or practice relegated the specific type of reproduction to a 500 note and is still seen on copy occasionally. Note also that if color is present it is given *following* the type of production method.

    300   1 map : $b blueline print ; $c …
    300   1 map : $b computer printout, color ; $c …
    300   2 maps on 1 sheet : $b both sides, xerographic copy ; $c …

C. Color/colour (RDA 7.17)

As noted at the beginning of this document, the word "color" is *not* abbreviated.

Definition of "color" or "colour content": there must be two or more colors involved in order to use the term "color" in the description. This may include black and another color, such as black lines for roads and boundaries and blue lines for rivers and streams. Instruction **7.17.1.1** defines color in a published resource as "The presence of colour, tone, etc. in the content of a resource." At **7.17.1.3** we find the specific difference, "If the content of the resource is in colours other than black and white or shades of grey, then record the presence of colour using an appropriate term."

    300   1 map : $b color

Conversely, if the map is printed using only one color, no matter what that color is, e.g., brown or green ink, it is *not* a multi-color map and one does not apply the term "color" in the description.

If only some of the main maps are in color either specify how many are in color *or* if it is a large number of maps involved use the phrase "some color". If the majority of maps in a large group are in color, but a few are not, use the phrase "most color"

    300   1 map : $b color …
    300   4 maps on 1 sheet : $b 2 color …
    300   2 maps on 1 sheet : $b both sides, 1 color …
    300   maps : $b some color. ; $c …
    300   maps : $b most color ; $c …
    300   4 maps : $b 2 color …
    300 21 maps : $b some color …

NOTE: for <u>hand-colored</u> resources, under this same instruction, you are told to see instruction **3.22** *Note on Item-Specific Carrier Characteristic* because according to the definition at **3.22.1.1** the resource would be considered a unique item. An example using "hand coloured" is found at instruction **3.22.1.4** *Making Notes on Item-Specific Carrier Characteristic for an Early Printed Resource*.

D. Base Material (formerly "material"; RDA 3.6)

Instruction **3.6.1.1** says "Base material is the underlying physical material of a resource." And **3.6.1.3** provides a list of types of base materials, instructing us to "Record the base material of the resource if it is considered important for identification or selection." *General rule of thumb*: if it is on paper *do not* apply this term because it is implied as the "usual" material for a physical cartographic resource. **Do** provide a term such as "plastic," "textile," "wood," or "vellum" since this would be an unusual printing surface. In addition, the *Exception* here allows us to be more specific in a provided term if we wish, and "silk" is given as an example, which would be recorded as:

    300   1 map : $b color, silk ; $c …

E. Applied Material (formerly "medium"; RDA 3.7)

Instruction **3.7.1.1** says "Applied material is a chemical or physical substance applied to a base material of a resource." Similar to the instructions for base material, instruction **3.7.1.3** gives us a list of these to choose from and tells us to "Record the applied material of the resource if it is considered important for identification or selection" and also allows us to be more specific if needed, as indicated in the *Exception*. Note again that words such as "colored" and "manuscript" are not abbreviated.

> 300   7 manuscript maps : $b color ink on mylar ; $c …

F. Mount (formerly "mounting"; RDA 3.8)

The last type of information given in this subfield as has to do with the physical support that the map is attached to, such as whether a paper map was glued to a cloth backing to give it more strength or if it is attached to rollers so that it can be hung or stored rolled and then unrolled for use. This is defined at instruction **3.8.1.1**, and again a following instruction, in this case **3.8.1.3**, tells us to record the type of mounting if considered important for identification or selection. However, it also points us back to the list of terms at **3.6.1.3** to choose from, but also again provides the exception to use another term if none of these is specific enough.

> 300   1 map : $b color, mounted on cloth
> 300   1 map : $b mounted on cloth
> 300   1 map : $b mounted on linen
> 300   1 map : $b color, attached to wooden rollers
> 300   1 map : $b mounted on cloth and attached to plastic rollers

Backings for maps are most usually cloth or linen but could be something like a heavy paper or wood.