

Recording variant title (RDA 2.3.6)

[Music Cataloging at Yale](#) [1] ? [RDA](#) [2]

Note: this page was created with music cataloging in mind.

see [Recording titles](#) [3] (RDA 2.3) for basic instructions on recording titles

For specific information on recording categories of titles that most commonly apply to notated and performed music, see

[title proper](#) [4] (2.3.2) | [parallel title proper](#) [5] (2.3.3) | [other title information](#) [6] (2.3.4) and [parallel other title information](#) [6] (2.3.5)

[\(2.3.6\) Variant title](#)

A variant title a title associated with a resource that differs from a title recorded as the title proper, a parallel title proper, other title information, parallel other title information, earlier title proper, later title proper, key title, or abbreviated title.

Variant titles include

- those that appear in the resource itself (e.g., on a title page, title frame, title screen; as a caption title, running title; on a cover, spine), on a jacket, sleeve, container, etc., or in accompanying material
- those associated with a resource through reference sources
- those assigned by an agency registering or preparing a description of the resource (e.g., a title assigned by a repository, a cataloger's translation or transliteration of the title)
- those assigned by the creator or by previous owners or custodians of the resource, etc.
- corrections to titles that appear in the resource in an incorrect form
- part of a title (e.g., an alternative title or a section title recorded as part of the title proper)
- variations in parallel titles proper, other title information, or parallel other title information appearing on an earlier iteration of an integrating resource or on a later issue or part of a multipart monograph

[\(2.3.6.2\) Sources of information for variant title](#)

Take variant titles from any source.

[\(2.3.6.3\) Recording variant titles](#)

Record variant titles that are considered to be important for identification or access applying the basic instructions on recording titles given under [2.3.1](#) [3]

Make a note on the source or basis for the variant title (2.20.2.3) if it is considered important for identification or access.

LC-PCC PS: LC practice/PCC practice: There are two ways to accommodate variant titles in the MARC bibliographic record:

- Recording a variant title in the [246 field](#) [7];
- Recording a variant title for a component of an aggregate work in a form other than would be recorded as the authorized access point for that component work. This form of variant title is recorded in the [740 field](#) [8]

When recording variant titles in 246 or 740 field, omit any initial article from the variant title unless the intention is to file on the article.

See [2.3.2.7](#) [9] for circumstances under which the title is filed under the initial article.

Best practices for making variant titles for permutations related to titles proper

A. General: The best practices in the following subsections represent an attempt to standardize, to a certain extent, practice in giving variant forms of the title proper. They are not meant to be an exhaustive treatment. Apply cataloger's judgment to situations not addressed here. When in doubt, be liberal in making variant titles but generally do not make a variant title that is not sufficiently distinctive to be a useful access point.

B. Alternate forms:

Recording variant title (RDA 2.3.6)

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- ° **Abbreviations:** When an abbreviation occurs as one of the first five words in a title proper, make a variant title substituting the corresponding spelled-out form of the abbreviation if it is thought that some catalog users might reasonably expect that the form was spelled out in the source.
- ° **Ampersand:** When an ampersand (or other symbol, e.g., +, representing the word "and") occurs as one of the first five words in a title proper, make a variant title substituting the word "and" in the language of the title.
- ° **Letters and initialisms** (including acronyms): When a series of letters or an initialism occurs as one of the first five words in a title proper with separating punctuation (hyphen, period, slash), make a variant title in the form without any separating punctuation if it is thought that some catalog users might expect that the letters would be recorded in that form in the source.
- ° **Arabic numbers** (excluding dates): Make a variant title substituting the corresponding spelled-out form of the number in the language of the title proper if it is thought that some users of the catalog might reasonably expect that the form was spelled out in words in the source. In spelling out numbers in English, follow the style indicated in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, University of Chicago Press. For other languages, follow the preferred style of the language.
 - 101 =one hundred one; use also one hundred and one
 - 425 =four hundred twenty-five, *not* four hundred and twenty-five
 - 1001 =one thousand one; use also one thousand and one
 - 1226 =one thousand two hundred twenty-six, *not* twelve hundred twenty-six or twelve hundred and twenty-six
 - 2500 =twenty-five hundred, *not* two thousand five hundred
- ° **Dates representing a single year or span of years** (e.g., 1915; 1945-1975):
 - ° Generally do not make variant titles substituting the corresponding spelled-out form for dates written in arabic numerals
 - ° For dates in roman numerals, make a variant title substituting arabic numerals for the roman numerals.
- ° **Other dates:** dates other than those representing a single year or a span of years (e.g., XXth century)
 - ° For dates in roman numerals, make a variant title substituting arabic numerals for the roman numerals.
 - ° Make a variant title substituting the corresponding spelled-out form if it is thought that some users of the catalog might reasonably expect that form.
- ° **Roman numerals** (excluding dates):
 - ° Make a variant title substituting arabic numerals for the roman numerals.
 - ° Make an additional variant title with the spelled-out form, in the language of the title proper, if it is reasonable to expect that the form was spelled out in the source.
- ° **Spelled-out form of numbers:** Make a variant title substituting an arabic numeral for the spelled-out form if it is thought that some users of the catalog might reasonably expect that form.
- ° **Signs and symbols** (e.g., pound sign, percent sign, dollar sign, etc.): When a sign or symbol occurs as one or in one of the first five words filed on in a title proper, make a variant title substituting the name or a written form for the corresponding sign or symbol if this can be done concisely and if it is thought that some users of the catalog might reasonably expect that the sign/symbol would be recorded in that form.
- ° **Other:** If a title proper contains data within the first five words for which there could be an alternate form that would be filed differently, make a variant title under that form if it is thought that some users of the catalog might reasonably expect that form.

Examples:

2012560066

245 10 The four seasons of Lake Superior

246 30 4 seasons of Lake Superior

2010562594

245 10 Deux souvenirs de Dalmatie

246 30 Souvenirs de Dalmatie

246 3_ 2 souvenirs de Dalmatie

2013560058

245 10 Building a 12 key facility for the jazz bassist

246 3_ Building a twelve key facility for the jazz bassist

2012564330

245 The marriage of heaven & hell

Recording variant title (RDA 2.3.6)

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246 3_ Marriage of heaven and hell

2012563878

245 10 Sinfonia a 4 strumenti (HH.27 n. 8), in re magg. per archi e basso continuo

246 3_ Sinfonia a quattro strumenti (HH.27 n. 8), in re maggiore per archi e basso continuo

2012564379

245 10 Entre funérailles IV : ♯b for solo flute

246 3_ Entre funérailles 4

246 3_ Entre funérailles quatre

246 3_ Entre funérailles four

2012465727

245 00 100 Jahre Saarländisches Staatsorchester 1912-2012

246 3_ Hundert Jahre Saarländisches Staatsorchester 1912-2012

2011568268

245 10 Kvartet D-dur

246 36 Quartett op. 15

2012564424

245 10 Colour red..... your mouth..... heart

246 30 Color red-- your mouth-- heart

C. Corrected titles proper: For titles proper that contain an incorrect form of some kind, insure that there is title access through both the incorrect and the corrected forms by making a variant title for the corrected form of the title proper.

Examples:

2012572148

245 10 Augusta waltzs

246 3_ Augusta waltzes

2011567300

245 10 Fünf Gesaenge mit Begleitung der Guittare und ein Canon zu drey Stimmen, Opus 13

246 1_ ♯i Corrected spelling: ♯a Fünf Gesaenge mit Begleitung der Guitarre und ein Canon zu drey Stimmen, Opus 13

OCLC #780269398

245 10 Petite fantasia "Les barricades mysteriusies" de Francios Couperin (already a revelation)

246 1_ ♯i Title should read: ♯a Petite fantasia "Les baricades mystérieuses" de Francois Couperin

D. Portion of title proper:

- ° **Alternative title:** For titles proper that contain an "[alternative title](#) [10]," insure access to:
 - ° the complete title proper (245 field)
 - ° the first part of the title proper up to the word "or" or its equivalent in another language that signals an alternative title (246 field)
 - ° the part following the word "or" or its equivalent in another language (246 field)
- ° **Part or designation of part:** If the title proper contains a part or a designation of a part or both, make a variant title (usually for the part) when it is judged intelligible enough to be a likely candidate for access.
- ° **Partial title:** Make a variant title for a portion of a title proper when it is judged that some users would consider the portion as the title proper

Examples:

2012563876

245 10 Buddhist songs. ♯n No. 2, ♯p With excellent raiments

246 30 With excellent raiments

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2012562903

245 10 Brazilian music for piano. ‡n Part 2, ‡p Samba and bossa nova
246 30 Samba and bossa nova

2013568122

245 02 A modern method for guitar. ‡n Volume 1, ‡p Rock songbook
246 30 Rock songbook
246 30 Rock song book

E. Introductory words to title proper: If introductory words to the title proper were not transcribed as part of the title proper ([2.3.1.6](#) [11]), make a variant title including those words

Examples:

2010562779

245 Oscar Wilde's The happy prince
246 30 Happy prince

2012562023

245 00 Mel Bay presents Old-time hymns & gospel favorites for mountain dulcimer
246 30 Old-time hymns & gospel favorites for mountain dulcimer
246 3_ Old-time hymns and gospel favorites for mountain dulcimer

[\(2.3.6.4\)](#) Translations or transliterations of the title proper

Record a translation or transliterated form of the title proper created by the agency preparing the description as a variant title applying the basic instructions on recording titles given under [2.3.1](#) [3]

Source URL: <https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/varianttitle>

Links

- [1] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music>
- [2] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/rda>
- [3] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/recordtitles>
- [4] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/titleproper>
- [5] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/paralleltitle>
- [6] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/othertitle>
- [7] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/marcscor#246>
- [8] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/marcscor#740>
- [9] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/titleproper#2.3.2.7>
- [10] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/titleproper#alttitle>
- [11] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/recordtitles#2.3.1.6>