### Recording numeric designation for musical works (RDA 6.16)

**Music Cataloging at Yale** [1] ? **Preferred titles** [2]

Use in conjunction with **Best practices for music cataloging** [3] and **MARC 383** [4].

The numeric designation of a musical work is a **serial number**, **opus number**, or **thematic index number** assigned to a musical work by a composer, publisher, or a musicologist.

**(6.16.1.2) Sources of information**

Take information on numeric designations of musical works from any source.

**(6.16.1.3) Recording numeric designations**

Record as many of the following numeric designations of musical works as can readily be ascertained. Use the following abbreviations found in appendix B.5.4:

- ° number, in any language: n., no, no., Nr.
- ° opus: opus

Use inclusive numbering for an aggregate work that is identified by consecutive serial numbers or thematic index numbers in music reference sources and/or **thematic indexes** [5].

Record numeric designations of musical works as separate elements, as parts of access points, or as both. For instructions on recording a numeric designation of a musical work as part of the authorized access point, see 6.28.1.9 [6]-6.28.1.10 [7].

**Best practices for music cataloging** [3]: If giving numeric designation as a component of an access point, routinely also give that numeric designation in **383** [4] field. For all works, give all numeric designations that are readily ascertainable in separate **383** [4] fields.

**(6.16.1.3.1) Serial number**

**For works**

- with the **same title** and **same medium of performance** are **consecutively numbered** in music reference sources
- different works in a **consecutively numbered series** have different forms of numeric designation, or different words introducing the number

**Record:**

- the serial number

**and**

the different forms or words are in the same sources from which the numeric designations for the individual works are taken

**LC-PCC PS:** For a **serial number that is accompanied in the source by a term** such as "number," "book," "collection," etc., apply the following:

**Term:**

- the term is the English word "number" or its abbreviation, or an equivalent word or abbreviation in another language:
- the term is a non-English term not meaning "number" and substitute the English equivalent of the term and use an English abbreviation if the non-English term is abbreviated, or the full form of the term if the non-English form is fully spelled out.

**Use:**

- the number in the preferred title by the English preceded by the abbreviation "no."

In all other cases:

- the term as it appears in the source.

If no term appears with the number:

- the number as a cardinal number and precede it by the English abbreviation "no."
- ° use Arabic numerals

**(6.16.1.3.2) Opus number**

Record the opus number, if any, and the number within the opus, if any.
Best practices for music cataloging [9]: use "op.", "no.", and Arabic numerals
If there is a conflict in opus numbering among works of the same title and medium
or
If the overall opus numbering of a composer's works is confused and conflicting
Add to the opus number the name of the publisher originally using the number chosen.
° add the publisher's name in parentheses

(6.16.1.3.3) Thematic index number
In the case of certain composers, record the number assigned to a work in a recognized thematic index [5].
Precede the number by.
° the initial letter or letters of the musicologist's name (e.g., K. 453)
or
° a generally accepted abbreviation (e.g., BWV 232).

WoO (Werke ohne Opus) numbers should also be taken from a recognized thematic index.

LC-PCC PS: A bibliography of thematic indexes used in the Library of Congress/NACO Authority File [10]
See also Work numbers for composers [11]
Best practices for music cataloging [12]: Follow LC-PCC PS. Note that there is no restriction on thematic index numbers that may be used in variant access points or 383 [4] fields.

Source URL: https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/numbers

Links
http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/MARC383 [5] http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/thematic-
http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/acccpointsadd#6.28.1.10 [8]
http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/work-numbers-for-authorized-access-points [12]
http://access.rdatoolkit.org/document.php?id=mlabpchg6&target=mlabp6-832#mlabp6-832