

What is a Serial?

(AACR2R chapter 12/LCRI 12.0A)

Publication should meet all three criteria

Publication is issued in successive parts:

periodicals
annual reports and recurring reports
directories, yearbooks
newsletters
statistical publications
newspapers, etc.

Publication bears a numeric and/or chronological designation

Numeric or chronological designation is a number or date given in a prominent position on the publication that distinguishes each individual issue

Designation is used to identify each issue for check-in, organization, and retrieval

Publication is intended to continue indefinitely. This is often the most difficult of the criteria to determine

Publications not usually treated as serials:

Encyclopedias
Dictionaries
Censuses
Multi-volume sets with finite numbers of parts
Publications of a limited duration

Publications that are fuzzy:

Loose-leaves
Cumulations
Travel books
Conference publications
Series

2/2/99