

TRANSCRIPTION OF I/J/U/V WHEN CONVERTING CASE

The various DCRM rules have taken different approaches to transcription of the letters *i/j* and *u/v* when conversion of case is required.

DCRM(B) instructs the cataloger to follow the pattern of usage in the publication being described. Determining that pattern requires looking at text in the same typeface family (roman, italic, gothic) on the title page (or the remainder of text if need be); if no pattern can be identified “within a reasonable amount of time,” then a table of last resort is provided.

The current draft of DCRM(MSS) instructs to follow the pattern of usage in the manuscript.

The current drafts of DCRM(G) and DCRM(M) do not instruct to transcribe according to the pattern of usage; rather, the cataloger is to follow the default table provided.

This discussion paper identifies some of the issues relevant to the transcription of the letters *i/j* and *u/v* when conversion of case is required in the cataloging of cartographic materials. It is hoped that discussion of these issues will help us decide the appropriate approach to take in DCRM(C).

1. Amount of text present

As a general rule, cartographic materials fall in the middle: less text than books but more text than graphics. However, some atlases will have as much text as a book and some maps will have no text at all.

It is true that the less text present, the less likely that a pattern of usage can be identified. However, it is also true that the less text present, the less time it takes to actually examine it, so the task is not so onerous.

It is also true that even a small amount of text can have an easily identifiable pattern of usage and that pattern can deviate from the default table. In such cases, automatically resorting to the default table can produce an internally inconsistent transcription.

Example:

On map:

LE NOUVEAU MEXIQUE et LA FLORIDE: Tirées de diverses Cartes et Relations

Transcription following pattern of usage:

Le Nouveau Mexique et la Floride : tirées de diverses cartes et relations

Transcription following default table:

Le Nouueau Mexique et la Floride : tirées de diverses cartes et relations

2. Typeface of text present

The less text present, the less likely that text in the same typeface family will be present. It is possible that a pattern of usage could be identified for one typeface family but not another. Would the cataloger follow the pattern of usage for transcribing text in the one typeface family but the default table for transcribing text in the other typeface family? Or would the cataloger extend the pattern of usage found in the one typeface family to all transcribed text?

3. Letterpress vs. non-letterpress text

Similar to graphic materials, the text present in cartographic materials will often be engraved, lithographed, etc., rather than letterpress. Does this matter? Just as the pattern of usage can vary from printer to printer, it is also likely to vary from engraver to engraver, etc. Similarly, there were also likely to be national or regional preferences for one pattern of practice or another.

4. Manuscript vs. printed text

Might manuscript maps show a less consistent pattern of usage than printed maps?

5. Composite atlas, a.k.a. Atlas factice

A composite atlas may contain individual maps with patterns of usage that deviate from one another. When transcribing a contents note for such an atlas based on the titles of the individual maps, would we follow the pattern of usage of the atlas title page (resulting in a consistent transcription throughout the bibliographic record) or the pattern of usage that appears on the individual maps (resulting in a 505 note with a pattern of usage that might deviate from the pattern in the other areas of the record and would contain its own internal inconsistencies)? Note that determining the pattern of usage for each individual map in an atlas could be time-consuming. However, the maps might also be cataloged individually and it seems desirable to have the transcription in the atlas 505 note match the transcription in the separate bibliographic records for the individual maps.

6. Hidden variants

Would automatically transcribing using a default table rather than attempting to determine a pattern of usage be more likely to result in the inadvertent conflation of bibliographic variants on a single record?

7. Practice in *Cartographic Materials* rules

CM reproduces the DCRB rule. It instructs to follow the pattern of the printer and if “a pattern cannot be determined” to follow a table of last resort. However, the DCRB table differs from the DCRM table. DCRM(C) would deviate less from CM if it followed DCRM(B)’s lead in preferring the pattern of usage in the text, if one can be identified.

APPENDIX #1: DCRM(B) Rules

0G2.2. Letters *i/j* and *u/v*. If the rules for capitalization require converting the letters *i/j* or *u/v* to uppercase or lowercase, follow the pattern of usage in the publication being described.¹ If the source uses a gothic typeface that does not distinguish between the letters *i/j* or the letters *u/v*, transcribe the letters as *i* and *v* respectively.

Source:

LES OEUVRES MORALES DE PLVTARQVE, TRANSLATEES DE GREC
EN FRANÇOIS, REVEVES ET corrigees en plusieurs passages par le
translateur

Transcription:

Les oeuvres morales de Plutarque / translatees de grec en
françois, reueues et corrigees en plusieurs passages par le
translateur

(*Comment:* In the publication, the body of the text in roman type shows consistent use of *v* for vowels or consonants in initial position and *u* for vowels or consonants elsewhere, e.g., “ville,” “vn,” “conuersation,” “tout,” and “entendu”)

G4.2. Transcription. As instructed in rule 0G2.2, when the rules for capitalization require converting *i/j* or *u/v* to uppercase or lowercase,² the cataloger is to follow the pattern of usage in the publication being described. Establish the pattern of usage by examining text in the same typeface (i.e., roman, italic, or gothic) in the publication being described. Identify examples of *i*, *j*, *u*, and *v* having the same function (vowel or consonant) and same relative position (appearing in initial, medial, or final positions) as the letters to be converted. Begin by examining the remainder of the title page and then, if necessary, proceed to examine the body of the text in other parts of the book in the same typeface. If the pattern of usage cannot be determined within a reasonable amount of time, use this conversion table as a solution of last resort.

¹ For information on early printing as it pertains to the transcription of *i/j* and *u/v*, and guidance on how to determine the pattern of usage, see Appendix G4. If any of the letters is transcribed within the first five words of the title proper in converted form, provide additional title access using alternative forms of the title proper as needed (see Appendix F).

² An uppercase *J* or *U* in the source signals a modern distribution, in which *i* and *j* are functioning as separate letters, as are *u* and *v*, requiring no special consideration while converting case.

<i>Uppercase letter to be converted</i>	<i>Lowercase conversion</i>
I (vowel or consonant) anywhere in word ³	i
II at end of word	ij
II elsewhere in word	ii
V (vowel or consonant) at beginning of word	v
V (vowel or consonant) elsewhere in word	u
VV representing single letter ⁴	vv

<i>Lowercase letter to be converted</i>	<i>Uppercase conversion</i>
i (vowel or consonant) anywhere in word	I
j (vowel or consonant) anywhere in word	I
u (vowel or consonant) anywhere in word	V
v (vowel or consonant) anywhere in word	V
vv representing single letter ⁴	VV

³ Do not convert a final uppercase I meant to represent an ii ending (see 0G2.3).

⁴ This must be distinguished from **VV** or **vv** as a combination of a vowel and a consonant as in the examples **VVLT** or **vvlt** (vult, “he wants”) and **VVA** or **vva** (uva, “grape”).

APPENDIX #2: Cartographic Materials Rule

0H. <...> When the rules for capitalization require converting i/j or u/v to uppercase or lowercase, adhere to the pattern of uppercase/lowercase employed by the particular printer.⁵ Only when a pattern cannot be determined should the following table for conversion be applied, for it represents a solution of last resort.

Transcribe into lowercase:

I or J as i

II as ii

IJ as ij

U or V as u (but U or V in initial position as v)

VV as uu (or vv in initial position)

Transcribe into uppercase:

i as I

j as J

u or v as V

uu or vv as VV (i.e., two capital Vs)

<...> Treat gothic capitals in the forms J and U as I and V. (In “modern” gothic where lowercase i and j are distinguished, transcribe the gothic capitals according to the lowercase usage.)

⁵ For information on early printing as it pertains to the transcription of i/j and u/v, see appendix G.1E of this manual and also appendix B of *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Books*, p. 69–70.