End Punctuation in MARC: Exceptions in the 3xx Fields

End punctuation for fields in a MARC record is complex. Generally, fields end in some type of punctuation. However, there are exceptions that arise from RDA rules. A number of these appear in 300 (3xx) fields.

The illustrations below illustrates RDA fields in MARC.

Original:

```
300   $a 379 pages (large print); $c 23 cm.
336   $a text $b txt $z2 rdaccontent.
337   $a unmediated $b n $z2 rdamedia.
338   $a volume $b nc $z2 rdacarrier.
340   $n large print $z2 rda.
```

The next illustration shows these fields with the end punctuation removed.

Corrected:

```
300   $a 379 pages (large print); $c 23 cm.
336   $a text $b txt $z2 rdaccontent.
337   $a unmediated $b n $z2 rdamedia.
338   $a volume $b nc $z2 rdacarrier.
340   $n large print $z2 rda.
```

- **Field 300 (Physical Description):** The final subfield in the 300 line is generally subfield $c, dimensions. Dimensions are normally represented in metric measurements, which are abbreviated and are not followed by punctuation. If the measurement is in inches (in.) or feet (ft.), these are abbreviated and followed by a period.
- **Fields 336, 337, 338 (Content/Media/Carrier Type):** These RDA fields do not end in punctuation. There’s an easy way to remember this: these fields do not contain any punctuation, anywhere.
- **Field 340 (Physical Medium):** This is a newer field that is beginning to appear in records. It is not yet necessary to add it, but leave it in the record if it does appear. Like the 33x fields above, this is a no-punctuation field. The example above uses subfield $n, which indicates font size. It is appropriate to enter “large print” here.