When to Add a New Record to the Database

The Library of Congress Rule Interpretations offer some guidance when deciding whether an item being catalogued needs its own record, or whether holdings can be added to a record already in the database. This needs to be read in conjunction with the following definitions from AACR2 Appendix D:

1. AACR2 Definitions

Edition: Books, pamphlets, fascicles, single sheets, etc.
All copies produced from essentially the same type image (whether by direct contact or by photographic or other methods) and issued by the same entity.

Impression
All copies of an edition of a book, pamphlet, etc., printed at one time.

Issue
Copies of an edition forming a distinct group that are distinguished from other copies of that edition by minor but well-defined variations (e.g., a new impression of a book for which minor revisions have been incorporated into the original type image).

2. From LCRI 1.0: Edition or Copy of Monograph

When a new manifestation of an item reaches the cataloger, the question arises as to whether this is a copy of an earlier manifestation or an edition separate from the earlier manifestation needing its own bibliographic record. (See the definition of "Edition" from AACR2 Appendix D, above). If, according to this definition, two items are known to be two different editions, create separate records for each.

Also, consider that a new edition is involved whenever
1) there is an explicit indication of changes (including corrections) of content; or,
2) anything in the following areas or elements of areas differs from one bibliographic record to another: title and statement of responsibility area, edition area, the extent statement of the physical description area, and series area. (Note: For printed music and sound recordings, consider that different editions exist whenever two items have different publisher's numbers or plate numbers).

Whenever the question relates to the publication, distribution, etc., area or to ISBNs, consider that the item is a copy if the only variation is one or more of the following:
1) a difference in the printing or copyright date when there is also a publication date;
2) a minor variation in an entity’s name. There are relatively few examples of this phenomenon, which arises when a publisher uses multiple forms concurrently. For example, “Duckworth” and “G. Duckworth” and “St. Martin’s” and “St. Martin's Press” have been used at the same time by these publishers. A genuine name change, even if minor, should not be considered as a variation;
3) the addition, deletion, or change of an ISBN;
4) a difference in binding; or,
5) a difference in the edition statement or the series whenever the item is a CIP book issued by the publisher in both a hardbound and a softbound version.

For variations in the publication, distribution, etc., area not covered by the preceding statements, consider that the item is a new edition. Noteworthy examples for the publication, distribution, etc., area are variations involving different places or entities transcribed or any difference in an entity’s name that is suggestive of either a name change or a different entity. Examples of the latter case are the many instances of a sequence of names used, with one used for some time and another at some point replacing the first. For example, “Harper & Brothers” becomes “Harper & Row”; “Doubleday, Doran” becomes “Doubleday.”