To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Bill Leonard, CCC representative

Subject: **"Between", "Before" and "After" dates (Revision of RDA 9.3.1.3)**

CCC thanks the British Library for investigating this issue and for proposing these changes. CCC agrees with the intention of the proposal and with the ALA response, but we note that the possible situations are already covered in 1.9, with care taken to distinguish between the use of the words 'date' and 'year.' CCC submits this counter-proposal modelled on sentence structure already established in RDA 1.9. One could say that these debates have already been had when 1.9 was developed.

Three instructions in 1.9 provide models for additions to 9.3.1.3. We note that a question mark is used for a probable range of years, such as a rough estimate. A known range of dates would be based upon definitive evidence.

1.9.2.3 Probable Year
If the probable year is known, record the year followed by a question mark.

1.9.2.4 Probable Range of Years
If the probable date falls within a range of years, record the range. Record *between*, followed by the earliest probable year, then *and* and the latest probable year, followed by a question mark.

1.9.2.5 Earliest and/or Latest Possible Date Known
If the earliest possible date is known, record *not before* followed by the date.
If the latest possible date is known, record *not after* followed by the date.

If both the earliest possible and latest possible dates are known, record *between* followed by the earliest possible date, then *and* and the latest possible date.

CCC's counter-proposal for revision of 9.3.1.3 includes instructions for probable ranges of dates, known ranges of dates and dates known to be before or after a specific date. The question mark is not mandated on known ranges.

MARKED UP

9.3.1.3 Recording Dates Associated with Persons `LC-PCC PS` `2013/07` `D-A-CH`
Record dates associated with persons by applying these instructions, as applicable:
    date of birth (see 9.3.2 `RDA`)
    date of death (see 9.3.3 `RDA`)
    period of activity (see 9.3.4 `RDA`).

Record dates in terms of the calendar preferred by the agency creating the data. For details on the Christian calendar, see appendix H RDA.

Record dates as separate elements, as parts of access points, or as both. For additional instructions on recording dates as parts of authorized access points, see 9.19.1.3 RDA (date of birth and/or death) or 9.19.1.5 RDA (period of activity of the person and/or profession or occupation).

Record a date associated with a person by giving the year.

> *Optional Addition* LC-PCC PS
> Add the month or month and day in the form *[year] [month] [day]* or *[year] [month]*. Record the month in a language and script preferred by the agency creating the data.

Indicate a probable date by adding a question mark following the year.

EXAMPLE

1816?
Probable year of birth

If the year is uncertain but known to be either one of two years, record the date in the form *[year] or [year]*.

EXAMPLE

1666 or 1667
Year of birth uncertain; known to be one of two years
828 or 829
Year of death uncertain; known to be one of two years

If the probable date falls within a range of years, record the range. Record *between* followed by the earliest probable year, then *and* and the latest probable year, followed by a question mark.

EXAMPLE

between 1310 and 1319?
Year of birth uncertain; estimated to be within a probable range of years

If both the earliest possible and latest possible dates are known, record *between* followed by the earliest possible date, then *and* and the latest possible date.

EXAMPLE

between 1863 and 1869
Year of birth uncertain; known to be within a specific range

If the earliest possible date is known, record *not before* before the date.
If the latest possible date is known, record *not after* before the date.

EXAMPLE
not before 1799
Year of birth uncertain; known to be after a specific year

If the year can only be approximated, record the date in the form *approximately [year]*.

EXAMPLE
approximately 931
Approximate year of birth
approximately 680
Approximate year of death

Record a period of activity expressed as a range of dates in the form *[year]–[year]*.

EXAMPLE
1623–1624
Period of activity
1378–1395
Period of activity
approximately 1479–1499
Period of activity
1687–approximately 1735
Period of activity

Record a period of activity expressed as a range of centuries in the form *[century]–[century]*.

EXAMPLE
13th century–14th century
Period of activity
1st century B.C.–1st century A.D.
Period of activity

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