

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Alan Danskin, British Library Representative
Subject: Priority order for additions to authorized access points representing a person (Revision of RDA 9.19)

Abstract

This proposal removes the requirement for a priority order for additions to authorized access points representing a person, giving cataloguers the flexibility to apply their judgment, and allowing the preference of any cataloguing community to be accommodated.

Introduction

This proposal follows on from 6JSC/LC/12, which was accepted by JSC in 2013, which dealt with a theoretical problem in the priority order for disambiguating additions to personal names. The issue was that Period of Activity of the Person came higher in the order of preference than Profession or Occupation, and in theory a Period of Activity could almost always be added, so a cataloguer would never get as far as Profession or Occupation, even if this would provide better disambiguation. 6JSC/LC/12 said:

“In practice, catalogers have determined that the order of the last two attributes listed (Period of activity of the person and Profession or occupation) should not be mandated. In some instances, the Profession or occupation (e.g., Veterinarian) may be a more useful addition for identification/distinguishing purposes than Period of activity of the person (e.g., active 20th century). In other situations, Period of activity of the person may be better than occupation (e.g., active 17th century vs. Poet).

“LC proposes to give catalogers the flexibility to apply their judgment.”

The proposal was accepted, and the order of precedence was removed by combining Period of Activity of the Person with Profession or Occupation in one instruction (9.19.1.5).

The addition of two further qualifiers, Other Term of Rank, Honour or Office (6JSC/BL/3), and Other Designation (6JSC/BL/4) has reintroduced the issue. These are now “the last two attributes listed”, and of course are further down the pecking order (9.19.1.6-7), so the same problem arises with them – a cataloguer would never get to them, because a Period of Activity can almost always be added.

The current proposal solves this problem by removing the priority order for additions to authorized access points representing a person, giving cataloguers the flexibility to apply their judgment.

Note: 6JSC/LC/12 dealt with priority among two elements (Period of Activity of the Person, and Profession or Occupation), and was implemented by combining the instructions for those elements into one (9.19.1.5). The current proposal deals with priority among all elements; it will be clearer to users to provide a separate instruction for each element.

Justification

This change is justified on grounds of flexibility and consistency. It restores the flexibility for cataloguers to exercise their judgment as was the intention of 6JSC/LC/12.

Impact

Removing the priority order will allow the preference of any cataloguing community to be accommodated, while still allowing PCC to specify a policy to prefer Date of Birth and/or Death, and Fuller Form of Name, over the other qualifiers.

We have consulted with the Acting Coordinator for NACO and SACO programs, who sees no problem with the proposed changes for those programs.

The impact on RDA users is anticipated to be positive, and not problematic. The change reflects existing practice in recording authority data: in practice, cataloguers have determined that the order of the attributes listed should not be mandated.

Summary of Changes

The following changes are proposed

1. Remove text from 9.19.1.4: “Make this addition when the person’s date of birth or date of death is not available”
2. Revert 9.19.1.5 into two instructions, numbered 9.19.1.5 and 9.19.1.6, and remove text: “Make this addition when the following elements are not available [...]”.
3. Re-number 9.19.1.6 to 9.19.1.7, and remove text: “Make this addition when the following elements are not available [...]”
4. Re-number 9.19.1.7 to 9.19.1.8, and remove text: “Make this addition when the following elements are not available [...]”

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9.19.1.4 Fuller Form of Name

Add a fuller form of the person's name (see [9.5 RDA](#)) if needed to distinguish one access point from another. ~~Make this addition when the person's date of birth or date of death is not available (see [9.19.1.3 RDA](#)).~~

[The remainder of this instruction is unchanged]

9.19.1.5 Period of Activity of the Person and/or Profession or Occupation 2013/07

Add the period of activity of the person (see [9.3.4 RDA](#)) ~~or profession or occupation (see [9.16 RDA](#))~~ if needed to distinguish one access point from another. ~~Make this addition when the following elements are not available: date of birth and/or death (see [9.19.1.3 RDA](#))~~

~~or~~

~~fuller form of name (see [9.19.1.4 RDA](#)).~~

EXAMPLE

~~Addition of a Period of Activity~~

Smith, John, flourished 1705

Smith, John, active 1719–1758

Xu, Zhen, active 1377

Xu, Zhen, jin shi 1523

Allen, Charles, 17th century

Allen, Charles, 18th century–19th century

EXAMPLE

~~Addition of a Profession or Occupation~~

Johannes (Notary)

A. K. (Musician)

Chris (Rapper)

Hancock, Mary (Architect)

Butler, Jean (Composer)

Hall, Daniel (Tax collector)

Orr, Marjorie (Veterinarian)

Watt, James (Gardener)

Brown, Carol (Flutist)

Optional Addition LC-PCC PS NLA PS

Add the period of activity of the person and/or profession or occupation in any order even if there is no need to distinguish between access points.

EXAMPLE

Bal'amī Abū 'Alī Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad, flourished 946–973

Aelfgifu, Queen, consort of Edwy, King of England, flourished 956

Callistratus, of Aphidna, flourished 377 B.C.–361 B.C.

Adam II, Abbot of Dore, flourished 1216–1226

Cai, Shangxiang, jin shi 1761

Zacharias (Notary), active 1232–1274

9.19.1.6 Profession or Occupation

Add the profession or occupation (see [9.16 RDA](#)) if needed to distinguish one access point from another.

EXAMPLE

Johannes (Notary)

A. K. (Musician)

Chris (Rapper)

Hancock, Mary (Architect)

Butler, Jean (Composer)

Hall, Daniel (Tax collector)

Orr, Marjorie (Veterinarian)

Watt, James (Gardener)

Brown, Carol (Flutist)

Optional Addition LC-PCC PS NLA PS

Add the profession or occupation even if there is no need to distinguish between access points.

EXAMPLE

Anderson, Reid (Professor of graphic design)

Ross, Anne (Production designer)

Bergquist, Karin (Musician)

9.19.1.6 7 Other Term of Rank, Honour, or Office 2013/07

Add a term indicative of rank, honour, or office if the term appears with the name (see [9.4.1.9 RDA](#)) if it is needed to distinguish one access point from another. ~~Make this addition when the following elements are not available:~~

~~date of birth and/or death (see [9.19.1.3 RDA](#))~~

~~fuller form of name (see [9.19.1.4 RDA](#))~~

~~*or*~~

~~period of activity of the person and/or profession or occupation (see [9.19.1.5 RDA](#)).~~

Optional Addition LC-PCC PS

Add a term indicative of rank, honour, or office even if there is no need to distinguish between access points.

EXAMPLE

Appleby, Robert, Sir

"Sir," a term of honour for a knight, added to help identify the person

9.19.1.7 8 Other Designation

If none of the additions at [9.19.1.2 RDA](#)–[9.19.1.6 RDA](#) is sufficient or appropriate for distinguishing between the access points for two or more persons, add an appropriate designation (see [9.6.1.9 RDA](#)).

Add an appropriate designation (see [9.6.1.9 RDA](#)) if it is needed to distinguish one access point from another.

EXAMPLE

Nichols, Chris (Of the North Oxford Association)
 Lang, John (Brother of Andrew Lang)
 Budd, Henry (Cree Indian)
 Yaśodharā (Wife of Gautama Buddha)
 Independent Burgess (Of Nottingham)

[Note that if 6JSC/BL/19 is approved, 9.19.1.8 (formerly 9.19.1.7) gains an additional example]

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9.19.1.4 Fuller Form of Name

Add a fuller form of the person's name (see [9.5 RDA](#)) if needed to distinguish one access point from another.

[The remainder of this instruction is unchanged]

9.19.1.5 Period of Activity of the Person

Add the period of activity of the person (see [9.3.4 RDA](#)) if needed to distinguish one access point from another.

EXAMPLE

Smith, John, flourished 1705
 Smith, John, active 1719–1758
 Xu, Zhen, active 1377
 Xu, Zhen, jin shi 1523
 Allen, Charles, 17th century
 Allen, Charles, 18th century–19th century

Optional Addition **LC-PCC PS** **NLA PS**

Add the period of activity of the person even if there is no need to distinguish between access points.

EXAMPLE

Bal'amī Abū 'Alī Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad, flourished 946–973
 Aelfifu, Queen, consort of Edwy, King of England, flourished 956
 Callistratus, of Aphidna, flourished 377 B.C.–361 B.C.

Adam II, Abbot of Dore, flourished 1216–1226

Cai, Shangxiang, jin shi 1761

Zacharias (Notary), active 1232–1274

9.19.1.6 Profession or Occupation

Add the profession or occupation (see [9.16 RDA](#)) if needed to distinguish one access point from another.

EXAMPLE

Johannes (Notary)

A. K. (Musician)

Chris (Rapper)

Hancock, Mary (Architect)

Butler, Jean (Composer)

Hall, Daniel (Tax collector)

Orr, Marjorie (Veterinarian)

Watt, James (Gardener)

Brown, Carol (Flutist)

Optional Addition **LC-PCC PS** **NLA PS**

Add the profession or occupation even if there is no need to distinguish between access points.

EXAMPLE

Anderson, Reid (Professor of graphic design)

Ross, Anne (Production designer)

Bergquist, Karin (Musician)

9.19.1.7 Other Term of Rank, Honour, or Office **2013/07**

Add a term indicative of rank, honour, or office if the term appears with the name (see [9.4.1.9 RDA](#)) if it is needed to distinguish one access point from another.

Optional Addition **LC-PCC PS**

Add a term indicative of rank, honour, or office even if there is no need to distinguish between access points.

EXAMPLE

Appleby, Robert, Sir

“Sir,” a term of honour for a knight, added to help identify the person

9.19.1.8 Other Designation

Add an appropriate designation (see [9.6.1.9 RDA](#)) if it is needed to distinguish one access point from another.

EXAMPLE

Nichols, Chris (Of the North Oxford Association)
Lang, John (Brother of Andrew Lang)
Budd, Henry (Cree Indian)
Yaśodharā (Wife of Gautama Buddha)
Independent Burgess (Of Nottingham)

[Note that if 6JSC/BL/19 is approved, 9.19.1.8 (formerly 9.19.1.7) gains an additional example]