

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Barbara Tillett, LC Representative
Subject: Other designation associated with the person: Revision of RDA 9.0, 9.6.1 and 9.19.1

LC thanks the British Library for helping to fill a gap in RDA for certain ‘persons’ covered by RDA Chapter 9. Although such entities are rarely encountered in general cataloging, it is true that differentiation is quite challenging when the attributes available to distinguish persons from Chapter 9 are all for real humans.

Change 1: Scope

We agree with the BL proposal, as modified by ACOC.

Change 2: Core statement at 9.6

LC’s preference is to keep the core requirement for saints and spirits as is in RDA; other uses of the element “Other designation associated with the person” would be core only when needed to distinguish a person from another person with the same name.

CORE ELEMENT

Other designation associated with the person is a core element for a Christian saint or a spirit. For other entities, Other designation associated with the person is a core element when needed to distinguish a person from another person with the same name.

Change 3: Recording other designations associated with a person

LC agrees to the changes to 9.6.1.3. We note that the proposed wording does not include reference to 9.6.1.9 (Other designation), we agree with this omission as we do not support the addition of 9.6.1.9 (see Change 5 below).

Change 4: Addition of 9.6.1.6, 9.6.1.7, and 9.6.1.8

Persons named in religious works (9.6.1.6): LC concurs, but we wonder whether the “religious works” reference is overly broad? Religious works in the context of RDA (6.23) consist specifically of:

- sacred scriptures
- apocryphal books
- theological creeds, confessions of faith, etc.
- liturgical works

Our sense is that only the first two categories are likely to be needed for personal creators/contributors in the RDA context, and would suggest limiting this instruction to the

religious works outlined in 6.23.2.5 and 6.23.2.6. Even then, we think this instruction would rarely be needed, although we have needed to construct authorized access points for ‘spirits’ of biblical persons, etc., when they are presented as having responsibility for the work or expression.

The example presented should not be shown in parentheses at the element level, the parentheses are only used in the authorized access point at 9.19. A corresponding change will need to be made in Appendix E.1.2.2 providing instructions for enclosing designations for Persons named in religious works, fictitious and legendary persons, and non-human entities in parentheses.

Fictitious and legendary persons (9.6.1.7, 9.6.1.8): We think these new instructions would benefit from examples for cases where a name for a fictitious character conflicts with another person. LC has also tentatively agreed to remove fictitious and legendary characters from Library of Congress Subject Headings and treat them as RDA personal names, although the timeliness of the transition will depend on the resources available to complete the project (there are at least 5,800 authority records that would be impacted). Final decisions are dependent on the results of this proposal.

Change 5: Other designation (9.6.1.9)

LC does not agree with this addition. The category is overly broad, and some of the examples provided at 9.19.1.8 in the proposal really represent other attributes such as affiliations, occupations, or relationships.

Change 6: Authorized access points

Title or other designation associated with the person (9.19.1.2):

LC agrees with the proposed change and examples, and notes that there is no reference to 9.6.1.9. Regarding “Other designation,” again, we agree with this omission, see comments on Change 5 above.

Other designation (9.19.1.8)

LC does not agree with this change, see comments on Change 5 above.