

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

**From:** Kevin Marsh, ACOC Representative

**Subject:** Change to Definition of 9.16.1.1 Profession or Occupation

ACOC thanks BL for this proposal to broaden the definition of profession or occupation to enable better use of the element in distinguishing between persons with similar or same names. We have reservations about the need to make the proposed change, and the practical effect of making it.

In consulting several sources we found the primary sense of occupation to be job or employment, and the secondary sense to be a way of passing time; i.e., the primary sense of occupation is work. Replacing the term 'works or has worked' with the term 'engaged or was engaged' seems to blur this distinction in meaning.

Applying the same terminology at RDA 9.16 Profession or Occupation as that applied in RDA 9.15. Field of Activity of the Person seems to weaken the distinction between the two, and has the practical effect of reducing occupation to field of activity.

ACOC prefers to retain the term 'work' to ensure the distinction between this element and Field of Activity of the Person. Occupation is used in RDA 9.16 in order to encompass work that might not be considered a profession, not to support the characterization of ways of passing time. With the example provided by BL, if a person is best known as an angler then 'angling' could be given as the field of activity of the person.