

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee

CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary

From: Robert L. Maxwell, NARDAC representative to RDA Steering Committee

Subject: Formal response to RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1 – Preferred names and official languages of corporate bodies, governments, and places in RDA

NARDAC agrees with the general approach of greater explicitness and greater flexibility, and generally supports the proposal, with some comments and minor reservations.

Recommendation 1:

NARDAC supports this recommendation.

Comment: A follow-up instruction in "Preferred name of corporate body" in RDA for "International Bodies" appears as a leftover instruction that should be integrated into the proposed changes.

"International bodies" is a subheading for a single instruction at https://access.rdatoolkit.org/en-US_al-652f1f83-0f9d-3cf9-934d-e5ffbad846c8/p_d3f_cnz_xfb [52.39.62.98]. It follows "Names of corporate body in two or more languages".

In original RDA the main option for "International Bodies" (11.2.2.5.3) was to use a language preferred by the agent creating the metadata if a name in that language appeared, but all other options were available for all other cases (11.2.2.5.3 referred in other cases to 11.2.2.5.2). This suggests that this instruction can be eliminated, as the proposed new condition for the instruction is generally applicable for all situations for a name appearing in two or more languages. Policy statements should specify when a particular option is used. The instruction for "International Bodies" could then be moved to a policy statement associated with the chosen option.

Recommendation 2:

NARDAC supports this recommendation, with a reservation.

Comment: NARDAC supports the addition of an option that allows recording a value that is not in an official language of the corporate body, but is concerned that the instruction "Record a value in a language of a corporate body" is too vague. While we realize this wording is the result of a style decision for RDA made a few years ago to use indefinite articles, the result here is "Record a value in a language of [any] corporate body." That is, the instruction could correctly be applied by a cataloger choosing a value for Corporate Body X in a language of Corporate Body Y. In the interest of precision and clarity "Record a value in a language of *the* corporate body" [i.e. the corporate body being described] would be better.

Recommendation 3:

NARDAC supports this recommendation, with a reservation.

Comment: NARDAC supports the addition of an option that allows recording a value that is not in an official language of the government, but is concerned that the instruction “Record a value in a language of a government” is too vague. While we realize this wording is the result of a style decision for RDA made a few years ago to use indefinite articles, the result here is “Record a value in a language of [any] government.” That is, the instruction could correctly be applied by a cataloger choosing a value for Government X in a language of Government Y. In the interest of precision and clarity “Record a value in a language of *the* government” [i.e. the government being described] would be better.

Recommendation 4:

NARDAC supports this recommendation, with editorial comments.

Comment:

Editorial amendment 1 for splitting a condition line:

The condition in the first condition box should be split to preserve parallelism with next condition box. "A value of a name is in a language that is preferred by an agent who creates the metadata and is in general use" should be split into two lines: "A value of a name is in a language that is preferred by an agent who creates the metadata" and "A name of a place is in general use". There is already an implicit "AND" between condition lines.

Editorial amendment 2 for the word "jurisdiction":

Recent decisions replacing "jurisdiction" with "governance" need to be taken into account (a "jurisdiction" is a place, and "governance" has replaced that word in spots). The condition "A name of a place is the name of a government that has jurisdiction over the place" perhaps should be "A name of a place is the name of a government that has governance over the place".