

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
From: Kevin Marsh, ACOC representative  
Subject: **Revision of RDA 9.2.2.5.3: Names Written in a Non-preferred Script**

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## Background

RDA 9.2.2.5.3 specifies steps to be taken when determining the preferred form of a name when the name appears in a script that differs from the preferred script of the agency creating the data. Cataloguers are asked first to determine if it is the given name or the surname that is to be recorded as the first element of the name, then if there is a form of name well-established in local reference sources. If either of these conditions is unmet, cataloguers are asked to transliterate. An alternative instruction allows for the use of well-established forms of name from reference sources to be used if it is the surname that is recorded as first element of the preferred name.

ACOC found the instructions as they stand confusing because the flow and logic of 9.2.2.5.3 operates in a different way from the other sections about how to choose a preferred name (9.2.2.5.1, 9.2.2.5.2). In particular they don't start by describing the most common case and then qualifying it, but in fact start with what is probably the least common case.

This original version of this proposal made several suggestions to make the instruction easier to understand and apply, without intending to change its meaning.

- Change the order of the instructions so that transliteration becomes the general instruction.
- Include the instruction to use local reference resources for names where the first element is given name, etc. as an Exception to this general instruction.
- Remove the special instruction for Hebrew and Yiddish names in the Alternative as this appears to be allowed for by the general instruction.

ACOC concurs with the view of other JSC constituents that further simplifications and clarifications could be made, and offers the following revised proposal. In particular this version removes the original distinction in treatment depending on whether the given name or surname of the person is to be recorded as the first element of the name.

ACOC notes that the instruction "If a name is found only in a transliterated form in resources associated with the person, choose that form as the preferred name." is strictly redundant, since if there is only a transliterated form and no "original" script form, there can be no question of transliterating it. However, ACOC also accepts that the instruction here may be a useful reminder to cataloguers not to reconstruct the original script version of a name in order to transliterate it.

ACOC notes the inconsistencies in rendition and transliteration of Hebrew and Arabic script in the current text reported by ALA and CCC. No attempt has been made to correct them here, but these should be closely checked by the editors.

## PROPOSED REVISIONS: MARKED VERSION

### 9.2.2.5.3 Names Written in a Non-preferred Script

The name of a person may be written in a script that is not the preferred script of the agency. Transliterate the name according to the table for the language adopted by the agency.

#### **EXAMPLE**

Laozi

Name appears in original script as: [Chinese characters]

Li An

Name appears in original script as: 李安

Jamāl □ Abd al-Nāṣir

Name appears in original script as: رمضان دبع لامج

Parvez Musharraf

Name appears in original script as: مُشرف زيورپ

Yi Sūng-man

Name appears in original script as: 李承晚

A. Skriābin

Name appears in original script as: A. Скрябин

Evgeniĭ Evtushenko

Name appears in original script as: Евгений Евтушенко

Mosheh Dayin

Name appears in original script as: מייך השם

Shelomit Kohen-Asif

Name appears in original script as: פיסא-נהכ תימולש

Μπαράκ Ομπάμα

Name appears in original script as: Barack Obama

[Hebrew script]

Name appears in original script as: Martha Washington

If a name is written in more than one non-preferred script, transliterate it according to the table for the original language of most of the works.

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Muḥammad Rizā al-Anṣārī al-Qummī

*not* Muḥammad Rizā Anṣārī Qumī

Wrote primarily in Arabic but also in Persian

Premacanda

*not* Prem Cand

Wrote primarily in Hindi but also in Urdu

If a name is found only in a transliterated form in resources associated with the person, choose that form as the preferred name.

If a name is found in more than one transliterated form in resources associated with the person, choose the form that occurs most frequently.

Record the other forms of the transliterated name as variant names (see 9.2.3.9).

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## Alternative

If there is a well established form of name in reference sources in the language preferred by the agency choose that form of name as the preferred name.

If variant forms are found in reference sources in the language preferred by the agency creating the data, choose the form that occurs most frequently.

## EXAMPLE

Ang Lee

Name appears in original script as: 李安

Gamal Abdel Nasser

Name appears in original script as: جمال عبد الناصر

Pervez Musharraf

Name appears in original script as: مشرف زيورپ

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Name appears in original script as: 李承晚

#### **A. Scriabin**

Name appears in original script as: А. Скрябин

#### **Yevgeny Yevtushenko**

Name appears in original script as: Евгений Евтушенко

#### **Moshe Dayan**

Name appears in original script as: משה דיין

#### **Shlomit Cohen-Assif**

Name appears in original script as: שילומית כהן-טימולש

#### **Alexander the Great**

Name appears in original script as: Ἀλέξανδρος ὁ Μέγας

#### **Avicenna**

Name appears in original script as: ابن سینا

#### **Catherine II**

Name appears in original script as: Екатерина II

#### **Confucius**

Name appears in original script as: 孔子

#### **Homer**

Name appears in original script as: Ὅμηρος

#### **Isaiah**

Name appears in original script as: יחזקאל

#### **Nahman of Bratslav**

Name appears in original script as: נחמן מברסלב

#### **Omar Khayyam**

Name appears in original script as: ابراهیم خیام

#### **Paul I**

Name appears in original script as: Παύλος Α΄

## PROPOSED REVISIONS: CLEAN VERSION

### 9.2.2.5.3 Names Written in a Non-preferred Script

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Μπαράκ Ομπάμα

Name appears in original script as: Barack Obama

[Hebrew script]

Name appears in original script as: Martha Washington

If a name is written in more than one non-preferred script, transliterate it according to the table for the original language of most of the works.

## EXAMPLE

Muḥammad Rizā al-Anṣārī al-Qummī

*not* Muḥammad Rizā Anṣārī Qumī

Wrote primarily in Arabic but also in Persian

Premacanda

*not* Prem Cand

Wrote primarily in Hindi but also in Urdu

If a name is found only in a transliterated form in resources associated with the person, choose that form as the preferred name.

If a name is found in more than one transliterated form in resources associated with the person, choose the form that occurs most frequently.

Record the other forms of the transliterated name as variant names (see [9.2.3.9](#)).

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Name appears in original script as: יהושע

### Naḥman of Bratslav

Name appears in original script as: נחמן מברסלב

### Omar Khayyam

Name appears in original script as: ابي خ ريمع

### Paul I

Name appears in original script as: Παύλος Α'

If no form in the language preferred by the agency creating the data is found, or if no one form in that language predominates, transliterate the name according to the table for the language adopted by the agency creating the data.

## EXAMPLE

### Laozi

No predominant English-language form; name transliterated according to the ALA-LC Romanization Tables

Record the other forms of the transliterated name as variant names (see [9.2.3.9](#)).

b)



If the name of a person whose surname is recorded as the first element (see [9.2.2.9–9.2.2.13](#)) is written in a script that differs from the preferred script of the agency, transliterate the name according to the table for the language adopted by the agency creating the data.

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Name appears in original script as: ןיסיאןהכ תימולש

If the name of a person is found only in a transliterated form in resources associated with the person, choose that form as the preferred name.

## EXAMPLE

Bo Yeon Lee

Form of name in Korean script not found

Pattamaporn Laokiatsophon

Form of name in Thai script not found

If such a person's name is found in more than one transliterated form in resources associated with the person, choose the form that occurs most frequently.

If a name is written in more than one non-preferred script, transliterate it according to the table for the original language of most of the works.

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