

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

FROM: Alan Danskin, British Library representative to JSC

SUBJECT: Proposed Revision of RDA 16.2.2 (Preferred Name for the Place)

BL thanks ALA for this thorough review of the instructions at 16.2.2. We have both a general response and comments on the specific recommendations.

General

BL considers that the instructions at 16.2.2.9-16.2.2.10 could be generalized to make them more international and remove AACR2 bias. This could be achieved by making 16.2.2.11 the general instruction with the addition of the option proposed in recommendation 5. The instructions specific to places in Australia, Canada, Malaysia, United States, U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia, British Isles, etc, could be alternatives. However, we recognise this would require quite a lot of additional work, which we think would be better invested in developing the solution proposed in Recommendation 6. Therefore, we approve the ALA recommendations 1-4 as a short term solution until the solution proposed in Recommendation 6 can be implemented.

Recommendation 1.

ALA recommends that Malaysia be removed from the instructions in RDA 16.2.2.9 and be treated under the instruction for places in other jurisdictions.

BL has no strong view on this; as an option is proposed which would enable continuity with current practice we accept the proposal.

ALA recommends adding the phrase “a country that was a constituent republic of the former U.S.S.R. or the former Yugoslavia”.

BL agrees.

Recommendation 2

ALA recommends that mention of the Republic of Ireland be removed from RDA 16.2.2.10 and the examples for places in the Republic be moved to the general instructions at the current RDA 16.2.2.11.

BL agrees with the proposed change.

Recommendation 3

ALA proposes the addition of a new instruction for “places in overseas territories and insular areas” to be inserted as RDA 16.2.2.11 (current 16.2.2.11 and subsequent instructions to be renumbered), and move appropriate examples from other instructions.

BL agrees

Recommendation 4

ALA proposes to add an Optional Addition to the general instruction for Places in Other Jurisdictions [current 16.2.2.11, proposed 16.2.2.12] to allow the name of the first-level administrative division to be recorded preceding the name of the country as part of the preferred name of a place.

BL strongly agrees and welcomes this option. The BL notes that the phrase “first-level administrative division” may need to be defined or explained.

Recommendation 5

ALA now asks the JSC whether they would be interested in entertaining a proposal to delete abbreviations for place names from RDA Appendix B and to revise the relevant examples.

BL is in favour of such a proposal and would be interested in widening its scope to all instances where abbreviations are used for place names in RDA, whether used as discrete elements or as additions to access points, in respect of persons, families and corporate bodies.

Recommendation 6

ALA feels that the instructions for recording names of places would be made simpler and more effective if:

- *Instructions about recording names of larger places were removed from the instructions for recording the preferred and variant names of places.*
- *Separate instructions for an element for Name of Larger Place were to be added to Chapter 16. Alternatively, a relationship element for Larger/Smaller Place might be added instead.*
- *Instructions for constructing authorized and variant access points for names of places were added to Chapter 16.*

ALA plans to continue working on these issues and to develop a proposal along the lines outlined above.

BL welcomes this commitment for further work and notes that this would help to remove geographic bias from RDA. BL is concerned that the terms larger place and smaller place are potentially ambiguous and would prefer that places should be treated as entities which can be related in different ways using relationship designators.