

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Marg Stewart, CCC Representative
Subject: Revision of RDA 11.2.2: Heads of State and Heads of Government

CCC thanks ALA for the revised proposal. CCC responses are below:

Regarding generic vs. gender-specific terms, ACOC offered additional language, but we believe that this was based on the assumption that the name was being recorded in the language of the jurisdiction. LC, on the other hand, strongly preferred generic terms for the title of the office. The third paragraph of the revised 11.2.2.21.1 does this. Does JSC agree?

CCC agrees.

- a. In the third paragraph of the revised 11.2.2.21.1 (“If the title varies ...”), John Hostage asks whether the instruction should read “If the title in the language preferred by the agency creating the data varies ...” because the title in the official language of the jurisdiction may not vary. It seems to me that the first paragraph of 11.2.2.21.1 makes it clear that the title is recorded in the language preferred by the agency creating the data, and that it is unnecessary to repeat this in subsequent instructions. Does JSC agree?

CCC agrees; no need to repeat “preferred by the agency creating the data”.

- b. In the same paragraph, John noted that it is often difficult to determine the title for a head of government, particularly as the resource being described is likely to contain the title only in the official language of the jurisdiction. The literal English translation of *Bundeskanzler* and *Bundeskanzlerin* is *Federal Chancellor*, and that English equivalent is used on the official website (<http://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/Webs/BK/En/homepage/home.html>); *Chancellor* is often used as a short form, but literary warrant for that might be more difficult to find. My sense is that this is an application issue, and that RDA need not provide further guidance on how to determine the equivalent in another language. Does JSC agree?

CCC agrees.

- c. ACOC suggested using an English example for the titles that vary with the gender of the incumbent, and suggested the heading for the current British monarch. My original intention was to include the following headings for both a king (George I), a queen (Elizabeth II), and a joint incumbent (William and Mary):

Great Britain. Sovereign (1714–1727 : George I)

United Kingdom. Sovereign (1952– : Elizabeth II)

England and Wales. Sovereign (1689–1694 : William and Mary)

Unfortunately, Adam Schiff informs me, because of complications in the implementation of headings for Great Britain and the United Kingdom in the NACO authority file, the Examples Group — with JSC approval — determined not to include examples for these jurisdictions in RDA. Although I believe that this situation ought to be resolved, I have also avoided the issue, by using the examples of Charles II as King of Scotland, and Mary Stuart as Queen of Scotland; I believe that the heading for William and Mary may be used. Which headings does JSC wish to include in the third paragraph of 11.2.2.21.1?

CCC defers to the BL regarding which examples to include.

- d. It was not clear from the JSC discussion whether the preferred name for ruling executive bodies (proposed RDA 11.2.2.21.2) should be recorded in the language preferred by the agency creating the data or in the official language of the jurisdiction. Because of the variety of designations for ruling executive bodies and the lack of commonly-used generic terms, we are recommending that the name be recorded in the official language of the jurisdiction. Does JSC agree? If not, what English equivalents would you recommend for the examples given in 11.2.2.21.2?

CCC agrees.