TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

FROM: Alan Danskin, British Library representative to JSC

SUBJECT: RDA Appendix K. Revision and Expansion. BL Response.

The British Library thanks ALA for the considerable work that has gone into this proposal. We generally support the proposed revision and expansion of Appendix K. We think the additional relationships have value beyond the library community. We have a number of comments, both general and specific.

General comments

1. 6JSC/CILIP/rep/3 proposes design patterns for properties in the RDA vocabularies. We recommend that design patterns are defined for Appendix K.

    For example:
    entity 1 /has property/ entity 2;
    entity 2 /is property of /entity 1

2. Functional granularity. In general, relationship designators should not duplicate the related entities or their attributes. For example, gender is an attribute of person. It is redundant to define gender specific relationships. Adoptive parent; Adoptive child; Godparent /Godchild; Grandparent / Grandchild; Parent/Child; Step-Parent / Step-Child. There are some instances where there is no accepted gender neutral term in English, e.g. aunt/uncle and nephew/niece.

    EURIG did not discuss this proposal directly, but the point was made that in some languages it is not possible to express relationships and roles in gender neutral terms.

3. A number of the proposed relationships, including several of those listed above, have multiple reciprocals. RDA models reciprocals as inverse properties, which are one-to-one relationships. We recommend that one-to-many relationships are not introduced.

Specific Comments

K.2.1.1
1. beneficiary: we do not think that "patron of" and "sponsor of" are the appropriate refinements. The following example illustrates the point:

   Manchester United is beneficiary of Federal Tyres
   Federal Tyres has beneficiary Manchester United

   Manchester United has sponsor Federal Tyres
   Federal Tyres is sponsor of Manchester United

   We recommend the following refinements of beneficiary:

   has patron (reciprocal is patron of)
   has sponsor (reciprocal is sponsor of)

K.2.1.2
2. If our general comment is accepted, the following terms are redundant:

Daughter	goddaughter	godson
granddaughter	grandson	great-granddaughter
great-grandson	son	step-daughter
step-son	adoptive father	adoptive mother
father	godfather	godmother
grandfather	grandmother	great-grandfather
great-grandmother	mother	step-father
step-mother	brother	half-brother
half-sister	brother-in-law	sister-in-law
sister	step-brother	step-sister
husband	wife	

If these are deprecated, the examples will have to be amended accordingly:

EXAMPLE
SonChild: Gandhi, Rajiv, 1944–1991
Related person for: Gandhi, Indira, 1917–1984

MotherParent: Gandhi, Indira, 1917–1984
Related person for: Gandhi, Rajiv, 1944–1991

~~Wife~~Spouse: Bruni, Carla
Related person for: Sarkozy, Nicolas, 1955–

Uncle: Rameau, Jean-Philippe, 1683–1764
Related person for: Rameau, Jean François, 1716–1777

As previously noted, there are no obvious gender neutral terms for uncle, aunt, nephew, niece. However, neutral terms, such as "sibling of parent", reciprocal, "child of parent" could be coined.

K.2.3
3. We suggest a revised definition of leader:

A person ~~leads or led~~ <u>responsible for leading</u> the corporate body.

4. We think that some of the proposed refinements of leader may be redundant because they focus on attributes of entities rather than the nature of the relationship. Manager, administrator, religious leader, are occupations of the persons, families, or corporate bodies.

5. We suggest that manager, officer and president are all executive roles and should be merged into a new relationship designator:

Is Executive of / Has Executive

6. We don't think owner is a subproperty of leader. We note that Owner is an RDA element (22.2) with scope restricted to item. In Appendix K, we recommend that the caption is changed to owner of corporate body. JSC may also wish to consider whether 22.2 Owner should be redefined, or the caption changed to reflect its scope more accurately, i.e. Owner of Item.

7. The following definitions are not distinct.

> governor A person who governs the corporate body
> ruler A person that governs the corporate body

We recommend that governor is deprecated.

We think that the authority of governors and rulers is usually exercised over a Jurisdiction, so the definition of ruler could be:

"A person who governs the jurisdiction".

8. The following refinement of member is redundant:
   Group member

   Pink Floyd **has member** Roger Waters / Roger Waters **is member of** Pink Floyd should be sufficient.

9. We note that Performer is defined as a relationship between group 1 and group 2 entities (I.3.1). Many of the refinements in appendix I would appear to be equally valid (mutatis mutandis) in Appendix K, e.g. instrumentalist, but we think that the relationship "member" + attributes of the person may be sufficient to relate the person to the group.