

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
From: John Attig, ALA Representative  
Subject: Revision of RDA 9.13, Affiliation

## Background: The Problem

The RDA/FRAD element Affiliation is limited to recording the name of the affiliated body. This proposal argues that these instructions do not allow recording important information that is necessary to identify the affiliation precisely.

The example that brought this problem to our attention dealt with the affiliations of Leonard Bernstein. Bernstein was most famously affiliated with the New York Philharmonic, but his affiliation fell into two periods; he was Assistant Conductor from 1943 to 1945, and Music Director from 1957 to 1969. This suggests that, in addition to the name of the affiliated body, more information is needed in order to record information about the precise nature of affiliations over time.

## Proposed Solution

The basic proposal here is to split the Affiliation element into three sub-elements:

- Affiliated Body
- Nature of the Affiliation
- Date of Affiliation

## Proposed Revision

### 9.13 Affiliation

#### 9.13.1 Basic Instructions on Recording Affiliations

##### 9.13.1.1 Scope

An **affiliation Affiliation**▼ is a group with which a person is affiliated or has been affiliated through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc. the association between a person and a group through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc.

##### 9.13.1.2 Sources of Information

Take information on affiliation or affiliations from any source.

### 9.13.1.3 Recording Affiliations

Record the ~~names of groups with which the person is affiliated or has been affiliated through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc.~~ following information about affiliation, as applicable:

- a) the name of the affiliated body (see 9.13.2)
- b) the nature of the affiliation (see 9.13.3)
- c) the dates of the affiliation (see 9.13.4).

Indicate the source from which the information on affiliation was derived applying the instructions given under [8.12](#).

### 9.13.2 Affiliated Body

#### 9.13.2.1 Scope

An [affiliation-affiliated body](#) is a group with which a person is affiliated or has been affiliated through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc.

#### 9.13.2.2 Sources of Information

Take information on affiliated bodies from any source.

#### 9.13.2.3 Recording Affiliated Bodies

Record the names of groups with which the person is affiliated or has been affiliated.

#### EXAMPLE

Department of Entomology, Cornell University  
~~Affiliation of~~ Affiliated body associated with Ann E. Hajek

Istituto nazionale di economia agraria  
~~Affiliation of~~ Affiliated body associated with Carla Abitabile

Furies Collective  
Center for Women's Global Leadership  
International Council on Human Rights Policy  
~~Affiliation of~~ Affiliated bodies associated with Charlotte Bunch

New York Philharmonic  
New York City Symphony Orchestra  
Tanglewood  
Brandeis University  
Harvard University  
Los Angeles Philharmonic Institute  
**Affiliated bodies associated with Leonard  
Bernstein**

### **9.13.3 Nature of the Affiliation**

#### **9.13.3.1 Scope**

The [nature of the affiliation](#)▼ is a statement identifying the specific nature of the affiliation between the person and the affiliated body.

#### **9.13.3.2 Sources of Information**

Take information on positions within an affiliated body from any source.

#### **9.13.3.3 Recording the Nature of the Affiliation**

Record the statement identifying the nature of the affiliation between the person and the affiliated body, e.g., the title or other designation of the position held within the body.

#### **EXAMPLE**

Member

**Nature of the affiliation of Charlotte Bunch to the Furies Collective**

Founding Director and Senior Scholar

**Nature of the affiliation of Charlotte Bunch to the Center for Women's Global Leadership**

Chief

**Nature of the affiliation of Roxanne Marcel to the Mikisew Cree First Nation**

Professor

**Nature of the affiliation of Ann E. Hajek to the Department of Entomology, Cornell University**

Sterling Professor of the Humanities

**Nature of the affiliation of Harold Bloom to Yale University**

Assistant Conductor

Music Director

**Nature of the affiliation of Leonard Bernstein to the New York Philharmonic**

#### **9.13.4 Date of Affiliation**

##### **9.13.4.1 Scope**

A **date of affiliation**▼ is the beginning and/or ending dates of the time period during which the person was affiliated with the body.

##### **9.13.4.2 Sources of Information**

Take information on dates of affiliation from any source.

##### **9.13.4.3 Recording Dates of Affiliation**

Record the beginning and/or ending dates of the time period during which the person was affiliated with the body or held a particular position within the body.

#### EXAMPLE

2005–

**Dates of affiliation of Roxanne Marcel as Chief of the Mikisew Cree First Nation**

1943–1945

**Dates of affiliation of Leonard Bernstein as Assistant Conductor of the New York Philharmonic**

1957–1969

**Dates of affiliation of Leonard Bernstein as Music Director of the New York Philharmonic**

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### **9.13 Affiliation**

#### **9.13.1 Basic Instructions on Recording Affiliation**

##### **9.13.1.1 Scope**

**Affiliation**▼ is the association between a person and a group through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc.

##### **9.13.1.2 Sources of Information**

Take information on affiliation from any source.

### 9.13.1.3 **Recording Affiliation**

Record the following information about affiliation, as applicable:

- a) the name of the affiliated body (see 9.13.2)
- b) the nature of the affiliation (see 9.13.3)
- c) the dates of the affiliation (see 9.13.4).

Indicate the source from which the information on affiliation was derived applying the instructions given under [8.12](#).

### 9.13.2 **Affiliated Body**

#### 9.13.2.1 **Scope**

An [affiliated body](#)▼ is a group with which a person is affiliated or has been affiliated through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc.

#### 9.13.2.2 **Sources of Information**

Take information on affiliated bodies from any source.

#### 9.13.2.3 **Recording Affiliated Bodies**

Record the names of groups with which the person is affiliated or has been affiliated.

#### EXAMPLE

Department of Entomology, Cornell University  
**Affiliated body associated with Ann E. Hajek**

Istituto nazionale di economia agraria  
**Affiliated body associated with Carla Abitabile**

Furies Collective  
Center for Women's Global Leadership  
International Council on Human Rights Policy  
**Affiliated bodies associated with Charlotte Bunch**

New York Philharmonic  
New York City Symphony Orchestra  
Tanglewood  
Brandeis University  
Harvard University  
Los Angeles Philharmonic Institute  
**Affiliated bodies associated with Leonard Bernstein**

### 9.13.3 Nature of the Affiliation

#### 9.13.3.1 Scope

The **nature of the affiliation▼** is a statement identifying the specific nature of the affiliation between the person and the affiliated body.

#### 9.13.3.2 Sources of Information

Take information on positions within an affiliated body from any source.

#### 9.13.3.3 Recording the Nature of the Affiliation

Record the statement identifying the nature of the affiliation between the person and the affiliated body, e.g., the title or other designation of the position held within the body.

##### EXAMPLE

Member

**Nature of the affiliation of Charlotte Bunch to the Furies Collective**

Founding Director and Senior Scholar

**Nature of the affiliation of Charlotte Bunch to the Center for Women's Global Leadership**

Chief

**Nature of the affiliation of Roxanne Marcel to the Mikisew Cree First Nation**

Professor

**Nature of the affiliation of Ann E. Hajek to the Department of Entomology, Cornell University**

Sterling Professor of the Humanities

**Nature of the affiliation of Harold Bloom to Yale University**

Assistant Conductor

Music Director

**Nature of the affiliation of Leonard Bernstein to the New York Philharmonic**

### 9.13.4 Date of Affiliation

#### 9.13.4.1 Scope

A **date of affiliation▼** is the beginning and/or ending dates of the time period during which the person was affiliated with the body.

**9.13.4.2 Sources of Information**

Take information on dates of affiliation from any source.

**9.13.4.3 Recording Dates of Affiliation**

Record the beginning and/or ending dates of the time period during which the person was affiliated with the body or held a particular position within the body.

EXAMPLE

2005–

**Dates of affiliation of Roxanne Marcel as Chief of the Mikisew Cree First Nation**

1943–1945

**Dates of affiliation of Leonard Bernstein as Assistant Conductor of the New York Philharmonic**

1957–1969

**Dates of affiliation of Leonard Bernstein as Music Director of the New York Philharmonic**

**Glossary: Proposed Revision**

**Affiliated body**

A group with which a person is affiliated or has been affiliated through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc.

**Affiliation**

~~A group with which a person is affiliated or has been affiliated through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc.~~ The association between a person and a group through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc.

**Date of Affiliation**

The beginning and/or ending dates of the time period during which the person was affiliated with the body.

**Nature of the Affiliation**

A statement identifying the specific nature of the affiliation between the person and the affiliated body.

## Glossary: Clean Copy

<b>Affiliated Body</b>	A group with which a person is affiliated or has been affiliated through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc.
<b>Affiliation</b>	The association between a person and a group through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc.
<b>Date of Affiliation</b>	The beginning and/or ending dates of the time period during which the person was affiliated with the body.
<b>Nature of the Affiliation</b>	A statement identifying the specific nature of the affiliation between the person and the affiliated body.

The [nature of the affiliation](#) is a statement identifying the specific nature of the affiliation between the person and the affiliated body.

## Issues for Discussion

This proposal raises a number of issues that may need to be considered by the JSC.

1. **The FRAD model.** The RDA Affiliation element is based directly on FRAD, and the RDA definition is taken verbatim from FRAD 4.1. The JSC will need to consider whether they are willing to extend the models in this way, and/or whether they wish to propose this extension of FRAD to the FRBR Review Group.

It might be argued that the FRAD element would remain the same, and that only the sub-elements go beyond the model. This would be an important position for the JSC to take, as the CC:DA Task Force on Machine-Actionable Data Elements will probably be proposing the definition of sub-elements for a number of the elements in Chapter 3.

In this case, however, it is difficult to argue that this proposal leaves the FRAD Affiliation element intact. In this proposal, the FRAD element would become one of the new sub-elements (Affiliated Body) and the definition of the RDA element would no longer correspond to that of the FRAD element. The JSC will need to decide whether it is appropriate for RDA to extend the models in this way.

2. **Linked data.** One of the principles of linked data is that there should be a correspondence between the things to be linked. This means that the data to be linked needs to be unambiguously identified in a distinct data element that

contains no other data. The current definition of Affiliation does this. It would be possible to link the Affiliation element to the appropriate Corporate Body element because both elements contain (only) the name of a body. This proposal also does this by defining separate sub-elements for the body and the specific nature of the affiliation.

3. ***Element vs relationship.*** In the text of the proposed revision, an effort was made to avoid using the word “relationship” in characterizing Affiliation. However, both as currently defined and as proposed, Affiliation is in fact a relationship between a person and a corporate body.

As with some elements involving place, RDA follows the Functional Requirements models in treating Affiliation as an element rather than a relationship. Furthermore, if this proposal is accepted, the ability to record the Nature of Affiliation would provide a much more precise identification (recording actual position titles, for example) than would be appropriate for a Relationship Designator.

4. ***Data about data.*** Two approaches to the inclusion of date of applicability information in RDA elements were discussed by the JSC: (a) a general “free-floating” sub-element, and (b) explicit definition of a date sub-element in each element for which such information is desired. There was no consensus between these two approaches. Because the Affiliation element is definitely one for which dates of applicability would be useful, and because the proposal calls for the definition of other sub-elements for Affiliation, a sub-element for Date of Affiliation is included in the proposal. However, the JSC will need to decide whether this is the way in which they want to deal with data about data.

### **Nature of Affiliation: The Question of Scope**

The original proposal for the new 9.13.3.3 considered by ALA was for a sub-element called “Position within the Affiliated Body”. CC:DA members were asked whether there were other types of affiliation information that might be included. An example suggested was an academic degree granted by an educational institution to a person. This suggestion led to a discussion of such affiliations as that with an academic institution attended by a person, or which granted a degree to a person. There was no consensus as to whether such information was appropriate to record as affiliation. However, there was a sense that Position within Affiliated Body might be too narrow. The final decision was to generalize the *name* of the element, but not to include attendance at, or graduation from, an academic institution as an example. The proposal above neither encourages nor forbids this use of the element, leaving the decision to the cataloger’s judgment.