

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
**From:** Kevin Marsh, ACOC Representative  
**Subject:** Initial articles in place names (RDA 16.2.2.3)

ACOC thanks ALA for this proposal.

We agree that Chapter 16 should address the question of articles in place names. However, the wording of the proposed alternative to 16.2.2.4 does not seem entirely clear, since it does not offer any guidance on how one would determine whether the name is to be accessed under the article or not. Presumably the source of this guidance is not the gazetteers etc. referred to in the main instruction, since otherwise the alternative would not be required. Possibly it relates to the individual practice of a community or cataloguing agency, and if so it would be useful to make this explicit in the instruction.

We would request that ALA revisit the wording of the proposed alternative to clarify this point.

ACOC supports the tenor of the LC response.