To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Alan Danskin, British Library Representative

Subject: "Between", "Before" and "After" dates (Revision of RDA 9.3.1.3)

_____

Abstract

To specify additional types of uncertain date that can be recorded following 9.3.1.3.

_____

Introduction

RDA 9.3.1.3 shows how to record an uncertain year that is known to be either one of two years, in the form *[year] or [year]*, but does not admit common expressions for uncertain years that are known to be between two years, or before or after a year . This proposal adds examples to bring these in scope.

Justification

Dates associated with persons are sometimes only known to be between two years, or before or after a year. This change to RDA instructions accommodates these expressions, which are common in reference sources, and commonly understood. Cataloguing staff have requested to be able to use them in authorized access points. These formulations can already be (and are being) recorded at the element level using edtf.

Impact

The impact on RDA users is anticipated to be positive, allowing additional types of dates associated with persons to be recorded.

Summary of Changes

The following changes are proposed

  1. Additional text and examples in 9.3.1.3

Two options are offered.

  1. Option 1 uses the expressions "before" and "after", which are those commonly encountered in reference sources, and commonly understood.
  2. Option 2. uses the expressions "not after" and "not before" for consistency with 1.9.2.5.

Note that choice of terms will affect the meaning : "Active not after 1799" makes a definitive statement that the person was not active after 1799. Whereas, "active before 1799" only records the current state of our knowledge about a person's period of activity.

For this reason, and because they are more usual, **we** prefer the expressions in Option 1.

Option 1
MARKED UP COPY

9.3.1.3 Recording Dates Associated with Persons LC-PCC PS   2013/07

Record dates associated with persons by applying these instructions, as applicable:

>   date of birth (see 9.3.2 RDA)

>   date of death (see 9.3.3 RDA)

>   period of activity (see 9.3.4 RDA).

Record dates in terms of the calendar preferred by the agency creating the data. For details on the Christian calendar, see appendix H RDA .

Record dates as separate elements, as parts of access points, or as both. For additional instructions on recording dates as parts of authorized access points, see 9.19.1.3 RDA (date of birth and/or death) or 9.19.1.5 RDA (period of activity of the person and/or profession or occupation).

Record a date associated with a person by giving the year.

Optional Addition   LC-PCC PS

Add the month or month and day in the form *[year] [month] [day]* or *[year] [month]*. Record the month in a language and script preferred by the agency creating the data.

Indicate a probable date by adding a question mark following the year.

EXAMPLE

1816?

Probable year of birth

If the year is uncertain but known to be either one of two years, record the date in the form *[year] or [year]*.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> 1666 or 1667
>
> Year of birth uncertain; known to be one of two years
>
> 828 or 829
>
> Year of death uncertain; known to be one of two years

If the year is uncertain but known to be between two years, record the date in the form *between [year] and [year]*.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> between 1310 and 1319
>
> Year of birth uncertain; known to be between two years

If the year is uncertain but known to be before a year or after a year, record the date in the form *before [year]* or *after [year]*.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> before 1799
>
> Year of birth uncertain; known to be before a year
>
> after 1606
>
> Year of death uncertain; known to be after a year

[Remainder of instruction is unchanged]

Option 1
CLEAN COPY

9.3.1.3 Recording Dates Associated with Persons LC-PCC PS 2013/07

Record dates associated with persons by applying these instructions, as applicable:

date of birth (see 9.3.2 RDA)

date of death (see 9.3.3 RDA)

period of activity (see 9.3.4 RDA).

Record dates in terms of the calendar preferred by the agency creating the data. For details on the Christian calendar, see appendix H RDA .

Record dates as separate elements, as parts of access points, or as both. For additional instructions on recording dates as parts of authorized access points, see 9.19.1.3 RDA (date of birth and/or death) or 9.19.1.5 RDA (period of activity of the person and/or profession or occupation).

Record a date associated with a person by giving the year.

Optional Addition LC-PCC PS

Add the month or month and day in the form *[year] [month] [day]* or *[year] [month]*. Record the month in a language and script preferred by the agency creating the data.

Indicate a probable date by adding a question mark following the year.

EXAMPLE

1816?

Probable year of birth

If the year is uncertain but known to be either one of two years, record the date in the form *[year] or [year]*.

EXAMPLE

1666 or 1667

Year of birth uncertain; known to be one of two years

828 or 829

Year of death uncertain; known to be one of two years

If the year is uncertain but known to be between two years, record the date in the form *between [year] and [year]*.

EXAMPLE

between 1310 and 1319

Year of birth uncertain; known to be between two years

If the year is uncertain but known to be before a year or after a year, record the date in the form *before [year]* or *after [year]*.

EXAMPLE

before 1799

Year of birth uncertain; known to be before a year

after 1606

Year of death uncertain; known to be after a year

[Remainder of instruction is unchanged]

Option 2
MARKED UP COPY

9.3.1.3 Recording Dates Associated with Persons `LC-PCC PS` `2013/07`

Record dates associated with persons by applying these instructions, as applicable:

   date of birth (see 9.3.2 `RDA`)

   date of death (see 9.3.3 `RDA`)

   period of activity (see 9.3.4 `RDA`).

Record dates in terms of the calendar preferred by the agency creating the data. For details on the Christian calendar, see appendix H `RDA`.

Record dates as separate elements, as parts of access points, or as both. For additional instructions on recording dates as parts of authorized access points, see 9.19.1.3 `RDA` (date of birth and/or death) or 9.19.1.5 `RDA` (period of activity of the person and/or profession or occupation).

Record a date associated with a person by giving the year.

Optional Addition `LC-PCC PS`

Add the month or month and day in the form *[year] [month] [day]* or *[year] [month]*. Record the month in a language and script preferred by the agency creating the data.

Indicate a probable date by adding a question mark following the year.

EXAMPLE

1816?

Probable year of birth

If the year is uncertain but known to be either one of two years, record the date in the form *[year] or [year]*.

EXAMPLE

1666 or 1667

Year of birth uncertain; known to be one of two years

828 or 829

Year of death uncertain; known to be one of two years

If the year is uncertain but known to be between two years, record the date in the form *between [year] and [year]*.

EXAMPLE

between 1310 and 1319

Year of birth uncertain; known to be between two years

If the year is uncertain but known to be not before a year or not after a year, record the date in the form *not before [year]* or *not after [year]*.

EXAMPLE

not before 1799

Year of birth uncertain; known to be not before a year

not after 1606

Year of death uncertain; known to be not after a year

[Remainder of instruction is unchanged]

Option 2
CLEAN COPY

9.3.1.3 Recording Dates Associated with Persons LC-PCC PS 2013/07

Record dates associated with persons by applying these instructions, as applicable:

date of birth (see 9.3.2 RDA)

date of death (see 9.3.3 RDA)

period of activity (see 9.3.4 RDA).

Record dates in terms of the calendar preferred by the agency creating the data. For details on the Christian calendar, see appendix H RDA.

Record dates as separate elements, as parts of access points, or as both. For additional instructions on recording dates as parts of authorized access points, see 9.19.1.3 RDA (date of birth and/or death) or 9.19.1.5 RDA (period of activity of the person and/or profession or occupation).

Record a date associated with a person by giving the year.

Optional Addition LC-PCC PS

Add the month or month and day in the form *[year] [month] [day]* or *[year] [month]*. Record the month in a language and script preferred by the agency creating the data.

Indicate a probable date by adding a question mark following the year.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> 1816?
>
> Probable year of birth

If the year is uncertain but known to be either one of two years, record the date in the form *[year] or [year]*.

> **EXAMPLE**
>
> 1666 or 1667
>
> Year of birth uncertain; known to be one of two years
>
> 828 or 829
>
> Year of death uncertain; known to be one of two years

If the year is uncertain but known to be between two years, record the date in the form *between [year] and [year]*.

> **EXAMPLE**

between 1310 and 1319

Year of birth uncertain; known to be between two years

If the year is uncertain but known to be before a year or after a year, record the date in the form not *before [year]* or *not after [year]*.

EXAMPLE

not before 1799

Year of birth uncertain; known to be not before a year

not after 1606

Year of death uncertain; known to be not after a year

[Remainder of instruction is unchanged]