To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Alan Danskin, British Library Representative

Subject: Post-nominal letters as Other Designation (Additional examples for RDA 9.6.1.9 and 9.19.1.7, and addition to Appendix E)

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Abstract

To clarify syntax when post-nominal letters are used as "Other Designation".

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Introduction

The guidance on presentation and punctuation of access points, given in Appendix E, indicates that when "Other Designation" is recorded as part of the authorized access point (9.19.1.7) it is to be enclosed in parentheses. This is not appropriate for post-nominal letters. It is therefore proposed to make an addition to Appendix E to clarify this and to illustrate it by the addition of examples at 9.6.1.9 and to 9.19.1.7.

Justification

The same syntactical distinction is already made between Saint (9.6.1.4, 9.19.1.2), and Spirit (9.6.1.5, 9.19.1.2), where Appendix E clarifies that the former is recorded in an authorized access point without parentheses, and the latter, with parentheses – *although JSC may wish to consider whether this is because "Saint" (in the sense of a Christian Saint) ought properly to be considered a Title of the Person, and has been misclassified as an Other Designation Associated with the Person. Both "Saint" and "Blessed" are titles bestowed by the Church.*

Post –nominal letters indicating qualifications or membership of bodies are within the scope of "Other Designation" (9.6.1.9), and there are examples of post-nominal letters being used in this way in RDA authority records contributed to LC/NAF.

Impact

The impact on RDA users is anticipated to be positive, and not problematic. The change reflects existing practice in recording authority data. Discussions in professional forums indicate that post-nominal letters are felt to be useful data to record at the element level, and may occasionally provide the best means to distinguish an authorized access point, when other additions cannot be determined

Summary of Changes

The following changes are proposed

1. Add example to 9.6.1.9
2. Add example to 9.19.17
3. Add entry in table at E.1.1
4. Add text to E.1.2.2

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9.6.1.9 Other Designation `2013/07`

Record an appropriate designation if none of the following attributes are sufficient or appropriate for distinguishing between two or more persons with the same name:

date of birth or date of death (see 9.3 `RDA`)
fuller form of name (see 9.5 `RDA`)
period of activity (see 9.3 `RDA`)
profession or occupation (see 9.16 `RDA`)
term of rank, honour, or office (see 9.4.1.9 `RDA`).
Record the designation in a language preferred by the agency creating the data.

> **EXAMPLE**
> Brother of Andrew Lang
> Cree Indian
> Ship captain's wife
> Wife of Gautama Buddha
> M. Phil.

9.19.1.7 Other Designation `2014/04`

If none of the additions at 9.19.1.2 `RDA` –9.19.1.6 `RDA` is sufficient or appropriate for distinguishing between the access points for two or more persons, add an appropriate designation (see 9.6.1.9 `RDA`).

> **EXAMPLE**
> Nichols, Chris (Of the North Oxford Association)
> Lang, John (Brother of Andrew Lang)
> Budd, Henry (Cree Indian)
> Yaśodharā (Wife of Gautama Buddha)
> Independent Burgess (Of Nottingham)
> Williams, Helen, M. Phil.

[Note that if 6JSC/BL/20 is approved, 9.19.1.7 becomes 9.19.1.8, with textual changes]

E.1.1 Presentation of Access Points

[…]

Distinguishing terms	()	**9.16 Profession or Occupation** RDA
		9.6.1.6 Persons Named in Sacred Scriptures or Apocryphal Books RDA
		9.6.1.7 Fictitious and Legendary Persons RDA
		9.6.1.8 Real Non-human Entities RDA
		9.6.1.9 Other Designation
<u>Distinguishing terms</u>	<u>,</u>	<u>**9.6.1.9 Other Designation** RDA</u>

E.1.2.2 Access Points Representing Persons 2013/07

Precede a title of nobility by a comma and a space.
Precede the term *Saint* by a comma and a space.
Enclose the term *Spirit* in parentheses.
Precede a title of royalty or religious rank, or a term of address for a person of religious vocation, or other term indicative of rank, honour, or office by a comma and a space.
Precede a date or range of dates by a comma and a space.
Separate a date of birth and a date of death by a hyphen. If a date of birth is not followed by a date of death, follow the date of birth with a hyphen or precede that date by the word *born*. If a date of death is not preceded by a date of birth, precede the date of death by a hyphen or by the word *died*.
Precede a single year used as a date for the period of activity of the person by a word such as *active* or *flourished*.
Enclose a fuller form of name in parentheses.
Enclose a profession or occupation in parentheses.
Enclose a designation for a person named in a sacred scripture or an apocryphal book in parentheses.
Enclose a designation for a fictitious or legendary person in parentheses.
Enclose a designation for a real non-human entity in parentheses.
Enclose other designation in parentheses.
<u>Precede post-nominal letters used as other designation by a comma and a space.</u>

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9.6.1.9 Other Designation 2013/07

Record an appropriate designation if none of the following attributes are sufficient or appropriate for distinguishing between two or more persons with the same name:

date of birth or date of death (see 9.3 **RDA**)
fuller form of name (see 9.5 **RDA**)
period of activity (see 9.3 **RDA**)
profession or occupation (see 9.16 **RDA**)
term of rank, honour, or office (see 9.4.1.9 **RDA**).
Record the designation in a language preferred by the agency creating the data.

EXAMPLE

Brother of Andrew Lang
Cree Indian
Ship captain's wife
Wife of Gautama Buddha
M. Phil.

9.19.1.7 Other Designation 2014/04

If none of the additions at 9.19.1.2 **RDA**–9.19.1.6 **RDA** is sufficient or appropriate for distinguishing between the access points for two or more persons, add an appropriate designation (see 9.6.1.9 **RDA**).

EXAMPLE

Nichols, Chris (Of the North Oxford Association)
Lang, John (Brother of Andrew Lang)
Budd, Henry (Cree Indian)
Yaśodharā (Wife of Gautama Buddha)
Independent Burgess (Of Nottingham)
Williams, Helen, M. Phil.

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E.1.1 Presentation of Access Points
[…]

Distinguishing terms	() 9.16 Profession or Occupation **RDA**
	9.6.1.6 Persons Named in Sacred Scriptures or Apocryphal Books **RDA**
	9.6.1.7 Fictitious and Legendary Persons **RDA**
	9.6.1.8 Real Non-human Entities **RDA**
	9.6.1.9 Other Designation

Distinguishing
terms

, **9.6.1.9 Other Designation** RDA

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Precede a single year used as a date for the period of activity of the person by a word such as *active* or *flourished*.

Enclose a fuller form of name in parentheses.

Enclose a profession or occupation in parentheses.

Enclose a designation for a person named in a sacred scripture or an apocryphal book in parentheses.

Enclose a designation for a fictitious or legendary person in parentheses.

Enclose a designation for a real non-human entity in parentheses.

Enclose other designation in parentheses.

Precede post-nominal letters used as other designation by a comma and a space.