

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
From: John Attig, ALA Representative  
Subject: Fuller forms of name: Revision of RDA 9.19.1.4, *Optional addition*

ALA thanks the British Library for raising the issue of when the fuller form of name should be added to the authorized access point representing a person.

ALA is sympathetic to this proposal. In its comments on various drafts of RDA, ALA expressed its concern about tight linkage between the instructions for recording the name element and those for constructing the authorized access point. We do not feel that it is always necessary that the same information always be recorded the same way in the element and the access point. Our belief is that adding all the information recorded in the name element to the authorized access point is often unnecessary and may in fact impede identification. Likewise, we believe that limiting the information recorded in the name element to what is might be needed in the authorized access point limits the usefulness of the name element for identification and the availability of the information for future use in breaking conflicts in the authorized access point.

As to details, ALA has a preference for Option 2. This option provides maximum flexibility in recording fuller forms of name and in using that information in authorized access points. It also relies on cataloger judgment to determine what is appropriate, rather than making an explicit prohibition.