

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Deirdre Kiorgaard, ACOC representative
Subject: Field of activity (9.15) and Profession/Occupation (9.16)

ACOC notes that there was confusion in the RDA test over the use of these two elements however we do not find that in itself sufficient reason for combining them. We would prefer to address this confusion by providing better definitions, additional examples and links to appropriate vocabularies rather than by merging the elements.

ACOC considers that Field of Activity can be defined in such a way as to differentiate it from Profession/Occupation. Each element serves a different purpose. In 5JSC/RDA/Full draft/ALA response ALA noted "The distinction between Field of Activity and Profession/Occupation is not sufficiently clear. Our sense is that a Field of Activity is one that a person engages in apart from his or her Profession or Occupation. We suggest adding this language to the scope of Field of Activity." ACOC agrees in general to this suggestion.

ACOC does not consider it necessary for RDA to include and maintain a vocabulary for Profession/occupation. We would prefer to suggest the use of existing vocabularies.

ACOC does not consider it necessary or even necessarily desirable to use a controlled vocabulary for Field of activity. It is preferable to allow freedom in the description of the Field of activity.

ACOC also notes that consultation with FRAD is desirable (see 5JSC/M/266-283, line 792).