

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Deirdre Kiorgaard, ACOC representative

Subject: Initial articles - Revision of RDA 0.5; 6.2.1.7; 9.2.2.25; 9.2.2.26; 11.2.2.8; Appendix C: Initial articles

ACOC welcomes this proposal from the Office for Library Standards, German National Library and appreciates the effort taken to explain the effect of the omission of articles in inflected languages. We support the intention of the proposal but have made a number of suggestions in our response to make wording more consistent with RDA.

In addition ACOC is concerned that many cataloguers may not have a good understanding of inflected languages. To assist cataloguers unfamiliar with this concept we suggest

1. That suitable cataloguing resources or reference sources be linked to from the Toolkit
2. Additional examples from other inflected languages be added to the instructions.

0.5 STRUCTURE

DNB has suggested rewording as follows: "Appendix C lists initial articles in a selected number of other languages".

We agree with this change but note that additional text is needed to indicate why the appendix has been included in RDA, e.g.

Appendix C lists initial articles in a selected number of other languages that are used when applying the alternative instructions to record preferred titles for works and names of persons and corporate bodies.

1.7 TRANSCRIPTION

DNB has indicated that the changes proposed concern the topic of this instruction, although no wording changes have been suggested.

ACOC notes that each of the instructions affected by the proposed changes relate to elements that are *recorded* not *transcribed*. Although we accept the general intent of the DNB proposal we would prefer not to make changes that would make these elements transcribed elements.

2.3.1.4 RECORDING TITLES 6.2.1.7 TITLE OF THE WORK INITIAL ARTICLES

ACOC agrees with the intent of the change suggested, and with the addition of the examples provided.

For consistency, ACOC suggests that the new wording be made more consistent with that of like instructions, and to take account of the fact that this is a recorded element, not a transcribed one e.g.:

When recording a title for a work, include the initial article.

[additional examples per the proposal to be retained]

In the alternative, we suggest the following alternative wording. (The 'Never omit ...' construction is the same as that used in the optional omission instruction under 2.3.1.4.)

Omit an initial article (see appendix C) unless the title for a work is to be accessed under that article (e.g., a title that begins with the name of a person or place). Never omit an initial article from an inflected language.

9.2.2.25 RECORDING NAMES CONSISTING OF A PHRASE CHARACTERIZING THE WORD OR PHRASE

ACOC agrees with the intent of the change suggested, and with the addition of the examples provided.

ACOC would prefer that the base instruction be worded the same as the existing instruction, but with the sentence 'Omit an initial article (see appendix C).' removed. Then the alternative could simply give the point of difference from the base instruction.

Clean version of revised instruction

9.2.2.25 Characterizing Word or Phrase

Record a characterizing word or phrase applying the general guidelines on recording names given under 8.5. Record the phrase in direct order.

Consider such a word or phrase to be the name for a person if that person is commonly identified by it in resources associated with the person and in reference sources.

EXAMPLE

A Physician

Statement of responsibility: by a Physician

A Military Chaplin

Statement of responsibility: by a Military Chaplin

A Teacher of Book-keeping

Statement of responsibility: by a Teacher of Book-keeping

The Daughter of a Wesleyan Minister

Statement of responsibility: by the Daughter of a Wesleyan Minister

Une Femme de ménage

Statement of responsibility: par une Femme de ménage

If the person is commonly identified by a real name or another name (see 9), and a word or phrase characterizing that person has appeared in resources associated with the person, record the word or phrase as a variant name (see 9.2.3.10).

Alternative

Omit an initial article (see appendix C) when recording a characterizing word or phrase.

EXAMPLE

Physician

Statement of responsibility: by a Physician

Military Chaplin

Statement of responsibility: by a Military Chaplin

Teacher of Book-keeping

Statement of responsibility: by a Teacher of Book-keeping

Daughter of a Wesleyan Minister

Statement of responsibility: by the Daughter of a Wesleyan Minister

Femme de ménage

Statement of responsibility: par une Femme de ménage

9.2.2.26 RECORDING NAMES CONSISTING OF A PHRASE NAMING ANOTHER WORK BY THE PERSON

ACOC agrees with the intent of the change suggested, and with the addition of the examples provided.

ACOC would prefer that the instruction be reworded along the same lines as the 9.2.2.25 instruction given above, rather than as given in the DNB proposal.

11.2.2.8 PREFERRED NAME OF THE CORPORATE BODY

ACOC agrees with the intent of the change suggested, and with the addition of the examples provided.

ACOC would prefer that the wording of the base instruction be as follows for consistency:

If the commonly found usage of the name of a corporate body begins with an initial article include that article as part of the name of the corporate body.

[additional examples and Alternative per the proposal]

APPENDIX C

ACOC agrees with the intent of the change suggested, and offers the following suggestion for rewording this instruction:

C.0 Scope

This appendix lists initial articles in ~~English and~~ a selected number of ~~other~~ languages that are to be omitted when applying the alternative instructions ~~when recording~~ to record preferred titles for works and names of persons and corporate bodies.

C.1 General Instructions

Omit the initial articles listed under C.2 and C.3 as instructed in the alternative instructions at 6.2.1.7 (titles of works), 9.2.2.25 (characterizing word or phrase used as the name of a person), 9.2.2.26 (phrase naming another work by the person), and 11.2.2.8 (names of corporate bodies). Consider only those definite and indefinite articles in the languages included in the lists under C.2 and C.3. The lists do not cover articles in all languages.

Generally consider those articles identified for a language also to apply to a dialect of that language.

For languages not included in the lists in C.2 and C.3, consult reference sources to determine if the language uses definite and/or indefinite articles.