

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative to the JSC
Subject: Parts of the Bible: Books (RDA 6.23.2.9.2)

ALA thanks DNB for this proposal to internationalize the instruction for recording books of the Bible. We accept this proposal, with the alternative wording suggested in ACOC's response. We believe that the revised instruction does not need to retain a specific mention of the Authorized Version to accommodate the previous Anglo-American practice. The ability to record titles for books of the Bible according to a standard version of the Bible in the preferred language and script of the cataloging agency should suffice.

However, we note the following consequences of this decision:

- 1) Catalogers will still need specific guidance on this point. Removing the specifics from RDA requires development of application profiles (specific to a language, country, tradition, etc.) for consistent application. This type of guidance seems especially appropriate for application decisions, rather than embedding the various approaches and details into RDA itself.
- 2) Catholics and Protestants have a different understanding of what books are included in the Bible, or what a named grouping of books contains. In addition, different translations can have different numbering of chapters within a given book. For example, the Vulgate numbering of Psalms largely differs from that found in the Authorized Version. An approach that allows for varying interpretations of what constitutes the canon will make meaningful exchange of records difficult.
- 3) To achieve consistency in naming books of the Bible, only one tradition can be selected by the cataloging agency. This decision will always be somewhat arbitrary.