

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
From: John Attig, ALA Representative  
Subject: Revision to RDA 9.3.1.3 (Recording Dates Associated with Persons) ...

ALA thanks the Library of Congress for this clarification of the instructions for recording dates associated with a person. ALA supports the revision.

ALA notes one further example that should be changed. At 30.1.1.3, “Brutus, Marcus Junius, 85?–42 B.C.” should be changed to “Brutus, Marcus Junius, 85 B.C.?–42 B.C.”

ALA reviewers also made the following comments:

- It is unfortunate that the structure of the different dates associated with a person is inconsistent. Whereas there are separate sub-elements for Date of Birth and Date of Death, Period of Activity may include either single dates or spans. This data would be much easier to encode and manipulate if beginning and ending dates were separate sub-elements in all cases.
- The examples of access points in RDA that include period of activity precede the date(s) with the term “flourished” *except* in the case of century dates (see 6.27.4.5, 9.19.1.5). This exception for century dates seems unjustified.
- The instruction in H.1, 2nd paragraph to “Use the abbreviation *A.D.* only when the dates span both eras” does not make sense when applied to dates of birth or death because these dates are not recorded as spans. The examples indicate that this instruction is not intended to apply only to Period of Activity dates (which may be recorded as spans), but the language of the instruction may need to be revised so that it more clearly applies to pairs of birth and death dates.