

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
**From:** Ebe Kartus, ACOC Representative  
**Subject:** Court and Jurisdiction in RDA

ACOC thanks the Technical Working Group for their work on these definitions.

**Recommendation 1:** Replace the term "political jurisdiction" in RDA with "political body" or a similar term, and the term "religious jurisdiction" in RDA with "religious body" or a similar term.

While ACOC agrees with this proposal in principle we feel that the word "body" may not be the right term in all cases and will therefore cause further confusion. For example in the section on Relationship designators I.2.1., we suggest that the term "enacting political body" instead of "enacting jurisdiction" does not work. A political body could mean BOTH a serving government AND a political party (which may or may not be in government at any given time).

**Recommendation 2:** Replace references in the RDA instructions to the unqualified term "jurisdiction" with a specific term chosen from "political body", "religious body", "territorial jurisdiction", "ecclesiastical jurisdiction", or similar terms, or other general terms established in RDA such as "place", as indicated in Table 1.

ACOC agrees to most of the changes in Table 1. We suggest that the following changes should be reviewed:

6.29.1.1.2: The amended RDA text would cause more confusion.

11.2.2.5.4: 'Territorial jurisdiction' is rather clunky here, would not 'territory' be better.

11.2.2.26.1: The change from 'religious jurisdiction' to 'ecclesiastical jurisdiction'.

11.2.2.27 ACOC is not sure that 'ecclesiastical jurisdiction' is correct here since the instruction does not appear to be limited to the Christian Church.

11.13.1.3: ACOC is not sure that 'ecclesiastical jurisdiction' is correct here since the instruction is not limited to the Christian Church.

16.2.2.13: Is there a 'territorial jurisdiction' missing in the new text "If the inclusion of the name of the larger place or territorial jurisdiction (see 16.2.2.9–16.2.2.12) ... If there is no commonly used word or phrase to distinguish between places in the same larger place or territorial jurisdiction, record the name of an intermediate place between the name of the place being identified and the larger place or territorial jurisdiction?"

ACOC also feels that the term 'political body' is not the right term in: 6.29.1.11, 11.2.2.21.1 and may not be in: 6.29.1.12, 6.29.1.14 and 19.3.2.2

**Recommendation 3:** Encourage the use of a vocabulary encoding scheme for the RDA element *Type of Corporate Body* but do not specify a scheme.

ACOC agrees with this recommendation.

**Recommendation 4:** Add a definition for the RDA element *Type of Corporate Body*. A scope note should be added to clarify the inclusion of **political body**, **religious body**, and **court**.

ACOC agrees with this recommendation.

**Recommendation 5:** Add a definition for the RDA element *Type of jurisdiction*. A scope note should be added to clarify the inclusion of **territorial jurisdiction** and **ecclesiastical jurisdiction**.

ACOC does not agree that political or ecclesiastical jurisdictions are purely types of place: for example Australian courts claim jurisdiction over actions of Australian citizens overseas; religious courts typically claim authority only over adherents of the religion in question which may be international in scope.

**Recommendation 6:** Add a definition and scope note for the RDA term "jurisdiction" to the RDA Glossary. The definition should indicate that a jurisdiction is a place.

ACOC does not agree with the definition of jurisdiction since it does not include courts.

**Recommendation 7:** Add a definition and scope note for the RDA term "court" to the RDA Glossary. The definition should indicate that a court is a corporate body.

ACOC agrees with this recommendation.

**Recommendation 8:** Amend the definitions of the relationship designators *appellant*, *appellee*, *enacting jurisdiction* and *jurisdiction governed*. Amend the label of the relationship designator *enacting jurisdiction*.

ACOC agrees to the relationship designator definitions of *appellant*, *appellee*.  
ACOC agrees to the recommendation to amend the label of *enacting jurisdiction* in principle, however, we would like to see the term that will be used to replace "jurisdiction" as per recommendation 1 before we can provide unqualified support.