

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
**From:** Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative  
**Subject:** Eliminating “Laws, etc.” as a conventional collective title (RDA 6.19.2.5.1, 6.19.3.6, etc.)

## **Abstract**

Eliminate “Laws, etc.” as a conventional collective title. The remaining use of this term in RDA will be for references to various types of laws.

## **Justification**

Through the years, Anglo-American cataloging rules have attempted to identify laws in various ways. Prior to AACR2, the form subheading “Laws, statutes, etc.” was used for individual laws as well as for compilations of laws from a single jurisdiction. AACR2 used the uniform title “Laws, etc.” for general compilations of laws from a jurisdiction, but not for individual laws or subject compilations. Cataloging policy in the United States included instructions to qualify the uniform title by the title proper of the compilations or some other distinguishing feature.

“Laws, etc.” was carried over into RDA as a conventional collective title. The American law cataloging community believes this is no longer useful. Beyond the ongoing concerns about the usefulness of conventional collective titles in the current environment:

- “Laws, etc.” is difficult to apply because it applies only to compilations of laws, but not to all compilations, just those that are not subject compilations. It is not used for individual laws. This is not well understood by users, reference librarians, or even some catalogers.
- By itself, “Laws, etc.” does not facilitate the FRBR user tasks of find, identify, select, and obtain. Qualifiers must be added to this conventional collective title to “identify” the work being described.

In addition, we note that RDA uses “Laws, etc.” in two different ways currently: as a conventional collective title, and as a generic way to refer to laws and similar legal works in the text of the instruction. By limiting the use to just one meaning, ALA believes that the instructions will be clearer.

## **Issues to be resolved**

The use of “Laws, etc.” as a conventional collective title should be eliminated from RDA; this would enable catalogers to provide users with a more precise name for any given legal compilation. ALA recommends completely deleting 6.19.3.6, *Conventional Collective Titles*, since doing so does not affect Toolkit numbering. The usage of “laws, etc.” in the text of the instructions as a generic reference to laws and similar legal works should not be changed.

## Summary of proposed changes

1. **Remove 6.2.1.9.c**, a reference to using the abbreviation “etc.” in the conventional collective title “Laws, etc.”
2. **Update the reference in the Exception in 6.2.2.10.3**, since compilations of laws may contain either modern or ancient laws.
3. **Reword 6.19.2.5.1**, to clarify how to name compilations of laws.
4. **Update the instruction reference in the final paragraph of 6.19.3.3**, since 6.19.3.6 will be deleted (see change 5).
5. **Delete 6.19.3.6**, because these variant title instructions will not be needed if conventional collective titles are not assigned to a compilation of legal works.
6. **Update the final two examples in 6.29.1.2**; these currently use the “Laws, etc.” construction.
7. **Update examples in 6.29.1.4**, one example currently uses the “Laws, etc.” construction; the other could have the initial article added at this time.
8. **Remove B.3.c**, to parallel the change to 6.2.1.9.c.
9. **Update footnote 2 in B.7**, to limit the use of the abbreviation “etc.” to “Protocols, etc.”

## Impact

To keep legacy data in synch with this proposal, the current uses of “Laws, etc.” in authorized access points would need to be evaluated and changed to more specific titles.

## Proposals

### 1. Remove 6.2.1.9.c

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### 6.2.1.9 Abbreviations

Use only the following abbreviations in titles of works:

- a) those that are integral parts of the title

- b) the abbreviation for *Number* (or its equivalent in another language) in the title for a part of a musical work when this word precedes a number used to identify that part (see [6.14.2.7.1](#)).
- e) ~~*etc.* in the title *Laws, etc.* (see [6.19.2.5](#)).~~

[examples unchanged]

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[examples unchanged]

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## 2. Update final exception in 6.2.2.10.3

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#### 6.2.2.10.3 Other Compilations of Two or More Works

Record the preferred title for each of the works in a compilation that consists of:

- a) two or more but not all the works of one person, family, or corporate body, in a particular form
- or*
- b) two or more but not all the works of one person, family, or corporate body, in various forms.

Apply the basic instructions on recording titles of works at [6.2.1](#).

#### EXAMPLE

Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency

First work in a compilation also containing Douglas Adams's Long dark tea-time of the soul

Long dark tea-time of the soul

Second work by Douglas Adams in the same compilation

#### *Alternative*

When identifying two or more works in a compilation, identify the parts collectively by recording a conventional collective title (see [6.2.2.10.1](#) or [6.2.2.10.2](#), as applicable), followed by *Selections*.

Apply this instruction instead of or in addition to recording the preferred title for each of the works in the compilation.

#### EXAMPLE

Novels. Selections

#### *Exceptions*

For compilations of musical works by a single composer, apply instead the instructions at [6.14.2.8](#).

For compilations of laws, etc., apply instead the instructions at [6.19.2.5.1](#) and [6.19.2.6](#).

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- a) two or more but not all the works of one person, family, or corporate body, in a particular form

*or*

- b) two or more but not all the works of one person, family, or corporate body, in various forms.

Apply the basic instructions on recording titles of works at [6.2.1](#).

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### 3. Reword 6.19.2.5.1

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#### 6.19.2.5 Modern Laws, Etc.

Record the preferred title for a law or laws by applying these instructions, as applicable:

compilations of laws, etc. (see [6.19.2.5.1](#))

single laws, etc. (see [6.19.2.5.2](#)).

### 6.19.2.5.1 Compilations of Laws, Etc.

Record ~~Laws, etc.~~ as the preferred title for:

~~a complete or partial compilation of legislative enactments of a jurisdiction~~

*not*

~~a compilation of laws on a particular subject.~~

If a compilation of laws on a particular subject has a citation title, record that as the preferred title.

Otherwise, apply the instructions at ~~6.2.2.3~~ [6.2.2.8](#).

For a compilation of laws, etc., record (in this order of preference):

- a) the official short title or citation title of the compilation
- b) an unofficial short title or citation title used in legal literature
- c) the official title of the compilation
- d) any other designation by which the compilation is known.

#### EXAMPLE

Labor Code

~~Resource described:~~ California Labor Code. ~~Citation title:~~ Labor Code

Paterson's Licensing acts

~~Resource described:~~ Paterson's licensing acts

Constitution and By-laws of the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina

~~Resource described:~~ Constitution and By-laws of the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina

The narcotic laws of Mexico and the United States of America

~~Resource described:~~ The narcotic laws of Mexico and the United States of America

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compilations of laws, etc. (see [6.19.2.5.1](#))

single laws, etc. (see [6.19.2.5.2](#)).

#### 6.19.2.5.1 Compilations of Laws, Etc.

For a compilation of laws, etc., record (in this order of preference):

- a) the official short title or citation title of the compilation
- b) an unofficial short title or citation title used in legal literature
- c) the official title of the compilation
- d) any other designation by which the compilation is known.

##### EXAMPLE

Paterson's licensing acts

**Resource described:** Paterson's licensing acts

Constitution and By-laws of the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina

**Resource described:** Constitution and By-laws of the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina

The narcotic laws of Mexico and the United States of America

**Resource described:** The narcotic laws of Mexico and the United States of America

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#### 4. Update instruction reference in final paragraph of 6.19.3.3

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#### 6.19.3.3 General Guidelines on Recording Variant Titles for Legal Works

Record variant titles for legal works by applying the basic instructions at [6.2.1](#).

Record a variant title for the work when it is different from the title recorded as the preferred title.

Record as a variant title:

a title or form of title under which the work has been issued or cited in reference sources

*or*

a title resulting from a different transliteration of the title.

*Exception*

Record a title appearing on a manifestation of the work as a variant title for the work only in the following case:

if the title appearing on the manifestation differs significantly from the preferred title

*and*

if the work itself might reasonably be searched by that title.

For instructions on recording the title proper and other titles appearing on the manifestation see [2.3](#).

Apply the specific instructions at [6.19.3.4–6.19.3.6:5](#). Also apply instructions in preceding sections of this chapter, as applicable.

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a title resulting from a different transliteration of the title.

*Exception*

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if the title appearing on the manifestation differs significantly from the preferred title

*and*

if the work itself might reasonably be searched by that title.

For instructions on recording the title proper and other titles appearing on the manifestation see [2.3](#).

Apply the specific instructions at [6.19.3.4–6.19.3.5](#). Also apply instructions in preceding sections of this chapter, as applicable.



## 5. Delete 6.19.3.6

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### ~~6.19.3.6 Conventional Collective Titles~~

When a conventional collective title is used as the preferred title for a compilation of legal works (see [6.19.2.5.1](#)), record as a variant title:

the title proper of the resource being described

*or*

the title found in a reference source.

Do not record a variant title if it is the same as, or very similar to, the conventional collective title.

#### **EXAMPLE**

Acts of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Preferred title recorded as: Laws, etc.

Revised ordinances of Newton, Massachusetts, 2004

Preferred title recorded as: Laws, etc.

Bermuda laws online

Preferred title recorded as: Laws, etc.

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## 6. Update the final two examples in 6.29.1.2

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### 6.29.1.2 Laws Governing One Jurisdiction

For laws governing one jurisdiction, construct the authorized access point representing the work by combining (in this order):

- a) the authorized access point representing the jurisdiction governed by the laws (see [11.13.1](#))

- b) the preferred title for the law or laws (see [6.19.2](#)).

**EXAMPLE**

*[first 11 examples unchanged]*

Australia. ~~Laws, etc.~~ Acts of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

**Authorized access point for:** Acts of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

United States. ~~Laws, etc.~~ United States code

**Authorized access point for:** United States code

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- a) the authorized access point representing the jurisdiction governed by the laws (see [11.13.1](#))  
b) the preferred title for the law or laws (see [6.19.2](#)).

**EXAMPLE**

*[first 11 examples unchanged]*

Australia. Acts of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

**Authorized access point for:** Acts of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

United States. United States code

**Authorized access point for:** United States code

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## 7. Update examples in 6.29.1.4

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#### 6.29.1.4 Administrative Regulations, Etc., That Are Laws

In certain jurisdictions, administrative regulations, rules, etc., are treated as laws (as is the case in the United Kingdom and Canada). For administrative regulations, etc., from such jurisdictions, construct the authorized access point by applying the instructions appropriate for the regulations as laws (see [6.29.1.2](#) and [6.29.1.3](#)).

##### EXAMPLE

Canada. The Queen's regulations and orders for the Canadian Forces (1994 revision)

**Authorized access point for:** The Queen's regulations and orders for the Canadian Forces (1994 revision) : issued under the authority of the National Defence Act = Ordonnances et règlements royaux applicables aux Forces canadiennes (révision de 1994) : publiés en vertu de l'autorité conférée par la Loi sur la défense nationale

New Brunswick. ~~Laws, etc.~~ Regulations of New Brunswick

**Authorized access point for:** Regulations of New Brunswick

If a law or laws are published together with the regulations, etc., made pursuant to the law or laws, construct the authorized access point representing the work by applying the instructions appropriate for the law or laws (see [6.29.1.2](#) or [6.29.1.3](#), as applicable).

##### EXAMPLE

New Brunswick. ~~Laws, etc.~~ N.B. acts and regulations

**Authorized access point for:** N.B. acts and regulations

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#### 6.29.1.4 Administrative Regulations, Etc., That Are Laws

In certain jurisdictions, administrative regulations, rules, etc., are treated as laws (as is the case in the United Kingdom and Canada). For administrative regulations, etc., from such jurisdictions, construct the authorized access point by applying the instructions appropriate for the regulations as laws (see [6.29.1.2](#) and [6.29.1.3](#)).

#### EXAMPLE

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New Brunswick. Regulations of New Brunswick

**Authorized access point for:** Regulations of New Brunswick

If a law or laws are published together with the regulations, etc., made pursuant to the law or laws, construct the authorized access point representing the work by applying the instructions appropriate for the law or laws (see [6.29.1.2](#) or [6.29.1.3](#), as applicable).

#### EXAMPLE

New Brunswick. N.B. acts and regulations

**Authorized access point for:** N.B. acts and regulations

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## 8. Remove B.3.c

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## B.3 Titles of Works

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- c) ~~*etc.* in the title *Laws, etc.* (see [6.19.2.5](#)).~~

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- b) the abbreviation for *Number* (or its equivalent in another language) in the title for a part of a musical work when this word precedes a number used to identify that part (see 6.14.2.7.1).

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## 9. Update footnote 2 in B.7, relating to the abbreviation for “et cetera”

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## B.7 Latin Alphabet Abbreviations

...

et cetera      etc.<sup>2</sup>

...

<sup>2</sup> Use only in the title ~~*Laws, etc.*~~ and in the term *Protocols, etc.*

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## B.7 Latin Alphabet Abbreviations

...

et cetera      etc.<sup>2</sup>

...

<sup>2</sup> Use only in the term *Protocols, etc.*