

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
Cc: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
From: Elisa Sze, Education and Orientation Officer
Subject: Formal response to RSC/ORDAC/2024/1 – Dual-language naming of corporate body and place

Thank you to ORDAC for raising this important topic of bilingual or multilingual names of corporate bodies and places, given the applicability for countries that recognize more than one official language. Having engaged in the Canadian Committee on Cataloguing (CCC) discussion of this proposal through my membership on CCC, I will limit my formal response here to broader education and orientation comments.

Recommendation 1: Add a new Condition and Condition Option to Corporate Body: preferred name of corporate body.

If I am interpreting this recommendation correctly, it is primarily about including explicit instruction to record a name that consists of values in more than one language, rather than about granting permission to treat two or more names as a single name.

Although I support the intention behind this recommendation, there are two issues that I would like to raise.

1. The Option at [#90.94.94.48](#) under **Corporate body: name of corporate body** states “Use any source of information. Record the form found in the source of information.” Given that the “Prerecording” instructions under **name of corporate body** already indicate that a name can be categorized as a **preferred name of corporate body**, and given that the Option at [#01.87.13.45](#) under **preferred name of corporate body** states “Record a value of Corporate Body: name of corporate body”, I am curious to know if these two instructions would not already provide sufficient permission for a cataloguer to record a name that consists of a bilingual or multilingual value.
2. Consistency in the location of Toolkit instructions is helpful for teaching and learning. The hierarchical structure of “name of...”, “preferred name of...”, and “variant name of...” elements can be confusing to navigate until a Toolkit user starts to see the consistency in the organization of instructions. To that end, if Recommendation 1 is approved, I would like to suggest that the “Prerecording” instructions for the element supertype **Corporate Body: name of corporate body** also be modified to provide a general list of values that may be considered for a name, including “a name that consists of a value in two or more languages” (final wording to be agreed upon by RSC).

My reason for this suggestion: It can be difficult to determine accurately if a name that appears as a multilingual value is meant to be interpreted as a *single* name or as *separate* names without performing some research. Adding this “Prerecording” instruction under **name of corporate body** would remind cataloguers that any value they do not select as the preferred name can potentially be recorded as a variant name. Moreover, this addition would be consistent with the structure of the “Prerecording” section found at **Person: name of person** and **Family: name of family**.

Recommendation 2: Add a new Condition Option for Place: preferred name of place

I support the intention behind Recommendation 2, and agree with ORDAC that communities will need to supply policy statements on how to interpret the proposed Condition Option. A cataloguer may lack sufficient knowledge to determine if a name that appears on manifestations as a multilingual value is meant to be interpreted as a single name or as separate names. Furthermore, some countries have laws that regulate the [standardization of geographical names](#), which may differ from the unofficial usages that are familiar to a cataloguer.

Similar to my comments on Recommendation 1, I would ask ORDAC to clarify:

1. Whether the Option at [#78.13.61.84](#) under **Place: name of place** (“Use any source of information. Record the form found in the source of information.”) in combination with the Option at [#10.74.78.31](#) under **Place: preferred name of place** (“Record a value of Place: name of place.”) provides sufficient permission for a cataloguer to record a bilingual or multilingual value for a name of place.
2. If the “Prerecording” instructions for **Place: name of place** can also be modified to provide a general list of values that may be considered for a name of place.