

To: RDA Steering Committee
From: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
Subject: Religious Titles

The text below sets out the decisions taken by the RDA Steering Committee during the Public Session on 2 August 2023 (part of its July Meeting).

The original proposal, RSC/ReligionsWG/1, is available [on the RSC website](#) and with a stable URI [in the institutional repository](#). The discussion at the July Meeting is recorded as Item 408 in [RSC/Minutes/393-412](#) (and with stable URI [in the repository](#)).

RSC/ReligionsWG/1 consisted of 4 recommendations relating to access points for religious titles. It was approved on a majority vote on the understanding that all these options were covered in RDA by the general [option \(06.58.35.33\)](#) to “Include an appropriate designation associated with a person in a language preferred by the agent who creates the metadata.”

There was one absence and one acceptance. The RSC accepted Past Chair Kathy Glennan’s suggestion ([RSC/Minutes/393-412](#) Item 408.6) to delay implementation until issues dealing with elements were resolved, as highlighted in the UKCoR’s response ([RSC/Minutes/393-412](#) Appendix 408.3). These highlighted the elements [term of rank or honour or office](#) and [creator corporate body of work](#) and the glossary term [official communication](#).

This Decisions document, therefore, summarises decisions made at the July 2023 Meeting which will not be implemented in the RDA Toolkit until 2024.

RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/1 Recommendations

Recommendation 1

[12.30.01.55](#) access point for person. Additional elements and designations in access points for person. Option 10.

Marked-up version

~~OPTION~~

~~Include the term Pope or Antipope.~~

Clean version

[Option removed from base RDA to Community Resources]

Recommendation 2

[61.58.07.41](#) access point for person. Additional elements and designations in access points for person. Option 11.

Marked-up version

~~OPTION~~

~~Include a term or part of a term of rank of bishop, etc., or other religious vocation that appears frequently with a name of a person in manifestations associated with the person or in another source of information, following a given name that is recorded as the first part of the name.~~

Clean version

[Option removed from base RDA to Community Resources]

Recommendation 3

[23.68.15.86](#) access point for person. Additional elements and designations in access points for person. Option 12.

Marked-up version

~~OPTION~~

~~Include the term Saint unless the person is a pope, emperor, empress, king, or queen.~~

Clean version

[Option removed from base RDA to Community Resources]

Recommendation 4

[90.06.00.10](#) access point for person. Additional elements and designations in access points for person. Option 13.

Marked-up version

~~OPTION~~

~~Include the term Spirit for a person represented as a spirit.~~

Clean version:

[Option removed from base RDA to Community Resources]