

To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary

Subject: FT2025-1- Fast Track Proposal - *base authorized / variant access point / base of access point*

This Fast Track proposal was submitted by Szabolcs Dancs, Translations Team Liaison Officer to deal with an issue translators in several languages had in understanding what is meant by *base access point* and its variants *base authorized access point* and *base variant access point*.

It was discussed by the RDA Steering Committee between 7 and 9 April 2025, and voted on between 9-10 April. As recorded in [RSC/Minutes/508-520](#) Item 517.1, it was approved with a small amendment by all voting members of the RSC.

## Background

The issue was originally raised by Daniel Paradis when he was outgoing Translations Team Liaison Officer, and the Fast Track proposal was one of several in a list he made before stepping down.

## The Issue

Originally raised from the perspective of the French translation, upon investigation by Translations Team Liaison Officer Szabolcs Dancs, it was clear that in Finnish and French, the phrase “base access point” was rendered using the possessive such that a literal translation back into English would be “base of access point”. As pointed out by Robert Maxwell in the discussion of the proposal, the phrase “base of access point” is as correct in English as “base access point” so the issue for the RSC is to ensure that any change to the term is applied consistently – the FT2025-1 pinpointed several specific instances: *base authorized access point for*; *format of base authorized access point for*; *base variant access point for*; *format of base variant access point for*. Voting members of the RSC agreed unanimously that since there is no loss in meaning for users of the English text, it should be updated to the form of phrase suggested by FT2025-1 and that all instances of *base access point* should become *base of access point*; all instances of *base authorized access point* should become *base of authorized access point*; and all instances of *base variant access point* should become *base of variant access point*.

There was also discussion of the use of singular or plural ([RSC/Minutes/508-520](#) Item 517.2). This had been included in the original notes for FT2025-1, and the RSC Secretary reported that

in recent years there have been many suggestions to use plural noun forms despite the Terminology Guidance being very clear that “A singular noun in RDA guidance, instructions, and element definitions also implies the plural unless otherwise indicated explicitly” ([RDA 68.13.14.09](#)). Voting members of the RSC confirmed that this rule is still the case and reinforced the RSC Secretary’s position in turning down requests from translators to render English nouns in plural form in the text of RDA. RSC Education and Orientation Officer shared that she always advises students and new Toolkit users to read the [Terminology Guidance](#) before exploring the Toolkit in more detail, since this guidance often aids in understanding specific rules.

### **Impact Statement**

The change in these terms should make it easier for translators (and other non-native English speakers) to understand the impacted instructions in the Toolkit. Base on the enquiries of the Translations Team Liaison Officer and the agreement of the native-English speakers on the RSC with Robert Maxwell’s assertion that “base of access point” and “base access point” are equally easy to comprehend, the RSC could not predict any negative impact from making the changes.

### **Editorial Note**

A search of the live version of the Toolkit reveals hundreds of places in which the changes set out in this document need to be made. However, the architecture of the Toolkit means that in practice the edit needed to be made in fewer files. I have not, therefore, listed each of the individual iterations of the phrases “base authorized access points” and “base variant access points” in the published Toolkit.

### ***Follow-up Fast Track***

In implementing this Fast Track I noted that the phrase “base access point” has been used throughout the Toolkit, which seems to me to be inconsistent with the phrases “base of authorized access point” and “base of variant access point” and, especially the phrases “Format of base of access point in authorized access point” and “Format of base of access point in variant access point”. I shall, therefore, prepare a follow-up Fast Track seeking permission from voting members of the RSC to tidy this up.

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**FT2025-1a: “Base authorized access points for”/ “Format of base authorized access points for” vs “Base of authorized access points for”/ “Format of base access points in authorized access points for” in the pages for authorized access point elements in the Toolkit**

Edits made in X files.

*Marked-up copy*

Base of authorized access point for [entity]

Format of base ~~authorized~~ of access point in authorized access point for [entity]

*Clean copy*

Base of authorized access point for [entity]

Format of base of access point in authorized access point for [entity]

**FT2025-1b: “Base variant access points for”/ “Format of base variant access points for” vs “Base of variant access points for”/” Format of base access points in variant access points for” in the pages for variant access point elements in the Toolkit**

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Base of variant access point for [entity]

Format of base of ~~variant~~ access point in variant access point for [entity]

*Clean copy*

Base of variant access point for [entity]

Format of base of access points in variant access point for [entity]