

To: RDA Steering Committee  
From: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary  
Subject: FT2025-3 – Fast track proposal – Definition of “alternate identity of person” vs. “alternate identity of person of”

Prepared by Chris Holden, RDA Technical Team Liaison Officer, for discussion at the July 2025 Meeting of the RDA Steering Committee

### Abstract

The text below sets out the decisions taken by the RDA Steering Committee during its meeting, 14-17 July 2025 (RSC/Minutes/521-537<sup>1</sup> Item 526.1). The fast track proposal was prepared by the Technical Team Liaison Officer to correct the definition of “**alternative identity of person of**” in the RDA Glossary, which does not match the wording used by its inverse element “**alternate identity of person.**”

### Background

This issue was identified by a member of the Translations Team in the course of translating the glossary definitions.

### Issue

The current glossary definition of the element **alternate identity of person** read as follows:

[alternate identity of person](#)

A nomen that is a pseudonym or other appellation used by a person

The current glossary definition of the inverse element, **alternate identity of person of**, read as follows:

[alternate identity of person of](#)

A person who has an appellation of person that is a pseudonym or other assumed identity

The phrase “or other assumed identity” does not match the phrase used in the definition of **alternate identity of person**, which is “other appellation used by a person.” Additionally, the phrase “assumed identity” is not defined in RDA.

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<sup>1</sup> Owing to the timeline to the next Toolkit release, this Fast Track document was prepared alongside the Minutes and published slightly ahead of them. You can browse for the Minute at <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/RSCminutes> or run a phrase search for RSC/Minutes/521-537 at <https://alair.ala.org/home>.

The Fast Track proposal suggested editing the glossary definition for **alternate identity of person of**:

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A person who has an appellation of person that is a pseudonym or other ~~assumed identity~~  
appellation used by the person

### **Impact Statement**

Aligning the definitions of the inverse elements would improve consistency in RDA, and correct the issue of a definition using a phrase that is undefined in RDA.

### **Decisions**

Voting members approved it unanimously. The following change will be implemented as soon as practicable.

In the glossary definition for **alternate identity of person of**, change the following:

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A person who has an appellation of person that is a pseudonym or other ~~assumed identity~~  
appellation used by the person

*Clean copy*

A person who has an appellation of person that is a pseudonym or other appellation used by the person