

To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Charlotte Christensen, ORDAC representative

Subject: Formal response to RSC/NARDAC/2025/2/ - Revision of two sets of condition and condition options for Corporate Body: variant access point for corporate body

ORDAC thanks NARDAC for raising these issues with the options on this element page. The current location and layout of these options will be improved for the benefit of all descriptive specialists through the raising of these issues.

## General comments

### *Terminology issue*

ORDAC's main concern with the proposal overall is that it highlights a subtlety that the phrase "direct order" currently has two separate meanings as used in the RDA Toolkit.

In most places in the Toolkit "direct order" means that the words in the string that form the base access point should not be rearranged.

This first meaning occurs on 16 pages in the Toolkit<sup>i</sup>, including all of the access point for <entity> pages, as well as a guidance page. Since this is a well established usage and consistent across multiple elements, it is ORDAC's view that this should be the preferred understanding of this phrase.

By contrast, it seems that the existing Condition Option which talks about a value "that is recorded directly" is referring to a subordinate body where the string does not include reference to the higher body. An "indirect" value in this case would be a value where both the higher body and subordinate body are included in the value.

This second meaning can be seen in Original RDA at 11.2.2.15, and also in AACR2 at Chapter 24, so has an extensive history of usage, but it has potential for being very confusing to cataloguers who have had less exposure to this usage. This meaning only ever applies to corporate bodies because of all the entities these are the ones where we choose to sometimes include the name of another entity in the string for the entity we are describing.

NARDAC's comment that there are "comparable instructions for Person: variant access point for person" is not entirely accurate as those instructions make use of the first meaning, while the instructions they wish to move make use of the second. For this reason we don't think this is a good justification for where the new option should be placed.

### *Location issue*

As mentioned above, ORDAC does not believe *Format of variant access point for corporate body* is the appropriate section to position options about the exclusion of the higher body from the value recorded as Corporate Body: variant access point for corporate body. However, we do agree with NARDAC that it seems unintuitive and unhelpful for these Conditions and Condition Options to be in the section *Additional elements and designations in variant access points for corporate body* since the result of the options is to not add to the base value.

Instead we would suggest that the appropriate place for the replacement Condition/Condition Option set would be the section *Base variant access points for corporate body*. This value will then be formatted and added to as appropriate to the context and the policies of the institution creating the access point, rather than formatting the base value and then later deciding whether or not it should have included some other information.

### **Recommendation 1**

ORDAC approves of this recommendation.

The wording of the second Condition Option is currently clearer in terms of what is required since it explicitly indicates that the name does not suggest subordination, though it does still have the issue with using "directly" in a different context than elsewhere.

However, ORDAC agrees that replacing these two existing options with a single option would be less confusing overall.

### **Recommendation 2**

ORDAC partially approves of this recommendation.

The new Condition wording is fine, but ORDAC would like to see the phrase "direct order" removed from the proposed replacement wording and the intended action spelt out more explicitly.

ORDAC suggests the following rewording:

*Marked-up copy of NARDAC proposed replacement, with ORDAC changes*

### **CONDITION**

A value of Corporate Body: [authorized access point for corporate body](#) is for a corporate body that is subordinate or related to a higher or related corporate body.

A value of Corporate Body: [authorized access point for corporate body](#) begins with a value of Corporate Body: [authorized access point for corporate body](#) for a higher or related corporate body.

**CONDITION OPTION**

~~Record a name of a subordinate or related corporate body in direct order with no amendments.~~

Record a name of a subordinate or related corporate body excluding a value of Corporate Body: [authorized access point for corporate body](#) for a higher or related corporate body.

*Clean copy of NARDAC proposed replacement, with ORDAC changes*

**CONDITION**

A value of Corporate Body: [authorized access point for corporate body](#) is for a corporate body that is subordinate or related to a higher or related corporate body.

A value of Corporate Body: [authorized access point for corporate body](#) begins with a value of Corporate Body: [authorized access point for corporate body](#) for a higher or related corporate body.

**CONDITION OPTION**

Record a name of a subordinate or related corporate body excluding a value of Corporate Body: [authorized access point for corporate body](#) for a higher or related corporate body.

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<sup>i</sup> Element pages where *direct order* is an instruction to retain the arrangement of the words in the value. Some of these pages contain multiple references to the same phrase:

1. [RDA Entity: access point for RDA entity](#)
2. [Work: access point for work](#)
3. [Expression: access point for expression](#)
4. [Manifestation: access point for manifestation](#)
5. [Item: access point for item](#)
6. [Agent: access point for agent](#)
7. [Person: access point for person](#)
8. [Person: authorized access point for person](#)
9. [Person: variant access point for person](#)
10. [Collective Agent: access point for collective agent](#)
11. [Corporate Body: access point for corporate body](#)
12. [Family: access point for family](#)
13. [Family: hereditary term of honour](#)
14. [Place: access point for place](#)

15. [Timespan: access point for timespan](#)
16. [Guidance. Recording methods](#)