

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee  
CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary  
From: Robert L. Maxwell, NARDAC representative to RDA Steering Committee  
Subject: Response to RSC/ReligionsWG/2025/1 - Proposal to revise name of corporate body

NARDAC thanks the Religions Working Group for this proposal.

### **Recommendation 1**

NARDAC does not object to the proposal, but believes that further detail is needed and recommends it be tabled for now. As presented, it covers only the situation where two or more values of a name appear in manifestations and none is formally presented. However, some agencies might prefer to choose a real or official name even when two or more values of a name are formally presented (14.67.65.10) or regardless of their presentation (48.17.66.87). We think that additional conditions and condition options are needed to cover these possibilities.

We also question, in other instructions, the existing requirement for a brief form to be specific enough to differentiate two or more corporate bodies with the same or similar names in order to be chosen. A brief form can always be qualified to differentiate it, so we wonder whether this requirement, stemming from AACR2, is still needed.

In other words, we feel that a broader look at Corporate body: preferred name of corporate body is warranted. We therefore propose that the Religions Working Group withdraw the current proposal, allowing NARDAC to return with a more comprehensive approach to the instructions on different names or forms of name for the same corporate body. NARDAC is grateful to the Working Group for its work on this proposal, but does not want saddle the Working Group with “a more comprehensive approach” which is well beyond its responsibilities.

NARDAC notes that in their response to the proposal, the Technical Working Group examines some gaps in official RDA and proposes adding a new definition for “real or official name” and revising the definitions for “conventional name” and “pseudonym”. This in turn impacts the definitions of two elements, “real identity of person” and “real identity of person of.” NARDAC appreciates the effort of the Technical Working Group and recognizes the need to review and define the term “real or official name.” If the proposal is tabled for further work as NARDAC suggests, NARDAC would be pleased to coordinate with the Technical Working Group’s consideration of the definitions as part of an overall look at the issues.

**Recommendation 2**

We have no comment since the change has already been implemented in the Toolkit<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Contextual note from RSC Secretary: Proposals are required to use the language of the “currently published” text in the Toolkit. The new deadline of 8 weeks prior to the RSC Meeting fell ahead of the October 2025 Toolkit release. The Religions in RDA Working Group was correct to include Recommendation 2 as context for their proposal as a whole. As NARDAC observes, the suggested change was implemented and published in the October release.