

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
From: Trina Soderquist, NARDAC representative
Subject: Formal response to RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1 -- Proposal on adding new elements, applicable to rare and old materials, to the RDA Toolkit, the corresponding new definitions to the Glossary, and the corresponding new properties to the RDA Registry

Introduction

The North American RDA Committee (NARDAC) is thankful to the Translations Team for its work in creating this impressive list of 80 new elements, corresponding glossary terms, and corresponding properties. In general, we support the recommendations listed below, and we offer suggestions for clarifying some of the proposed definitions.

We have one editorial comment about the links to vocabularies mentioned in the sections titled “The Issue” and “Impact statement.” The correct links to go to the Library of Congress Linked Data Service page. For the MARC Code List for Relators, please consult <https://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/relators.html>, and for the Rare Books and Manuscripts Relationship Designators, please consult <https://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/rbmsrel.html>. These are the newest versions and they include scope notes for some of the terms.

Recommendation 1.1: Adding “compositor agent / etc.” and “compositor agent / etc. of” to the Toolkit

NARDAC approves of the recommendation, with suggested amendments to the definitions of Manifestation: compositor agent, and associated elements, below.

The compositor, as defined in the RBMS Relationship Designator vocabulary, “prepares type and illustrations for printing.” A compositor is not a type of printer, nor does he directly print material. It might be more accurate to state that the compositor *contributes* to the printing of a manifestation. We suggest changing the broader element from Manifestation: printer agent [person, etc.] to Manifestation: creator agent [person, etc.] of manifestation. We also recommend removing the word “coherent” from the definition because it is unnecessary. Finally, please remove the mention of “digital publication.” According to the *Oxford Companion to the Book*, “The term [compositor] has rarely been transferred to digital technology, where a ‘compositor’ is normally a person who ‘composes’ film or audio data, rather than a typesetter.”

Marked-up copy:

compositor agent [person, etc.]

An agent [person, etc.] who ~~is responsible for~~ contributes to the printing of a manifestation by arranging and assembling individual pieces of text, images, or other visual elements into a ~~coherent~~ layout, typically for printing ~~or digital publication~~.

Broader element: ~~printer~~ creator agent [person, etc.] of manifestation

Clean copy:

compositor agent [person, etc.]

An agent [person, etc.] who contributes to the printing of a manifestation by arranging and assembling individual pieces of text, images, or other visual elements into a layout, typically for printing.

Recommendation 1.2: Adding “compositor agent / etc.” and “compositor agent / etc. of” to the Glossary

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 1.3: Adding “has compositor agent / etc.” and “is compositor agent / etc. of” to the Registry

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 2.1: Adding “facsimilist agent / etc.” and “facsimilist agent / etc. of” to the Toolkit

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 2.2: Adding “facsimilist agent / etc.” and “facsimilist agent / etc. of” to the Glossary

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 2.3: Adding “has facsimilist agent / etc.” and “is facsimilist agent / etc. of” to the Registry

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 3.1: Adding “printer of plates agent / etc.” and “printer of plates agent / etc. of” to the Toolkit

NARDAC approves of the recommendation but has comments on how the element is phrased. On page 3, the new element is referred to as “printer agent of plates,” and this word order (“printer agent [person, etc.] of plates”) is consistent with patterns observed in other element labels in the Toolkit, e.g., Manifestation: contributor agent of still image. In recommendations 3.1-3.5, however, the element label is “printer of plates agent [person, etc.]” We suggest amending the element labels as follows:

Marked-up copy:

printer ~~of plates~~ agent of plates
 printer ~~of plates~~ person of plates
 printer ~~of plates~~ collective agent of plates
 printer ~~of plates~~ corporate body of plates
 printer ~~of plates~~ family of plates
 printer ~~of plates~~ agent of plates of
 printer ~~of plates~~ person of plates of
 printer ~~of plates~~ collective agent of plates of
 printer ~~of plates~~ corporate body of plates of
 printer ~~of plates~~ family of plates of

Clean copy:

printer agent of plates
 printer person of plates
 printer collective agent of plates
 printer corporate body of plates
 printer family of plates
 printer agent of plates of

printer person of plates of
printer collective agent of plates of
printer corporate body of plates of
printer family of plates of

Recommendation 3.2: Ensuring the *prerecording* section of each new terms alerts cataloguers to the existence of “platemaker agent” elements

NARDAC does not approve of the recommendation to add references in Prerecording to and from the proposed element Manifestation: printer agent [person, etc.] of plates. We suggest it would be more useful to include these “see also” references in the RDA Registry and Glossary.

Recommendation 3.3: Ensuring reciprocal instructions are inserted in the “printmaker” and “platemaker” elements

NARDAC does not approve of the recommendation, and, as mentioned above, we suggest adding “see also” references in the RDA Registry and Glossary.

Recommendation 3.4: Adding “printer agent / etc.” and “printer agent / etc. of” to the Glossary

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 3.5: Adding “has printer agent / etc.” and “is printer agent / etc. of” to the Registry

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 4.1: Adding “rubricator agent / etc.” and “rubricator agent / etc. of” to the Toolkit

NARDAC approves of the recommendation, with suggested amendments to the definitions of Manifestation: rubricator agent and associated elements, below.

In the RBMS Relationship Designator vocabulary, a rubricator is defined as, “an agent who provides initials, headings, marginal words, or instructions in a manuscript or printed text in red or another color to distinguish them from the text written or printed in black.” Rubrication, therefore, is not limited to manuscripts and unpublished manifestations. The broader element of Manifestation: rubricator agent should not be Manifestation: producer agent of unpublished

manifestation. We suggest changing the broader element to Manifestation: related agent of manifestation.

To avoid confusion, we recommend removing words that carry different meanings in RDA like “work” and “parts” from the definition for Manifestation: rubricator agent. We suggest amending the definition as follows:

Marked-up copy:

rubricator agent [person, etc.]

An agent [person, etc.] who is responsible for ~~producing an unpublished manifestation by being responsible for parts of a work, often headings or opening parts of a manuscript, that appear in a distinctive color, usually red~~ adding text in red or another distinctive color to a manifestation for emphasis.

Broader element: ~~producer~~ related agent of unpublished manifestation

Clean copy:

rubricator agent [person, etc.]

An agent [person, etc.] who is responsible for adding text in red or another distinctive color to a manifestation for emphasis.

Broader element: **related agent of manifestation**

Recommendation 4.2: Adding “rubricator agent / etc.” and “rubricator agent / etc. of” to the Glossary

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 4.3: Adding “has rubricator agent / etc.” and “is rubricator agent / etc. of” to the Registry

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 5.1: Adding “scribe agent / etc.” and “scribe agent / etc. of” to the Toolkit

NARDAC approves of the recommendation, with an editorial amendment to the definition and further comments below.

Marked-up copy:

scribe agent [person, etc.]

An agent [person, etc.] who is responsible for producing an unpublished manifestation by making a handwritten ~~copies~~ copy of a ~~manuscripts~~ manuscript.

Clean copy:

scribe agent [person, etc.]

An agent [person, etc.] who is responsible for producing an unpublished manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

We note that the definition does not take into account that scribes may also produce manuscripts by taking dictation. Additionally, the proposed definition could be mistaken to include pen facsimiles. We do not have specific recommendations to address these issues.

Recommendation 5.2: Adding “scribe agent / etc.” and “scribe agent / etc. of” to the Glossary

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 5.3: Adding “has scribe agent / etc.” and “is scribe agent / etc. of” to the Registry

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 6.1: Adding “type designer agent / etc.” and “type designer agent / etc. of” to the Toolkit

NARDAC approves of the recommendation, with suggested amendments to simplify the definitions of Manifestation: type designer agent and associated elements, below.

Marked-up copy:

type designer agent [person, etc.]

An agent [person, etc.] who is responsible for ~~creating a manifestation by being responsible for~~ the design of the typeface used in the creation of a manifestation.

Clean copy:

type designer agent [person, etc.]

An agent [person, etc.] who is responsible for the design of the typeface used in the creation of a manifestation.

Additionally, the broader element of Manifestation: type designer agent [person, etc.] should not be Manifestation: book designer agent [person, etc.] because the latter agent is responsible for “the entire graphic design of a book, including arrangement of type and illustration, choice of materials, and process used.” These activities include selecting a typeface and arranging the type, but they do not include designing the typeface. Therefore, the broader element should be Manifestation: creator agent [person, etc.] of manifestation.

Recommendation 6.2: Adding “type designer agent / etc.” and “type designer agent / etc. of” to the Glossary

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 6.3: Adding “has type designer agent / etc.” and “is type designer agent / etc. of” to the Registry

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 7.1: Adding “typographer agent / etc.” and “typographer agent / etc. of” to the Toolkit

NARDAC approves of the recommendation, with suggested amendments to simplify the definitions of Manifestation: typographer agent and associated elements, below, to avoid the double “responsible for” phrasing.

Marked-up copy:

typographer agent [person, etc.]

An agent [person, etc.] who is responsible for ~~creating a manifestation by being responsible for~~ the choice and arrangement of the type used in the creation of a manifestation.

Clean copy:

typographer agent [person, etc.]

An agent [person, etc.] who is responsible for the choice and arrangement of the type used in the creation of a manifestation.

Recommendation 7.2: Adding “typographer agent / etc.” and “typographer agent / etc. of” to the Glossary

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 7.3: Adding “has typographer agent / etc.” and “is typographer agent / etc. of” to the Registry

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 8.1: Adding “woodcutter agent / etc.” and “woodcutter agent / etc. of” to the Toolkit

In general, NARDAC approves of the recommendation, but we suggest adding elements for Manifestation: wood engraver agent, person, etc., and clearly differentiating between woodcutters and wood engravers. According to the RBMS Relationship Designator vocabulary, the woodcutter is “the agent responsible for creating a printing surface by cutting the image in relief on the plank side of a wood block,” and the “wood-engraver” is “an agent responsible for creating a printing surface by cutting an image, text, or other content in relief on the end-grain of a wood block.” Both types of agents create a printing surface by cutting an image in relief, but they use different techniques: woodcut, where the wood block is cut along the grain, and wood engraving, where the wood block is cut perpendicular to the grain.

Marked-up copy:

woodcutter agent [person, etc.]

An agent [person, etc.] who is responsible for creating a manifestation by cutting ~~the image~~ a design in relief on the plank side of a wood block.

Clean copy:

woodcutter agent [person, etc.]

An agent [person, etc.] who is responsible for creating a manifestation by cutting a design in relief on the plank side of a wood block.

Additional copy:

wood engraver agent [person, etc.]

An agent [person, etc.] who is responsible for creating a manifestation by cutting a design in relief on the end-grain of a wood block.

It might be useful to reconsider the definitions of **woodcut making, engraving, and engraver agent [person, etc.]** to ensure they are in line with the above woodcutter and wood engraver elements.

Recommendation 8.2: Adding “woodcutter agent / etc.” and “woodcutter agent / etc. of” to the Glossary

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.

Recommendation 8.3: Adding “has woodcutter agent / etc.” and “is woodcutter agent / etc. of” to the Registry

NARDAC approves of the recommendation.