

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee

CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary

From: Thomas Brenndorfer, NARDAC backup representative

Subject: Formal response to [RSC TranslationsTLO 2026_20260604](#) Proposal on adding “scribe agent / etc.”, “scribe agent / etc. of”, “wood engraver agent / etc.” and “wood engraver agent / etc. of” as new elements to the RDA Toolkit, the corresponding new definitions to the Glossary, and the corresponding new properties to RDA Registry

NARDAC thanks the Translations Team Liaison Officer for this proposal.

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

NARDAC questions the reasoning for removing the word “unpublished” from the definition for *scribe agent* based on the removal of the word from the definition from *rubricator agent*. The broader element for *rubricator agent* had been changed from *producer agent of unpublished manifestation* to *creator agent of manifestation* (which NARDAC supported). By comparison, the broader element proposed for *scribe agent* is *producer agent of unpublished manifestation*, and so *scribe agent* retains the sense of an agent producing unpublished manifestations.

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

NARDAC supports this recommendation conditional upon the resolution to Recommendation 1.1.

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

NARDAC supports this recommendation conditional upon the resolution to Recommendation 1.1.

Recommendation 2.1 Adding “wood engraver agent / etc.” and “wood engraver agent / etc. of” to the Toolkit

NARDAC partially supports this recommendation, but with two modifications:

1. Harmonized wording for the definitions of *woodcutter agent* and *wood engraver agent*
2. Use of *printmaker agent* as the broader element and revising *engraver agent*

1. Harmonized wording for the definitions of *woodcutter agent* and *wood engraver agent*.

There are slight differences in the definitions which introduce unnecessary inconsistency and may add challenges to translators.

woodcutter agent (adopted per RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1/Decisions):

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

wood engraver agent (proposed):

An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

To remedy this, the following adjustments are suggested to the proposed definition of *wood engraver agent*:

Marked-up version:

An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by cutting ~~an image~~ a design in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a ~~piece of~~ wood block.

Clean copy:

An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by cutting a design in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a wood block.

2. Use of *printmaker agent* as the broader element and revising *engraver agent*

Concerning the broader element, the RDA Technical WG Chair suggested that the logical element should be *engraver agent* instead of *printmaker agent* because *engraver agent* is currently defined as “An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by cutting letters, figures, or other marks on a surface such as a wooden or metal plate used for printing).” A wood engraver meets that definition by cutting an image or design on a piece of wood. The problem is that *woodcutter agent* meets the definition too but was considered a narrower element of *printmaker agent*. Therefore, if we choose one broader element for one element, we should choose the same for the other.

As the Translation Teams Liaison Officer notes, choosing *engraver agent* would go against the choice made by other sources, which, like RDA, consider *engraving* as an intaglio process (see the implied intaglio technique – “incision of marks on the surface of hard material” – in the definition at <https://www.rdaregistry.info/termList/RDAproductionMethod/?language=en#1005>). However, the RDA definition of *engraver agent* does not reflect that, presumably because it was originally worded to encompass both the intaglio and the relief techniques on various materials. But now that we are incorporating into RDA agents that use the relief technique, it becomes necessary to revise the definition to make it more specific. This would clear up any confusion with the relief techniques on wood and would allow both to have *printmaker agent* as their broader element.

The revision to the definition of *engraver agent* limiting it to the intaglio technique could be as simple as this one (the suggested wording also aligns the definition with that of *etcher agent*):

Marked-up

An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or~~ metal plate or other surface used for printing.

Clean copy:

An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by incising letters, figures, or other marks on a metal plate or other surface used for printing.

The end result would be that *wood engraver agent* (relief technique), *woodcutter agent* (relief technique), and *engraver agent* (intaglio technique) could have *printmaker agent* as a broader element.

Recommendation 2.2 Adding “wood engraver agent / etc.” and “wood engraver agent / etc. of” to the Glossary

NARDAC supports this recommendation conditional upon the resolution to Recommendation 2.1.

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

NARDAC supports this recommendation conditional upon the resolution to Recommendation 2.1.