

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
From: Ahava Cohen, Europe 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 RDA Registry

EURIG thanks the Translation WG for proposing additions to the Toolkit which will greatly benefit those working on old and rare materials.

Though there is a concern about adding elements to Base RDA (as opposed to Community Resources) for the benefit of one specific community after the end of the 3R project, we feel that this community is broad enough and international enough to warrant addition to Base RDA. Going forward it would be helpful if the RSC issued guidelines explaining what sort of communities could be so privileged and/or which communities should lodge their extensions in the Community Resource area.

MARC codes are used extensively enough for adoption, however it is heavily oriented to Anglo-American/Western needs. The proposal states that the proposed change will help implementers convince catalogers that RDA is globally applicable, but the proposal does not state whether other vocabularies were consulted; if not, EURIG would be happy to see a follow-up proposal for added terms, if needed, based on non-Western vocabularies.

In addition, there are useful MARC terms which are not included in this proposal (for example, “bookseller [bsl]”, “attributed name [att]” and “wood engraver” nor are elements from other Western vocabularies such as RBMS (for example, "subscriber"). EURIG would like to understand why these were not included and, if relevant, see a follow-up proposal with added terms.

Finally EURIG would appreciate guidance for translating those of these new elements which refer to unpublished manifestations into the appropriate elements when creating metadata for published reproductions/facsimiles. ("Scribe", as defined in the proposal, is not applicable to a published manifestation, but "calligrapher" has emphases not present in the definition of "scribe".)

General note on all recommendations:

The modelled labels and alternative labels for new elements with range “Agent” follow a pattern. For example:

Preferred label: woodcutter agent

Alternate labels: has woodcutter agent

All existing elements with range “Agent” in Official RDA include an additional alternate label. For example :

Preferred label: aggregator agent

Alternate labels: has aggregator agent ; aggregator

For purposes of consistency and flexibility, we propose that more than one alternate label be provided for the new elements with range: Agent. ⁱ

Recommendation 1.1:

Approve.

Note that the definition of **compositor collective agent of** includes an extraneous "for":
A manifestation that involved a responsibility of a collective agent for **for** printing a manifestation...

Recommendation 1.2:

Approve.

Note that the definition of **compositor collective agent of** includes an extraneous "for":
A manifestation that involved a responsibility of a collective agent for **for** printing a manifestation...

Recommendation 2.1:

Approve.

Recommendation 2.2:

Approve.

Note that the definition of facsimilist collective agent of includes an extraneous "for":
A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for **for** creating a manifestation by executing a facsimile.

Recommendation 2.3:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.1:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.2:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.2:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.3:

Approve.

Note that the numbering before each of the Prerecording statements should not appear in the Toolkit.

Recommendation 3.4:

Approve.

Recommendation 3.5:

Approve.

Recommendation 4.1:

Approve.

Note that the definition of rubricator collective agent of includes an extraneous "for":
A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for **for** producing an unpublished manifestation...

Recommendation 4.2:

Approve.

Recommendation 4.3:

Approve.

Recommendation 5.1:

Approve.

Note that the definition of scribe collective agent of includes an extraneous "for":
A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for **for** producing an unpublished manifestation...

Recommendation 5.2:

Approve.

Recommendation 5.3:

Approve.

Recommendation 6.1:

Approve.

Recommendation 6.2:

Approve.

Recommendation 6.3:

Approve.

Recommendation 7.1:

Approve.

Note that the definition of typographer collective agent of includes an extraneous "for":
A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for **for** creating a manifestation...

Recommendation 7.2:

Approve.

Note that the definition of typographer collective agent of includes an extraneous "for":
A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for **for** creating a

manifestation...

Recommendation 7.3:

Approve.

Recommendation 8.1:

Approve.

Recommendation 8.2:

Approve.

Recommendation 8.3:

Approve.

The EURIG representative was contacted by the RSC Secretary on 21 April who let me know that members of the Translations team had seen the feedback from the British Library on the EURIG forum of which they are members. The Translation Team Liaison Officer wants to provide a response to the British Library feedback and so it is provided in full here:

The British Library accepts that the new elements listed should be added to Official RDA. This approach will offer more flexibility to the community in terms of recording the relationships between agents and rare materials.

We note that the modelled labels and alternative labels for new elements with range "Agent" follow a pattern.

For example:

Preferred label: woodcutter agent

Alternate labels: has woodcutter agent

We further note that all existing elements with range "Agent" in Official RDA include an additional alternate label.

For example:

Preferred label: aggregator agent

Alternate labels: has aggregator agent ; aggregator

For purposes of consistency and flexibility, we propose that more than one alternate label be provided for the new elements with range: Agent.

We also noted that the list does not include any reference to the following relationships "bookseller [bsl]", "attributed name [att]" and "wood engraver" from the MARC relators vocabulary and query why these have been omitted, since they also bear a

relevance to rare materials:

<https://www.loc.gov/marc/relators/relaterm.html>

We also note that the list does not include any reference to other relationships such as “subscriber” from the RBMS relationship designators vocabulary and query why they have been omitted, since they bear a relevance to rare materials:

https://rbms.info/vocabularies/relators/alphabetical_list.htm