

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee

CC: Anne Welsh, Secretary, RDA Steering Committee

From: Jessica Grzegorski, RDA Examples Editor

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

The Examples Editor thanks the Technical Team Liaison Officer for this comprehensive proposal. The addition of these elements supports existing provisions in RDA for early printed resources. The proposed elements are applicable not only to rare materials cataloging but also to the description of both older and contemporary visual resources within libraries, archives, and museums.

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

Approve, with suggested amendments.

While a compositor is involved in preparing materials for printing, this role does not include the process of printing itself. I suggest assigning “creator agent of manifestation,” etc., as the broader element.

I also hesitate to include “digital publication” in the definition and suggest limiting the scope to printing only. The Art & Architecture Thesaurus, for example, defines [compositors](#) as “people who assemble, set, proof, and generally prepare type and illustrations for printing” and directs users to the term [typesetters \(people\)](#) for similar tasks that may include the use of a computer.

In addition to the revisions noted above, I also suggest a few more changes for clarity, as seen in the revised definition for Agent: compositor agent below.

Marked-up copy:

**compositor agent**

An agent who is responsible for ~~printing~~ creating a manifestation by arranging, ~~and assembling, and preparing individual pieces of text type, or images, or other visual elements into a coherent layout, typically for printing or digital publication.~~

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Agent

Alternate labels: has compositor agent

Broader element: ~~printer agent~~ creator agent of manifestation

Clean copy:

### **compositor agent**

An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by arranging, assembling, and preparing pieces of type or images for printing.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Agent

Alternate labels: has compositor agent

Broader element: creator agent of manifestation

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

Approve, with suggested amendments noted in Recommendation 1.1.

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

Approve, with suggested amendments.

I suggest incorporating the revisions described in Recommendation 1.1, as seen below in the revised definition for “has compositor agent.”

Marked-up copy:

### **has compositor agent**

Relates a manifestation to an agent who is responsible for ~~printing~~ creating a manifestation by arranging, ~~and assembling, and preparing individual pieces of text type,~~

~~or images, or other visual elements into a coherent layout, typically for printing or digital publication.~~

Clean copy:

**has compositor agent**

Relates a manifestation to an agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by arranging, assembling, and preparing pieces of type or images for printing.

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

Approve.

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

Approve.

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

Approve.

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

Approve.

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

Approve.

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

Approve.

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

Approve.

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

Approve.

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

Approve, with suggested amendments.

While rubrication is most commonly found in unpublished manuscripts, the practice is not limited to unpublished resources. For example, rubrication is not uncommon in incunabula, and some published artists’ books and modern published facsimiles of medieval manuscripts include rubrication. Both the [RBMS Controlled Vocabulary](#) and [AAT](#) note that rubrication may be executed in manuscript or printed. I suggest assigning “creator agent of manifestation,” etc. as the broader element and removing text related to “unpublished manifestation.”

In addition to the revisions noted above, I also suggest a few more changes for clarity, as seen in the revised definition for Agent: rubricator agent below.

Marked-up copy:

**rubricator agent**

An agent who is responsible for ~~producing an unpublished~~ creating a manifestation by ~~being responsible for parts of a work, often headings or opening parts of a manuscript~~ executing initials, headings, or marginal words that appear in a distinctive color, usually in red or another color or visual style to distinguish them from the remainder of the text written or printed in black.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Agent

Alternate labels: has rubricator agent

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

Clean copy:

### **rubricator agent**

An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by executing initials, headings, or marginal words in red or another color or visual style to distinguish them from the remainder of the text written or printed in black.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Agent

Alternate labels: has rubricator agent

Broader element: creator agent of manifestation

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

Approve, with suggested amendments noted in Recommendation 4.1.

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

Approve, with suggested amendments.

I suggest incorporating the revisions described in Recommendation 4.1, as seen below in the revised definition for “has rubricator agent.”

Marked-up copy:

### **has rubricator agent**

Relates a manifestation to an agent who is responsible for ~~producing an unpublished~~ creating a manifestation by ~~being responsible for parts of a work, often headings or opening parts of a manuscript, executing initials, headings, or marginal words that appear in a distinctive color, usually in red or another color or visual style to distinguish them~~ from the remainder of the text written or printed in black.

Clean copy:

**has rubricator agent**

Relates a manifestation to an agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by executing initials, headings, or marginal words in red or another color or visual style to distinguish them from the remainder of the text written or printed in black.

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

Approve.

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

Approve.

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

Approve.

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

Approve, with suggested amendments.

Although type design is related to book design, it is not limited to the design of books. For this reason, I suggest assigning “creator agent of manifestation,” etc. as the broader element instead of “book designer agent,” etc. I also suggest revisions for clarity, as seen below in the revised definition for Agent: type designer agent.

Marked-up copy:

**type designer agent**

An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by ~~being responsible for the~~ designing of the a typeface used in a manifestation.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Agent

Alternate labels: has type designer agent

Broader element: ~~book designer agent~~ creator agent of manifestation

Clean copy:

**type designer agent**

An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by designing a typeface used in a manifestation.

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

Approve, with suggested amendments noted in Recommendation 6.1.

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

Approve, with suggested amendments.

I suggest incorporating the revisions described in Recommendation 6.1, as seen below in the revised definition for “has type designer agent.”

Marked-up copy:

**has type designer agent**

Relates a manifestation to an agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by ~~being responsible for the designing of the~~ a typeface used in a manifestation.

Clean copy:

**has type designer agent**

Relates a manifestation to an agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by designing a typeface used in a manifestation.

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

Approve, with suggested amendments.

Although typography is related to book design, it is not limited to the design of books. For this reason, I suggest assigning “creator agent of manifestation,” etc. as the broader element instead of “book designer agent,” etc. I also suggest revisions for clarity, as seen below in the revised definition for Agent: typographer agent.

Marked-up copy:

**typographer agent**

An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by ~~being responsible for the choice~~ selecting and ~~arrangement of~~ arranging the type used in a manifestation.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Agent

Alternate labels: has typographer agent

Broader element: ~~book designer agent~~ creator agent of manifestation

**typographer agent**

An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by selecting and arranging the type used in a manifestation.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Agent

Alternate labels: has typographer agent

Broader element: creator agent of manifestation

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

Approve, with suggested amendments noted in Recommendation 7.1.

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

Approve, with suggested amendments.

I suggest incorporating the revisions described in Recommendation 7.1, as seen below in the revised definition for “has typographer agent.”

Marked-up copy:

**has typographer agent**

Relates a manifestation to an agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by ~~being responsible for the choice~~ selecting and ~~arrangement of~~ arranging the type used in a manifestation.

Clean copy:

**has typographer agent**

Relates a manifestation to an agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by selecting and arranging the type used in a manifestation.

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

Approve, with suggested amendment.

I suggest replacing “the image” with “an image,” as in the revised definition for Agent: wood cutter agent below.

Marked-up copy:

**woodcutter agent**

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

Clean copy:

**woodcutter agent**

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

I suggest also adding elements for wood engraver. A suggested definition for Agent: wood engraver agent follows:

**wood engraver**

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

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

Approve, with suggested amendment and addition of glossary terms for wood engraver noted in Recommendation 8.1.

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

Approve, with suggested amendment below and addition of wood engraver elements in the Registry.

I suggest replacing “the image” with “an image,” as in the revised definition for “as woodcutter agent” below.

Marked-up copy:

**has woodcutter agent**

Relates a manifestation to an agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by cutting ~~the~~an image in relief on the plank side of a wood block.

Clean copy:

**has woodcutter agent**

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