

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
Cc: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
From: Elisa Sze, Education and Orientation Officer
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

Thank you to the Translations Team Liaison Officer for putting forward this proposal!

Recommendation 1.1: Add the elements “compositor agent” (etc.) and “compositor agent of” (etc.) to RDA Toolkit.

I approve.

Recommendation 1.2: Add the elements “compositor agent” (etc.) and “compositor agent of” (etc.) to the Glossary.

I approve.

I recommend adding a Glossary term “typesetter agent” as a *See* reference to “compositor agent”, because these terms are sometimes used synonymously (e.g., traditional letterpress technique where type, and sometimes image blocks, are set by hand).

Recommendation 1.3: Add the elements “has compositor agent” and “is compositor agent of” (etc.) to the Registry.

I approve.

Recommendation 2.1: Add “facsimilist agent” (etc.) and “facsimilist agent of” (etc.) to the RDA Toolkit.

I approve.

Recommendation 2.2: Add “facsimilist agent” (etc.) and “facsimilist agent of” (etc.) to the Glossary.

I approve.

Recommendation 2.3: Add “has facsimilist agent” (etc.) and “is facsimilist agent of” (etc.) to the Registry.

I approve.

Recommendation 3.1 Add “printer of plates agent” (etc.) and “printer of plates agent of” (etc.) to the RDA Toolkit.

Prior to approving/rejecting this recommendation, I would like clarification on how “printer of plates agent” differs in substance from “printmaker agent”:

- In this proposal, the proposed definition for “printer of plates agent” is: “An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by printing illustrations from plates.”
- The existing RDA definition of “[printmaker agent](#)” is: “An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by making a relief, intaglio, or planographic printing surface.”
- The definition proposed for “print of plates agent” limits the embodied content to still images, whereas the definition for “printmaker agent” does not limit the content type but specifies broad categories of printing techniques, which can include the use of plates. Otherwise, they do not seem different.

As an aside, I would also note that usage of the words “plate” and “print” in RDA should be clarified. The current RDA Glossary definition for “[plate](#)” is: “A leaf, usually containing illustrative content, that does not form part of either the preliminary or the main sequence of pages or leaves.” However, elsewhere in RDA, “plates” is discussed in terms of the *matrix* used for printing images or text (e.g., in the Glossary definition for the word “[print](#)”, a term discussed in [RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2](#), [RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2/EURIG](#), and [RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2/ExamplesEditor](#)). It seems that Recommendations 3.1-3.3 of this proposal have been presented in the context of the latter (i.e., the matrix).

Recommendation 3.2: Ensure the *prerecording* section of each new term alerts cataloguers to the existence of “platemaker agent” elements.

See my comments under Recommendation 3.1.

Recommendation 3.3: Ensure the reciprocal instructions are inserted in the “printmaker agent” (etc.) and “platemaker agent” (etc.) elements.

See my comments under Recommendation 3.1.

Recommendation 3.4: Add “printer agent [etc.] of plates” and “printer agent [etc.] of plates of” to the Glossary.

See my comments under Recommendation 3.1.

Recommendation 3.5: Add “has printer agent [etc.] of plates” and “is printer agent [etc.] of plates of” to the Registry.

See my comments under Recommendation 3.1.

Recommendation 4.1: Add “rubricator agent” (etc.) and “rubricator agent of” (etc.) to the Toolkit.

I approve.

Recommendation 4.2: Add “rubricator agent” (etc.) and “rubricator agent of” (etc.) to the Glossary.

I approve.

Recommendation 4.3: Add “has rubricator agent” (etc.) and “is rubricator agent of” (etc.) to the Registry.

I approve.

Recommendation 5.1: Add “scribe agent” (etc.) and “scribe agent of” (etc.) to the Toolkit.

I approve.

Recommendation 5.2: Add “scribe agent” (etc.) and “scribe agent of” (etc.) to the Glossary.

I approve.

Recommendation 5.3: Add “has scribe agent” (etc.) and “is scribe agent” (etc.) to the Registry.

I approve.

Recommendation 6.1: Add “type designer agent” (etc.) and “type designer agent of” (etc.) to the Toolkit.

While I approve in principle, I would like to clarify whether the “type designer agent” should be listed as a narrower element of “book designer agent”, given that new types may be designed for publications that are not books.

Recommendation 6.2: Add “type designer agent” (etc.) and “type designer agent of” (etc.) to the Glossary.

See my comments under Recommendation 6.1.

Recommendation 6.3: Add “type designer agent” (etc.) and “type designer agent of” (etc.) to the Registry.

See my comments under Recommendation 6.1.

Recommendation 7.1: Add “typographer agent” (etc.) and “typographer agent of” (etc.) to the Toolkit.

While I approve in principle, I would like to clarify whether “typographer agent” should be listed as a narrower element of “book designer agent” given that typography may also be practiced outside of book design.

Recommendation 7.2: Add “typographer agent” (etc.) and “typographer agent of” (etc.) to the Glossary.

See my comments under Recommendation 7.1.

Recommendation 7.3: Add “typographer agent” (etc.) and “typographer agent of” (etc.) to the Registry.

See my comments under Recommendation 7.1.

Recommendation 8.1: Add “woodcutter agent” (etc.) and “woodcutter agent of” (etc.) to the Toolkit.

I approve, but suggest modifying the element labels to “woodcut maker agent” and “woodcut maker agent of”.

This amendment would align with the vocabulary encoding scheme RDA Production Method (https://access.rdatoolkit.org/VES/VES?externalId=en-US_rdaves_RDA_Production_Method) usage of the term “woodcut making”, which refers to “A production method that consists of a relief process in which a design is cut into and printed from the surface of a wood block.”

Recommendation 8.2: Add “woodcutter agent” (etc.) and “woodcutter agent of” (etc.) to the Glossary.

I approve, but see my suggestion under Recommendation 8.1.

Recommendation 8.3: Add “woodcutter agent” (etc.) and “woodcutter agent of” (etc.) to the Registry.

I approve, but see my suggestion under Recommendation 8.1.