

To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Szabolcs Dancs, Translations Team Liaison Officer

Subject: 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

Abstract

This document proposes to add 20 new elements and the corresponding glossary terms to the Toolkit, and the corresponding properties to the Registry.

Background

RSC at their meeting in April 2026 discussed [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1](#) (published on 20 February 2026) and approved the addition of 70 new elements to RDA, with amendments, on the proviso that [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1/Decisions](#) would not be implemented until additional terms raised in the April 2026 meeting were proposed and discussed.

RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2 is that follow-up proposal.

This proposal addresses two elements mentioned in responses to RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1. One of them is *scribe* which was included in RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1 and already discussed by RSC during their April meeting; the other one is *wood engraver* which was mentioned by multiple constituencies as a desired term to complement *woodcutter*. The inclusion of other elements suggested by respondents, such as *attributed name* and *bookseller*, should be subject to further consideration and discussion among stakeholder communities, and may form part of a future proposal addressing the elements applicable to rare and old materials.

The Issue

NARDAC, ORDAC, and the Examples Editor’s responses to RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1 demonstrated a consensus to add “wood engraver” as a new element.

[RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1/ORDAC](#) even provided the definitions and hierarchy for the full sets of “wood engraver agent / etc.” and “wood engraver agent of / etc.” elements, which we utilized when compiling this proposal. First, as with the element “woodcutter agent”, the broader element of “wood engraver agent” was proposed to be “[printmaker agent](#)”. During a pre-discussion with the RDA Technical WG Chair, it was suggested that the broader element should be “[engraver agent](#)” instead of “printmaker agent”, because it would be a problem for both “engraver” and “wood engraver” to be a narrower term of “printmaker”, since a “wood engraver” is a type of “engraver”. So, finally, the broader element for “wood engraver agent” has been changed to “engraver agent”. However, since other sources (see: [AAT Hierarchy Display \(Getty Research\)](#) ; [AAT Hierarchy Display \(Getty Research\)](#) ; [Relief prints - LC Linked Data](#)

[Service: Authorities and Vocabularies | Library of Congress](#)) do not include wood engravings as a subset of engravings nor wood engravers under engravers, likely because wood engravings are generally relief prints and not produced with the intaglio method, therefore, clarifying broader element may be subject of further discussions during the next RSC meeting addressing this proposal.

There was also a consensus on adding “scribe” to RDA as a new element. “Scribe” was included in RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1 with the following definition:

“An agent who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.”

[NARDAC](#) proposed a minor amendment (text marked-up to show the difference from the original suggestion):

“An agent who is responsible for producing an unpublished manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.”

In its response, [EURIG](#) wrote the following: “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”.)” At the asynchronous meeting, the EURIG representative added: “A solution similar to the Examples Editor’s suggestion for Recommendation 4.1 would be acceptable to me here, too.” (Here, the EURIG representative was referring to the Examples Editor’s position on removing text related to “unpublished manifestation” from the definition of “rubricator agent”.)

Taking the EURIG representative’s suggestion into account the original suggested definition would be more acceptable. Because of this, the current proposal uses definitions based on this wording:

“An agent who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.”

In its [response](#), the Technical Working Group recommended adding “scribe” as an alternate label to “scribe agent” and “scribe of” as an alternate label to “scribe agent of”. This recommendation is included in the current proposal, and we thank the Technical Working Group for its diligence in identifying useful synonyms.

Impact statement

As already emphasized in the *Impact statement* section of RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1, a more refined solution to describe responsibilities related to old and rare materials has a beneficial impact on users' efficiency in finding relevant resources and information, as well as on the work of cataloguers who will be able to choose from a wider range of elements.

As these are new additions, the integration of these elements into RDA Toolkit does not affect legacy data. Rather, these additions will enable cataloguers to record specific relationships that demonstrably exist between agents and manifestations of rare materials.

Adding these new elements will definitely help implementers to convince cataloguers, especially those working with old and rare books, that RDA is globally applicable across a range of libraries.

For legacy data, institutions will have to decide whether to implement changes retrospectively or not – as is always the case with any proposal that allows for more specific information to be recorded, human intervention would be needed to apply the new terms retrospectively to existing catalogue data.

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

We propose to add the following elements to the Toolkit:

scribe agent

An agent who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Agent

Alternate labels: scribe ; has scribe agent

Broader element: **producer agent of unpublished manifestation**

scribe person

A person who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Person

Alternate labels: has scribe person

Broader element: **scribe agent ; producer person of unpublished manifestation**

scribe collective agent

A collective agent who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Collective agent

Alternate labels: has scribe collective agent

Broader element: **scribe agent ; producer collective agent of unpublished manifestation**

scribe corporate body

A corporate body who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Corporate body

Alternate labels: has scribe corporate body

Broader element: **scribe collective agent ; producer corporate body of unpublished manifestation**

scribe family

A family who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Family

Alternate labels: has scribe family

Broader element: **scribe collective agent ; producer family of unpublished manifestation**

scribe agent of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of an agent for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Domain: Agent

Range: Manifestation

Alternate labels: scribe of ; is scribe agent of

Broader element: **producer agent of unpublished manifestation of**

scribe person of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a person for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Domain: Person

Range: Manifestation

Alternate labels: is scribe person of

Broader element: **scribe agent of ; producer person of unpublished manifestation of**

scribe collective agent of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Domain: Collective agent

Range: Manifestation

Alternate labels: is scribe collective agent of

Broader element: **scribe agent of ; producer collective agent of unpublished manifestation of**

scribe corporate body of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a corporate body for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Domain: Corporate body

Range: Manifestation

Alternate labels: is scribe corporate body of

Broader element: **scribe collective agent of ; producer corporate body of unpublished manifestation of**

scribe family of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a family for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Domain: Family

Range: Manifestation

Alternate labels: is scribe family of

Broader element: **scribe collective agent of ; producer family of unpublished manifestation of**

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

We propose to add the following terms and definitions to the Glossary:

scribe

See: **scribe agent**

scribe agent

An agent who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Inverse: **scribe agent of**

Use for: **scribe**

scribe person

A person who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Inverse: **scribe person of**

scribe collective agent

A collective agent who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Inverse: **scribe collective agent of**

scribe corporate body

A corporate body who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Inverse: **scribe corporate body of**

scribe family

A family who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Inverse: **scribe family of**

scribe of

See: **scribe agent of**

scribe agent of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of an agent for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Inverse: **scribe agent**

Use for: **scribe of**

scribe person of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a person for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Inverse: **scribe person**

scribe collective agent of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Inverse: **scribe collective agent**

scribe corporate body of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a corporate body for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Inverse: **scribe corporate body**

scribe family of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a family for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

Inverse: **scribe family**

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

We propose to add the following properties to the Registry:

has scribe agent

Relates a manifestation to an agent who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

has scribe person

Relates a manifestation to a person who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

has scribe collective agent

Relates a manifestation to a collective agent who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

has scribe corporate body

Relates a manifestation to a corporate body who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

has scribe family

Relates a manifestation to a family who is responsible for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

is scribe agent of

Relates an agent to a manifestation that involves a responsibility of an agent for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

is scribe person of

Relates a person to a manifestation that involves a responsibility of a person for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

is scribe collective agent of

Relates a collective agent to a manifestation that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

is scribe corporate body of

Relates a corporate body to a manifestation that involves a responsibility of a corporate body for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

is scribe family of

Relates a family to a manifestation that involves a responsibility of a family for producing a manifestation by making a handwritten copy of a manuscript.

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

We propose to add the following elements to the Toolkit:

wood engraver agent

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.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Agent

Alternate labels: has wood engraver agent

Broader element: **engraver agent**

wood engraver person

A person 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.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Person

Alternate labels: has wood engraver person

Broader element: **wood engraver agent ; engraver person**

wood engraver collective agent

A collective 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.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Collective agent

Alternate labels: has wood engraver collective agent

Broader element: **wood engraver agent ; engraver collective agent**

wood engraver corporate body

A corporate body 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.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Corporate body

Alternate labels: has wood engraver corporate body

Broader element: **wood engraver collective agent ; engraver corporate body**

wood engraver family

A family 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.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Family

Alternate labels: has wood engraver family

Broader element: **wood engraver collective agent ; engraver family**

wood engraver agent of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of an agent for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood. Domain: Agent

Range: Manifestation

Alternate labels: is wood engraver agent of

Broader element: **engraver agent of**

wood engraver person of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a person for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

Domain: Person

Range: Manifestation

Alternate labels: is wood engraver person of

Broader element: **wood engraver agent of ; engraver person of**

wood engraver collective agent of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

Domain: Collective agent

Range: Manifestation

Alternate labels: is wood engraver collective agent of

Broader element: **wood engraver agent of ; engraver collective agent of**

wood engraver corporate body of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a corporate body for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

Domain: Corporate body

Range: Manifestation

Alternate labels: is wood engraver corporate body of

Broader element: **wood engraver collective agent of ; engraver corporate body of**

wood engraver family of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a family for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

Domain: Family

Range: Manifestation

Alternate labels: is wood engraver family of

Broader element: **wood engraver collective agent of ; engraver family of**

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

We propose to add the following elements to the Glossary:

wood engraver

See: **wood engraver agent**

wood engraver agent

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

Inverse: **wood engraver agent of**

Use for: **wood engraver**

wood engraver person

A person who is responsible for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

Inverse: **wood engraver person of**

wood engraver collective agent

A collective agent who is responsible for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

Inverse: **wood engraver collective agent of**

wood engraver corporate body

A corporate body who is responsible for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

Inverse: **wood engraver corporate body of**

wood engraver family

A family who is responsible for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

Inverse: **wood engraver family of**

wood engraver of

See: **wood engraver agent of**

wood engraver agent of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of an agent for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

Inverse: **wood engraver agent**

wood engraver person of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a person for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

Inverse: **wood engraver person**

wood engraver collective agent of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

Inverse: **wood engraver collective agent**

wood engraver corporate body of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a corporate body for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

Inverse: **wood engraver corporate body**

wood engraver family of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a family for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

Inverse: **wood engraver family**

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

We propose to add the following elements to the Registry:

has wood engraver agent

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

has wood engraver person

Relates a manifestation to a person who is responsible for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

has wood engraver collective agent

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

has wood engraver corporate body

Relates a manifestation to a corporate body who is responsible for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

has wood engraver family

Relates a manifestation to a family who is responsible for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

is wood engraver agent of

Relates an agent to a manifestation that involves a responsibility of an agent for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

is wood engraver person of

Relates a person to a manifestation that involves a responsibility of a person for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

is wood engraver collective agent of

Relates a collective agent to a manifestation that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

is wood engraver corporate body of

Relates a corporate body to a manifestation that involves a responsibility of a corporate body for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.

is wood engraver family of

Relates a family to a manifestation that involves a responsibility of a family for cutting an image in relief on the cross section or end-grain of a piece of wood.