

To: Renate Behrens, RSC Chair

From: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary

Subject: Decisions on 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

The text below sets out the decisions taken by the RSC at their meeting in July 2026.

[RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2](#) was published on 4 June 2026. Formal responses were received between 29 June and 16 July 2026. The usual summary of responses, [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/summary](#) was published on 20 July.

Decisions on Recommendation 1

In the Public Session of the RSC on Tuesday 28 July, voting members decided on [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2](#) Recommendation 2 but were unable to come to a decision on Recommendation 1. There was consensus that the elements in Recommendation 1, *scribe agent, etc.* were needed by the RDA cataloguing community. However, the discussion in the Public Session had, from the offset, been centred on facsimiles and this had led to confusion as to the wording of the element descriptions and, most importantly, the elements’ places in the hierarchy of elements upon which voting would take place.

The RSC Chair asked the RSC Secretary to summarise the decisions made in the Public Session and present the options for the decisions still to be made in a votable form for members of the RSC. [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/summary2](#) was presented to the RSC on 29 July, with discussion and voting taking place in the asynchronous session 29-30 July.

Voting members of the RSC decided unanimously to approve [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/summary2](#) Option 1, which set out the original recommendation made in [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1](#) Recommendation 5.

The Europe Representative, who had strongly objected to this Recommendation in the April Meeting, voted for it in the context of the discussion in the November Meeting of the longstanding issues across several elements with regard to the cataloguing of facsimiles. She accepted the rationale that the term *scribe* is in current use by rare materials cataloguers working on *unpublished* resources. The voting members of the RSC unanimously considered it important to make *scribe agent, etc.* available to cataloguers of these resources. A consideration of the issue for *published* resources could be made later.

In the course of the discussion, RSC Chair Elect and the Technical Team Liaison Officer agreed to take the lead in a consideration of the cataloguing of facsimiles, the elements that could be changed and / or the shortcut elements that could be created in order to improve the instructions for cataloguing facsimiles.

Decisions on Recommendation 2

After a discussion of the issues raised in the formal responses (summarised at [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/summary](#) Recommendation 2) voting members of the RSC approved the addition of the terms set out in [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2](#).

In terms of the issues raised in relation to the terms' place in the hierarchy of elements, the solution suggested in [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/NARDAC](#) was approved unanimously. The Oceania Representative, who had undertaken a lot of the work in drafting the terms for *wood engraver agent*, etc. in [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1/ORDAC](#) (carried forward into RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2 Recommendation 2) thanked NARDAC and the Technical Team Liaison Officer for the solution proposed to the issues raised by [EOO](#), [EURIG](#), and [ExamplesEditor](#), and by [NARDAC](#) themselves in their responses to RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2.

[RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/TTLO](#) summarised the solution as follows:

“The responses of both NARDAC and the Examples Editor make a compelling argument that **wood engraver agent** should not be a narrower term of **engraver agent**, but instead should be on an equal level of the hierarchy with **engraver agent** under **printmaker agent**. To end all ambiguity and ensure that RDA does not rely on outside practices and vocabularies for its definitions, I agree with NARDAC’s response that the best way to implement this would be not just to define **wood engraver agent** as a narrower term of **printmaker agent**, but also to propose changing the definition of **engraver agent** to clarify that this element applies specifically to intaglio printing rather than relief printing. This would eliminate a long-standing ambiguity in RDA and bring the definition of these elements in line with community expectations.”

Changes to the hierarchy and / or definition of elements require a full proposal so they receive review by all members of the wider RDA cataloguing community. As a result, and notwithstanding the RSC’s belief in the amendments to the definition and hierarchy of the *engraver agent*, etc. elements, a proposal will need to be prepared and presented to the community at the Public Session of the RSC.

Alternate Labels

[RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/EURIG](#) raised a query regarding alternate labels with regard to *wood engraver agent*:

“For consistency, human consumption and possibly support of unconstrained properties in the Registry, the alternate labels for *wood engraver agent* should include *wood engraver*.”

In the Public Session, the member of the wider RDA cataloguing community who raised this issue with the Europe Representative was present as an observer. As a longstanding contributor to RDA in various roles, they made it clear that in raising this issue, they were seeking confirmation from the Technical Team Liaison Officer that the usual processes for alternate labels (such as providing an alternative label of *wood engraver* for *wood engraver agent* and the other specific terms) would be used. They had raised the same issue in response to [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/3](#) and [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/4](#), but raised it as an observer at

this point because those two proposals were being discussed after RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2.

The Technical Team Liaison Officer was happy to give assurance about alternate labels, for this proposal, for the Technical Working Group proposals under discussion in the Public Session and in general going forward.

In the Minutes, for the benefit of readers who were not present at the meeting, and in the interests of concision, this discussion will be recorded as:

“An observer sought reassurance from the Technical Team Liaison Officer that the issue about alternate labels raised in RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/EURIG had been taken on board. The Technical Team Liaison Officer was happy to provide this assurance, not only with regard to this proposal but also as a general principle (See RSC/Minutes/599-615 Item 612.3).”

Further Terms in RSC/TranslationsTLO/1/EURIG

[RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1/EURIG](#) included the following statement:

“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.”

In the Executive Session on 27 July, the Europe Representative once again raised this issue. The RSC Chair and Secretary reiterated that the decision reached on [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1](#) was that the Translations Team Liaison Officer would prepare [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2](#) incorporating the concerns raised by EURIG, NARDAC and ORDAC. The scope of RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2 was to deal with the terms raised by the Translations Working Group and the issues they faced in the absence of their terms. ORDAC had provided a draft definition of the *wood engraver, etc.* terms and so it was straightforward to include it as RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2 Recommendation 2. The Technical Team Liaison Officer had made it clear that he would consider proposals for further terms ([RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1/Decisions](#)) and so the Europe Representative could submit a proposal as RSC/EURIG/2026/1 or RSC/EURIG/2027/1 for consideration. Other RSC members with experience in drafting proposals, including the RSC Secretary, Translations Team Liaison Officer and RDA Examples Editor (who is a member of the RBMS Policy Statement Writers Group and the Editorial Group for DCRMR) are all willing to assist, but the Europe Representative should take the lead on this.

Actions

In the Minutes of this meeting, this discussion will be included with the following actions:

- ACTION: Chair Elect to take the lead in formulating a plan to explore the issue of facsimiles and discuss with the Technical Team Liaison Officer in the first instance
- ACTION: Chair Elect and Technical Team Liaison Officer to bring a plan for the exploration of facsimiles to the Executive Committee
- ACTION: RSC Chair and Secretary to add to the agenda of the next Executive Committee the scheduling of the facsimile discussion to the agenda of the appropriate Executive Committee
- ACTION: RSC Secretary to write and implement RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/decisions
- ACTION: RSC Secretary and Technical Team Liaison Officer to implement RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/decisions
- ACTION: RSC Translations Team Liaison Officer to prepare and submit RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/3 to deal with the definition and hierarchy of *engraver agent, etc.* terms for discussion at the November Meeting of the RSC

Text to be Implemented

Recommendation 1: *scribe agent, etc.*

To be implemented as set out in RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/summary2, as follows:

1.1 Toolkit

scribe agent

An agent who is responsible for producing an unpublished manifestation by making handwritten copies of manuscripts.

Domain: Manifestation

Range: Agent

Alternate labels: has scribe agent ; scribe

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

1.2 Glossary

scribe

See: **scribe agent**

scribe agent

An agent who is responsible for producing an unpublished manifestation by making handwritten copies of manuscripts.

Inverse: **scribe agent of**

Use for: **scribe**

1.3 Registry

has scribe agent

Relates a manifestation to an agent who is responsible for producing an unpublished manifestation by making handwritten copies of manuscripts.

Recommendation 2: wood engraver, etc.

To be implemented as set out in RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2, as amended in the discussion, as follows:

2.1 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 ; wood engraver

Broader element: **printmaker 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 ; printmaker 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 ; printmaker 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 ; printmaker 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: **printmaker 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 ; printmaker 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 ; printmaker 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 ; printmaker 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**

2.2 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**

2.3 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.