

To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Szabolcs Dancs, Translations Team Liaison Officer

Subject: Proposal to revise *engraver agent*, etc.

Abstract

This document proposes to revise the definition of engraver agent.

Background

At their meeting in July 2026, the RSC discussed [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2](#). They approved the creation of the term *wood engraver agent* with the broader term *printmaker element*. Voting members of the RSC were also in favour of revising the definition of the *engraver agent*, etc. elements to make the distinction between *wood engraver* and *engraver* clear.

However, a change to an element requires full constituency review, for good reason: the wider RDA cataloguing community may be aware of issues with the change to an element that the members of the RSC did not consider during their debate of another element.

The Translations Team Liaison Officer was, therefore, tasked with writing RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/3 to allow for constituency review of the proposed changes to *engraver agent*, etc. ([RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/summary2](#)).

The Translations Team Liaison Officer would like to thank the RSC Secretary for her assistance in writing up this proposal at speed.

The Issue

In its discussion of [TranslationsTLO/2026/2](#) Recommendation 2, the voting members of the RSC unanimously favoured the suggestion in [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/NARDAC](#) to revise the definition of *wood engraver agent*, etc.:

“The revision to the definition of *engraver agent* limiting it to the intaglio technique could be as simple as this one (the suggested wording also aligns the definition with that of *etcher agent*):

Marked-up copy:

An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Clean copy:

An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by incising letters, figures, or other marks on a metal plate or other surface used for printing.”

Impact statement

Redefining *engraver agent, etc.* to make it clear that it concerns intaglio printing, would impact RDA by improving its consistency.

As stated in [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/NARDAC](#), the revised definition would provide cataloguers with choices under *printmaker agent* including *wood engraver agent* (relief technique), *woodcutter agent* (relief technique), and *engraver agent* (intaglio technique)

This would also positively impact catalogue users by increasing the precision of the description of the print technique use.

One of the main benefits of the RSC’s requirement for revised definitions of elements to receive full constituency review is it allows for a true assessment of impact on legacy data. Given that cataloguers of rare materials have training in Historical Bibliography, the RSC believes that *engraver agent, etc.* terms will have been used solely for intaglio. We hope that any cataloguing agency already using Official RDA that has used *engraver agent, etc.* to encompass wood engraving (relief technique) will let us know the impact the change would make. As usual with legacy data, if this proposal is approved, any institution that has already used *engraver agent, etc.* for a wood engraving, would 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: Revised definitions of *engraver agent, etc.* in the Toolkit

engraver agent

Definition and Scope

Marked-up copy:

An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Clean copy:

An agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by incising letters, figures, or other marks on a metal plate or other surface used for printing.

engraver person

Definition and Scope

Marked-up copy:

A person who is responsible for creating a manifestation by incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or~~ metal plate or other surface used for printing.

Clean copy:

A person who is responsible for creating a manifestation by incising letters, figures, or other marks on a metal plate or other surface used for printing.

engraver collective agent

Definition and Scope

Marked-up copy:

A collective agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or~~ metal plate or other surface used for printing.

Clean copy:

A collective agent who is responsible for creating a manifestation by incising letters, figures, or other marks on a metal plate or other surface used for printing.

engraver corporate body

Definition and Scope

Marked-up copy:

A corporate body who is responsible for creating a manifestation by incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or~~ metal plate or other surface used for printing.

Clean copy:

A corporate body who is responsible for creating a manifestation by incising letters, figures, or other marks on a metal plate or other surface used for printing.

engraver family

Definition and Scope

Marked-up copy:

A family who is responsible for creating a manifestation by incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Clean copy:

A family who is responsible for creating a manifestation by incising letters, figures, or other marks on a metal plate or other surface used for printing.

engraver agent of

Definition and Scope

Marked-up copy:

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of an agent for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Clean copy:

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of an agent for incising letters, figures, or other marks on a metal plate or other surface used for printing.

engraver person of

Definition and Scope

Marked-up copy:

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a person for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Clean copy:

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a person for incising letters, figures, or other marks on a metal plate or other surface used for printing.

engraver collective agent of

Definition and Scope

Marked-up copy:

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Clean copy:

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for incising letters, figures, or other marks on a metal plate or other surface used for printing.

engraver corporate body of

Definition and Scope

Marked-up copy:

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a corporate body for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Clean copy:

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a corporate body for incising letters, figures, or other marks on a metal plate or other surface used for printing.

engraver family of

Definition and Scope

Marked-up copy:

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a family for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Clean copy:

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a family for incising letters, figures, or other marks on a metal plate or other surface used for printing.

Recommendation 1.2: Revised definitions of *engraver agent, etc.* in the Glossary

Marked-up copy only:

engraver

See: **engraver agent**

engraver agent

An agent who is responsible for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Inverse: **engraver agent of**

Use for: **engraver**

engraver agent of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of an agent for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Inverse: **engraver agent**

Use for: **engraver of**

engraver collective agent

A collective agent who is responsible for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Inverse: **engraver collective agent of**

engraver collective agent of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Inverse: **engraver collective agent**

engraver corporate body

A corporate body who is responsible incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Inverse: **engraver corporate body of**

engraver corporate body of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a corporate body for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Inverse: **engraver corporate body**

engraver family

A family who is responsible for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Inverse: **engraver family of**

engraver of

See: **engraver agent of**

engraver person

A person who is responsible for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Inverse: **engraver person of**

engraver person of

A manifestation that involves a responsibility of a person for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

Inverse: **engraver person**

Recommendation 1.3: Revised definitions of *engraver agent, etc.* in the Registry

Marked-up copy only:

rdam:P30070

has engraver agent

Relates a manifestation to an agent who is responsible for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

rdam:P30350

has engraver person

Relates a manifestation to a person who is responsible for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

rdam:P30379

has engraver collective agent

Relates a manifestation to a collective agent who is responsible for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or metal plate~~ or other surface used for printing.

rdam:P303408**has engraver corporate body**

Relates a manifestation to a corporate body who is responsible for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or~~ metal plate or other surface used for printing.

rdam:P30437**has engraver family**

Relates a manifestation to a family who is responsible for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or~~ metal plate or other surface used for printing.

rdam:P50171**is engraver agent of**

Relates an agent to a manifestation that involves a responsibility of an agent for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or~~ metal plate or other surface used for printing.

rdaa:P50495**is engraver person of**

Relates a person to a manifestation that involves a responsibility of a person for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or~~ metal plate or other surface used for printing.

rdaa:P50646**is engraver collective agent of**

Relates a collective agent to a manifestation that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or~~ metal plate or other surface used for printing.

rdaa:P50797**is engraver corporate body of**

Relates a corporate body to a manifestation that involves a responsibility of a corporate body for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or~~ metal plate or other surface used for printing.

rdaa:P50948**is engraver family of**

Relates a family to a manifestation that involves a responsibility of a family for incising ~~cutting~~ letters, figures, or other marks on a ~~surface such as a wooden or~~ metal plate or other surface used for printing.

