

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR  
**From:** Canadian Committee on Cataloguing  
**Subject:** **Family names**

CCC supports LC's proposal for inclusion of family names as name headings in RDA, their treatment as personal names, and agrees that no definition of *family* is presently required. It supports the proposed Chapter 21 rule revisions pertaining to the choice of access points but disagrees with the proposed non-unique approach to the form of heading for family names. More detailed comments are provided below.

Specific comments

21.8A1. Add "corporate" before "bodies" in the first sentence and in sub-paragraph (b).

21.30F Add "corporate" before "bodies".

22.5A2 Enter a family name under the surname, appending the word "family" in parentheses.

Johnson (family)

The inclusion of the word "family" in parentheses supports differentiation of non-unique family surnames.

22.20B Suggest using rule 22.29C of the *Rules for Archival Description*:

**Distinguishing among identical names**

Add other elements of the name and other qualifiers as necessary to distinguish otherwise identical headings in the following preferred order:

- forenames;
- titles of nobility and terms of honour ...;
- additions to names ...;
- known or principal place or geographical location of the family ...;
- known or principal occupation of the named person;
- date(s) of birth, death, or flourishing of the named person ...

Taylor, John (family)

MacDonald, John A. (family)

MacDonald, John A. (Scottish fiddler, family)

MacDonald, John A. (John Alexander), Sir, 1815-1891 (family)

As noted in its proposal, the requirement for family name headings is one primarily from the archival community. The concept of attempting to differentiate identical names of persons and corporate bodies applies equally, if not more so, to families. A key thrust of RDA is to be more client-centred. A

key client group of archives is genealogists. Genealogists specialize in the study of family history and make extensive use of archival resources, e.g., registers of birth, death, marriage, etc., as well as collections of family records. Different factors contribute to the frequent occurrence of many family names, for example, surnames which are indicative of a trade or occupation, e.g., Smith or Carpenter; a clan, e.g. MacDonald; a tribe, e.g., Cohen or Levy; a nationality or language, e.g., French, English, Deutsch; or other physical or elemental attributes such as colour, e.g., White, Brown, Black, Schwartz, Fekete; or cardinal points, e.g., North, West. Undifferentiation of identical family names, where possible to do so, does not serve well the needs of users of family records nor is it consistent with the established practice of differentiating identical names of persons and corporate bodies.