To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: John Attig, ALA Representative
Subject: Revision of RDA 9.2.2.5.3, Names Written in a Non-preferred Script

ALA thanks ACOC for this proposal to clarify the instructions for names written in a non-preferred script, and in general supports the revision.

ALA also supports the changes to the proposal suggested by the Library of Congress.

ALA questions the need for both the Exception and the Alternative. In essence, RDA here offers two options: (a) transliterate to the preferred script, or (b) use an established form of name in the preferred script. Is it necessary to exclude names where the entry element is a given name from the first option? This seems to us to be something that should be governed by an application decision by the agency – which would allow us to continue current practice by applying the alternative for names where the entry element is a given name.

RDA is neutral as to the identity of the preferred script; however, in all the examples, the Latin script is the preferred script. We propose the following examples of cases in which the preferred script is non-Latin and the non-preferred script is Latin. [Note that the Hebrew example will need to be rendered right-to-left.]

Μπαράκ Ομπάμα
**Name appears in original script as:** Barack Obama

רמונטגניוו הרתר
**Name appears in original script as:** Martha Washington

[Note: Our reviewers point out that the examples in Hebrew and Arabic script have not been correctly rendered in right-to-left form. This should be checked in the final version.]

Furthermore, RDA seems to contain an error in the transliteration of the first example on page 7 of the ACOC proposal:

Μυαμάδ Riz ā al-An ārī al-Qummī

should be (cf. nr 98017764 in the NACO authority file):

Mu ammad Ri ā al-An ārī al-Qummī

This too should be checked in the final version.