

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

מרתגנישוו התרמ

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:

Mu□ammad 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.