

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

FROM: Barbara B. Tillett, LC Representative

SUBJECT: Revision of RDA 9.2.2.5.3: Names written in a Non-preferred Script

LC thanks ACOC for the proposed revisions to 9.2.2.5.3—our non-Latin script catalogers have confirmed that it makes for a much clearer instruction. LC has a few minor suggested changes to the proposal that we hope will make for a clearer flow of the instructions.

1) Move the third paragraph (“If a name is written in more than one non-preferred script, transliterate it according to the table for the original language of most of the works”) and its examples to follow the first paragraph and its examples—this will bring together the instructions for “found in non-Latin form” before discussing the “found in transliterated form” instructions.

2) Bring together the two paragraphs (currently the second and third) about names “found in transliterated form” into a single paragraph. It will be easier to understand them without the interruption of the examples. LC agrees with ACOC that such names do not technically belong in 9.2.2.5.3, but we concur that it is a useful reminder for the cataloguer and makes the instructions easier to use. We also suggest a minor change to the beginning of the second sentence to more closely match the first:

If the name of a person is found only in a transliterated form in resources associated with the person, choose that form as the preferred name. If the name of a person is found in more than one transliterated form in resources associated with the person, choose the form that occurs most frequently.

[examples unchanged]

3) Remove the first sentence of the *Alternative* instruction (“This alternative instruction may be applied selectively language by language”). The wording was brought over from the footnote at AACR2 22.3C2, but we believe it is unnecessary because a cataloging agency would declare whether or how it was applying the alternative. It may be too limiting as currently stated-- an agency could decide to apply the alternative based on criteria other than language (e.g., to given names differently from surnames, to modern names differently from historical names, to certain scripts rather than by language).