

**TO:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

**FROM:** Alan Danskin, British Library representative to JSC

**SUBJECT:** Revision proposal for RDA instructions on treaties. British Library Response.

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The British Library thanks ALA for this comprehensive review of the instructions for identification and naming of treaties. We agree that the proposed changes provide for more rational and defensible instructions in RDA.

#### General Comments

1. In view of the potential impact on legacy data, we are interested in the perspectives of communities other than US law cataloguers on these changes.
2. Signatory of a Treaty is treated in the proposed revision as an attribute\_of the work, but we note that it is really a relationship between the work and the jurisdictions. We suggest that a new relationship designator should be defined for Signatory to a Treaty.

#### Comments on proposed revisions

1. Agree with proposed deletion.
2. Agree with proposed rewording.
3. Agree
4. Agree in principle, but recommend JSC considers a consistent approach to recording date throughout the instructions.
5. Agree. We welcome the deletion of this exception.
6. Agree
7. Agree
8. Agree
9. Agree
10. Agree
11. Agree with the proposed rewording.
12. Agree. We welcome deletion of this exception.
13. Agree
14. Agree
15. Agree

16. Agree
17. Agree
18. Agree with the revision. As "etc." is being removed from "treaties, etc.," we wonder whether consideration could be given to generalising "protocols, etc." to "Other ancillary agreements"
19. Agree
20. Agree
21. Agree
22. Agree
23. Agree
24. Agree
25. Agree
26. Agree
27. Agree.

EURIG members also discussed this proposal at the EURIG Members' Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September. EURIG agrees with the proposal in principle, but also considers that Signatory to a Treaty should be modelled as a relationship in RDA.

In particular, EURIG was concerned that a consequence of the proposed changes is that the access by signatory would only be available as variant access points to the Preferred Title for the Treaty. Users would be better served by a direct relationship between the treaty and its signatories.