

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
**From:** John Attig, ALA Representative  
**Subject:** Revision of RDA 6.21 (Other distinguishing characteristics of a legal work) and 6.29.1.33 (Additions to access points representing treaties, etc.)

## Background

In 6JSC/CILIP/2/ALA response, ALA noted that it is quite common for more than one treaty between the same parties to be signed in the same year; it is not unusual for more than one treaty between the same parties to be signed on the same day. For example:

France. Treaties, etc., United States, 1923 Feb. 13 (Rights in the Cameroons)

France. Treaties, etc., United States, 1923 Feb. 13 (Rights in Togoland)

Finland. Treaties, etc., United States, 1928 June 7 (Arbitration)

Finland. Treaties, etc., United States, 1928 June 7 (Conciliation)

Poland. Treaties, etc., United States, 1996 July 10 (Extradition)

Poland. Treaties, etc., United States, 1996 July 10 (Mutual legal assistance)

The Library of Congress Policy Statement for 6.29.1.33 specifies “To differentiate between two authorized access points that are the same but represent different treaties, add in parentheses a word or words from the title proper to each authorized access point.” This practice results in the sort of access points shown above.

This addition seems to fall within the scope of the element Other Distinguishing Characteristics of a Legal Work (RDA 6.21). ALA proposes that (1) an instruction to record such information be added to 6.21.1.3 and (2) an instruction to include such information in the authorized access point in case of conflict be added to 6.29.1.33.

## 1. RDA 6.21

Proposed revision:

### **6.21 Other Distinguishing Characteristic of a Legal Work**

#### **CORE ELEMENT**

*Other distinguishing characteristic of the work is a core element when needed to differentiate a work from another work with the same title or from the name of a person, family, or corporate body.*

#### **6.21.1 Basic Instructions on Recording Other Distinguishing Characteristics of a Legal Work**

**6.21.1.1 Scope**

***Other distinguishing characteristic of a legal work*** is a characteristic other than form of work, date of work, or place of origin of the work that serves to differentiate a legal work from another work with the same title or from the name of a person, family, or corporate body.

**6.21.1.2 Sources of Information**

Take information on other distinguishing characteristics of a legal work from any source.

**6.21.1.3 Recording Other Distinguishing Characteristics of Legal Works**

For treaties, record a word or words from the title proper that serves to differentiate the treaty from other treaties between the same parties signed on the same date.

For a separately catalogued protocol, amendment, extension, or other agreement ancillary to a treaty, etc., record *Protocols, etc.*

For other legal works, record other distinguishing characteristics of the work applying the general instructions given under [6.6](#).

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**2. RDA 6.29.1.33**

Proposed revision:

**6.29.1.33 Additions to Access Points Representing Treaties, Etc.**

[Three paragraphs (with examples) dealing with compilations of treaties omitted; no change]

If the access point representing a single treaty is constructed using the authorized access point representing one of the parties, and if there is only one party on the other side, add (in this order):

- a) the name of the other party (see [6.22](#))
- b) the date, earlier date, or earliest date of signing (see [6.20.3](#)).

[examples omitted; no change]

If there is more than one party on the other side, add only the date, earlier date, or earliest date of signing.

[examples omitted; no change]

If there is more than one treaty between the same parties, signed on the same date, add to each authorized access point a word or words from the title proper, applying the instructions at [6.21.1.3](#).

EXAMPLE

Trinidad and Tobago. Treaties, etc. United States, 1996  
March 4 (Extradition)

**Resource described:** Extradition treaty with Trinidad  
and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago. Treaties, etc. United States, 1996  
March 4 (Mutual legal assistance)

**Resource described:** Mutual legal assistance in  
criminal matters with Trinidad and Tobago

If the access point representing a single treaty is constructed using the name by which the treaty is known, add the year, earlier year, or earliest year of signing (see [6.20.3](#)).

[examples omitted; no change]

[Final paragraph (with examples) dealing with protocols, etc. omitted; no change]

**Clean copy:**

**6.29.1.33**

**Additions to Access Points Representing Treaties, Etc.**

[Three paragraphs (with examples) dealing with compilations of treaties omitted; no change]

If the access point representing a single treaty is constructed using the authorized access point representing one of the parties, and if there is only one party on the other side, add (in this order):

- a) the name of the other party (see [6.22](#))
- b) the date, earlier date, or earliest date of signing (see [6.20.3](#)).

[examples omitted; no change]

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