

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Gordon Dunsire, CILIP Representative
Subject: Initial Articles in Place Names (RDA 16.2.2.3)

CILIP thanks ALA for its proposed revision.

CILIP agrees with the proposal, but requests that an additional conditional instruction is added to RDA 16.2.3.4, to cover the case when the initial article has caused a mutation in the succeeding word.

In Welsh and other Celtic languages that originated in the British Isles, a “soft mutation” results in a change in the initial letter of the word following the article. For example, the “T” of Trenewydd changes to the “D” of Y Drenewydd.

CILIP proposes adding the instruction:

If an initial article in the name of a place has been omitted from its preferred name, for those languages where the presence of the initial article has caused a mutation in the proceeding word, record the mutated form as the preferred access point and the non-mutated form as a variant access point, if known and considered important for identification.

Example:

Y Felinheli (Gwynedd, Wales)

Melinheli (Gwynedd, Wales)

Preferred form of name recorded as: Felinheli (Gwynedd, Wales)

CILIP has also discussed the issue of main and alternative instructions and does not see a problem with the proposed wording.

CILIP asks JSC to consider developing general instructions covering initial articles in titles and the names of people, corporate bodies, places, etc.

CILIP will further investigate the need for instructions covering soft mutations and bring forward proposals if necessary.

6JSC/ALA/9/CILIP response

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Page 1 of 1