

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Alan Danskin, British Library Representative
Subject: Other designation associated with the person: Revision of RDA 9.0, 9.6.1 and 9.19.1

Intention

To expand the scope of 9.6 to include terms that could be used to distinguish a person from another person with the same name.

The proposal also regularises the construction of authorised access points for persons named in religious works, fictitious and legendary persons, and non-human entities, in order to:

- assist a user to *Identify* and *Contextualise* those entities,
- to avoid conflicts with other names,
- to enable consistency with subject cataloguing practice.

This proposal and JSC/BL/3 support our policy of not creating undifferentiated records.

The British Library has been creating RDA authority records for LC/NAF since 2011. Our experience has highlighted some situations where the capacity to differentiate persons is not constrained by the data available, but by restrictions on the attributes that may be recorded in an authorised access point.

Discrete attributes cannot be recorded in an undifferentiated record, as it is not clear to which of the identities they would apply. Consequently, these attributes would not be recorded, or they would be lost whenever a record becomes undifferentiated. BL is in favour of making all authorised access points for persons unique and the proposals described below are intended to support this with minimal change to RDA.

Summary

The RDA element *Other Designation Associated with the Person* is derived from the FRAD 4.1 element *Other information associated with the person*, which “includes” Saints and Spirits, and other

elements which have been incorporated into RDA, but does not claim to list all possibilities¹.

This proposal expands the definition of the element to include terms that could be used to distinguish a person from another person with the same name, and also enables more explicit identification of persons named in religious works, fictitious and legendary persons, and non-human entities.

RDA explicitly includes fictitious entities within the scope of the element Persons. It does not explicitly mention non-human entities², but neither does it restrict the definition explicitly to humans. Non-human entities may be designated as the creators of works or as contributors; these include animals as performers in film or television, or animals designated as the creators of graphic art.

Changes to RDA instructions:

Change 1

Expand the scope of "persons" to explicitly include persons named in religious works, legendary persons and real non-human entities. This is also a change to the glossary.

9.0 Purpose and Scope

Change from:

Persons include fictitious entities

to:

Persons include persons named in religious works, fictitious and legendary persons, and real non-human entities

Change 2

Add an application note at 9.6 to explain conditions for Core

9.6 Other designation Associated with the Person

Change from:

¹ "we would prefer to consider the "Includes" statements and the "e.g." statements from the IFLA models as suggestions, not requirements" (6JSC/BL/1/LC response, Sept. 12, 2011)

² "Apply this chapter to fictitious entities and real non-human entities" (LCPS for 9.0). If this proposal is accepted, a request will be made to amend the LCPS to ensure consistency between descriptive and subject cataloguing practice

CORE ELEMENT

to:

CORE ELEMENT

Other designation associated with the person is a core element for a Christian saint, a spirit, a person named in a religious work, a fictitious or legendary person, or a non-human entity. For other persons, a designation is a core element when needed to distinguish a person from another person with the same name.³

Change 3

Add references from 9.6.1.6 (persons named in religious works), 9.6.1.7 (fictitious and legendary persons) or 9.6.1.8 (non-human entities), at 9.6.1.3

9.6.1.3 Recording Other Designations Associated with Persons

Change from:

Record other designations associated with the person applying the instructions given under 9.6.1.4 (saints) or 9.6.1.5 (spirits), as applicable.

to:

Record other designations associated with the person applying the instructions given under 9.6.1.4 (saints), 9.6.1.5 (spirits), 9.6.1.6 (persons named in religious works), 9.6.1.7 (fictitious and legendary persons) or 9.6.1.8 (non-human entities), as applicable.

Change 4

Add new instructions for recording appropriate designations for:

- Persons named in religious works,
- Fictitious and legendary persons
- Non-human entities

9.6.1.6 Persons named in religious works

For a person named in a religious work, record an appropriate designation.

³ Modelled on 11.7

Example

(Biblical figure)

9.6.1.7 Fictitious and legendary persons

For a fictitious or legendary person, record *Fictitious character*, *Legendary character*, or another appropriate designation.

9.6.1.8 Non-human entities

For a non-human entity, record a designation for type, species or breed.

Change 5

Add an instruction to permit the use of other designations for disambiguation.

9.6.1.9 Other Designation

If neither a date of birth nor a date of death associated with the person, nor a fuller form of name, nor a period of activity, nor a profession or occupation, nor a term of rank, honour or office⁴, is sufficient or appropriate for distinguishing between two or more persons, record an appropriate designation in the language preferred by the agency creating the data.⁵

Change 6

If the changes at 9.6.1.5-9 are accepted, the following changes will be required under 9.19

9.19.1.2 Title or Other Designation Associated with the Person

Change from:

Add to the name one or more of the following elements (in this order), as applicable:

- a) a title of royalty (see 9.4.1.4) or nobility (see 9.4.1.5)
- b) the term *Saint* (see 9.6.1.4)

⁴ See 6JSC/BL/3

⁵ Modelled on 11.7.1.6

- c) title of religious rank (see 9.4.1.6-9.4.1.8)
- d) the term *Spirit* (see 9.6.1.5)
- e) a term indicating profession [...]

to:

- a) a title of royalty (see 9.4.1.4) or nobility (see 9.4.1.5)
- b) the term *Saint* (see 9.6.1.4)
- c) title of religious rank (see 9.4.1.6-9.4.1.8)
- d) the term *Spirit* (see 9.6.1.5)
- e) a term indicating a person named in a religious work (see 9.6.1.6)
- e) the term *Fictitious character, Legendary character, etc.* (see 9.6.1.7)
- f) a term indicating type, species or breed (see 9.6.1.8)
- e) a term indicating profession [...]

Add to examples:

Adam (Biblical figure)
Holmes, Sherlock (Fictitious character)
Aeneas (Legendary character)
Lauder Lass (Horse)
Henrietta (Cat)

Add new instruction:

9.19.1.8⁶ Other Designation

If none of the additions covered under **9.19.1.3–9.19.1.7⁷** is sufficient or appropriate for distinguishing between two or more persons, add an appropriate designation.⁸

EXAMPLE

Nichols, Chris (Of the North Oxford Association)
Lang, John (Brother of Andrew Lang)
Independent burgess (of Nottingham)
Lady (writer on horsemanship)

⁶ Numeration correct if 6JSC/BL/3 is accepted

⁷ Numeration correct if 6JSC/BL/3 is accepted

⁸ Modelled on 11.13.1.7

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Changes to RDA instructions:

9.0 Purpose and Scope

Third paragraph:

Persons include persons named in religious works, fictitious and legendary persons, and real non-human entities

9.6 Other designation Associated with the Person

CORE ELEMENT

Other designation associated with the person is a core element for a Christian saint, a spirit, a person named in a religious work, a fictitious or legendary person, or a non-human entity. For other persons, a designation is a core element when needed to distinguish a person from another person with the same name.⁹

9.6.1.3 Recording Other Designations Associated with Persons

Record other designations associated with the person applying the instructions given under 9.6.1.4 (saints), 9.6.1.5 (spirits), 9.6.1.6 (persons named in religious works), 9.6.1.6 (fictitious and legendary persons) or 9.6.1.8 (non-human entities), as applicable.

Add new instructions:

9.6.1.6 Persons named in religious works

For a person named in a religious work, record an appropriate designation.

Example

(Biblical figure)

9.6.1.7 Fictitious and legendary persons

For a fictitious or legendary person, record *Fictitious character*, *Legendary character*, or another appropriate designation.

9.6.1.8 Non-human entities

For a non-human entity, record a designation for type, species or breed.

⁹ Modelled on 11.7

9.6.1.9 Other Designation

If neither a date of birth nor a date of death associated with the person, nor a fuller form of name, nor a period of activity, nor a profession or occupation, nor a term of rank, honour or office¹⁰, is sufficient or appropriate for distinguishing between two or more persons, record an appropriate designation in the language preferred by the agency creating the data.¹¹

9.19.1.2 Title or Other Designation Associated with the Person

ADDITIONS TO ACCESS POINTS REPRESENTING THE PERSON

Add to the name one or more of the following elements (in this order), as applicable:

- a) a title of royalty (see 9.4.1.4) or nobility (see 9.4.1.5)
- b) the term *Saint* (see 9.6.1.4)
- c) title of religious rank (see 9.4.1.6-9.4.1.8)
- d) the term *Spirit* (see 9.6.1.5)
- e) a term indicating a person named in a religious work (see 9.6.1.6)
- f) the term *Fictitious character, Legendary character, etc.* (see 9.6.1.7)
- g) a term indicating type, species or breed (see 9.6.1.8)
- h) a term indicating profession [...]

[Add to examples]:

Adam (Biblical figure)
Holmes, Sherlock (Fictitious character)
Aeneas (Legendary character)
Lauder Lass (Horse)
Henrietta (Cat)

9.19.1.8¹² Other Designation

If none of the additions covered under **9.19.1.3–9.19.1.7**¹³ is sufficient or appropriate for distinguishing between two or more persons, add an appropriate designation.¹⁴

¹⁰ See 6JSC/BL/3

¹¹ Modelled on 11.7.1.6

¹² Numeration correct if 6JSC/BL/3 is accepted

¹³ Numeration correct if 6JSC/BL/3 is accepted

¹⁴ Modelled on 11.13.1.7

EXAMPLE

Nichols, Chris (Of the North Oxford Association)
Lang, John (Brother of Andrew Lang)
Independent burgess (of Nottingham)
Lady (writer on horsemanship)