

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

FROM: Alan Danskin, British Library representative to JSC

SUBJECT: Field of Activity (9.15) and Profession Occupation (9.16) BL Response

BL thanks CILIP for the proposal. The proposal makes two recommendations:

1. merge these two elements.
2. JSC should not define a controlled vocabulary

Recommendation 1

BL cataloguers have commented that the distinction between these elements is not clear in the examples in RDA and are in favour of merging the elements.

BL notes that in order to maintain consistently with FRAD, a recommendation to merge the elements would first have to be made to the FRBR Review Group.

Recommendation 2

BL does not believe that it would be practical or desirable to define and maintain a controlled vocabulary for either element. BL does believe that use of controlled vocabularies would be useful for machine matching and resource discovery. The use of established vocabularies should be encouraged and suitable vocabularies, including those evaluated by CILIP and more general subject systems, such as LCSH should be identified in the resources tab in the RDA Toolkit.

BL notes that if 6JSC/CILIP/3 is accepted, there will be a change to A.2.4.