TO:  Joint Steering Committee for Revision of RDA  
FROM:  Barbara B. Tillett, LC Representative  
SUBJECT:  Initial articles – Revision of RDA 0.5; 6.2.1.7; 9.2.2.25; 9.2.2.26; 11.2.2.8;  
Appendix C; Initial articles  

Library of Congress agrees with the proposal from the Office for Library Standards, 
German National Library, with the following modifications. LC’s proposed 
modifications are given as “clean versions” because adding strike-out or double 
underlining to the wording in the proposal would be confusing for others to read. 

1. 0.5 Structure  
LC recommends simplifying the wording for Appendix C to read as follows:  

Appendix C lists initial articles in selected languages. 

2. 6.2.1.7 Initial Articles.  
First paragraph: Because the preferred title is not a transcribed element and 
because the second sentence is covered by the first sentence, LC recommends the revised 
wording below:  

Record the title for a work as it appears on the source of information without 
modification. 

Alternative: LC recommends not including the proposed wording “or which is originated 
from an inflected language” because that wording represents the situation in the 
instruction in the first paragraph; the two proposed examples (Eines … and Der goldene 
...) should not be included for the same reason. LC also recommends retaining the 
example “Kleine Nachtmusik” to be consistent with the scope of the alternative 
recommended. 

3. 9.2.2.25. Characterizing Word or Phrase  
LC would prefer that the current proposed wording for the Alternative statement 
be moved to become the basic instruction to be consistent with the wording in 9.2.2.26 
(e.g., allowing for the addition of diacritics, etc., from 8.5 with the omission of the 
instruction to “omit the initial article”). The alternative would then allow recording the 
characterizing word or phrase as it appears on the source without modification as follows. 

9.2.2.25 Characterizing Word or Phrase  

Record a characterizing word or phrase applying the general guidelines on 
recording names given under 8.5 RDA  
Consider such a word or phrase to be the name for a person if that person is
commonly identified by it in resources associated with the person and in reference sources.

EXAMPLE

....

Alternative
Record a characterizing word or phrase as it appears on the source of information without modification. Record the phrase in direct order. Omit the initial article see Appendix C. Consider such a word or phrase to be the name for a person if that person is commonly identified by it in resources associated with the person and in reference sources.

4. 9.2.2.26 Phrase Naming Another Work by the Person
   In order to provide a clear instruction LC recommends inserting a comma after the word person in the first sentence.

       Record a phrase naming another work by the person, applying the general guidelines on recording names given under 8.5.

5. 11.2.2.8 Initial Articles. Alternative
   LC recommends not including the proposed wording “or which is originated from an inflected language,” because that wording represents the situation in the instruction in the basic rule. The proposed example Der Alte Mystische Orden vom Rosenkreuz as it presents potential confusion.

6. Appendix C Initial Articles. C.0 Scope
   Change sentence to match suggested change in 1 above to read as follows:

       This appendix lists initial articles in selected languages.