

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Bill Leonard, CCC representative

Subject: Post-nominal letters as Other Designation (Additional examples for RDA 9.6.1.9 and 9.19.1.7, and addition to Appendix E)

CCC thanks the British Library for proposing changes prompted by an instruction covering punctuation in 9.19.1.7. CCC supports this proposal and provides the following comments for consideration.

It is unfortunate that RDA includes an instruction covering the use of parentheses in RDA 9.19. This is clearly an application level decision and belongs with other punctuation conventions where it can be administered by communities responsible for developing application profiles for access points.

This proposal illustrates the current concerns and difficulties about the distinction between titles (RDA 9.4) and Other Designation Associated with the Person (RDA 9.6). CCC is of the opinion that moving instructions simply to find a better fit with a mis-placed punctuation instruction is not sound. One could question the value and utility of maintaining the distinction between title and other designation associated with a person, particularly from the users' point of view.

CCC supports ALA's revisions to this proposal given in [6JSC/BL/19/ALA response](#).

Regarding ALA's suggestion to expand the wording of 9.4.1.9, we would also suggest revising the label to Other Term of Rank, Honour, Office or Membership in an Organization.

CCC agrees that there is no immediate need to update Appendix E but upon closer scrutiny, we see some gaps and suggest that E.1.2.2 could stand closer scrutiny. For example, the guideline for dates of activity do not cover ranges or the use of words such as active or flourished.

We also support the further discussion regarding moving Saint from Other designation associated with the person to Title.

CCC wishes also to comment that the move of the letters indicating membership in an organization from 9.6 to 9.4 will highlight the unequal treatment of letters indicating membership in a Christian religious order (9.4.1.8, 2nd If-Then). At present, these are added to the title, e.g. Brother, Sister, etc., and used in the authorized access point (9.19.1.2.3) only when the given name is the entry element. If a broader simplification and harmonization is preferred, it may be desirable to treat all letters indicating membership in an organization equally. CCC members, LAC and BAnQ cataloguers all wish to be able to record letters indicating membership in a religious order when known, and to be able to use these letters in an authorized access point, when necessary. We realize that it will be appropriate to handle this in a new proposal in the next round of JSC papers.