

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
**From:** Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative  
**Subject:** Fictitious Families and Corporate Bodies (Revision of RDA 10.0, 10.3.1.3, 10.11.1.2, 11.0, 11.7.1.4, 11.13.1.2)

ALA thanks BL for this proposal, which dovetails into work undertaken by the ALA Task Force on Pseudonymous Corporate Bodies. ALA supports the intent of the proposal, to enable cataloguers to record fictitious, legendary, and non-human families and corporate bodies.

As the ALA task force explored issues surrounding pseudonymous corporate bodies, they realized that the scope of their work needed to encompass pseudonymous families as well as fictitious corporate bodies and families, since in practice it can be tricky to determine when something is a pseudonym and when it is fictitious. ALA is willing to continue to work on developing a proposal for 2015 that would further expand RDA to accommodate pseudonymous families and corporate bodies. Although we see a need for additional instructions in this area, we believe that it is appropriate to consider the BL proposal now.

ALA offers the following specific comments:

1. In 10.0, *Purpose and Scope*, the proposed final paragraph should use the phrasing established in 9.0. Thus, the term “or fictitious” should be removed before “non-human families” as follows:

Families include families named in sacred scriptures or apocryphal books, fictitious and legendary families, and real ~~or fictitious~~ non-human families.
2. In 10.3, *Type of Family*, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, ALA recommends adding a term to the e.g. list that demonstrates using a phrase to indicate a fictitious, legendary, etc. family:

Record the type of family using an appropriate term (e.g., *Family*, *Fictitious clan*, *Royal house*, *Dynasty*)
3. In 11.0, *Purpose and Scope*, the proposed final paragraph should use the phrasing established in 9.0. Thus, the term “or fictitious” should be removed before “non-human corporate bodies” as follows:

Corporate bodies include corporate bodies named in sacred scriptures or apocryphal books, fictitious and legendary corporate bodies, and real ~~or fictitious~~ non-human corporate bodies.
4. In 11.7.1.4, *Type of Corporate Body*, we recommend:
  - a. Including a sentence that specifically addresses recording a term to indicate a fictional, legendary, etc. corporate body. We propose adding the following as the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence:

For corporate bodies named in sacred scriptures or apocryphal books, fictitious and legendary corporate bodies, and real non-human corporate bodies, record an appropriate term (e.g., *Fictitious government agency*, *Legendary council*).

- b. Replacing the “Escaped Pigs” example with the following, a real-life cat performing group:

Cat circus

**Preferred name recorded as: The Amazing Acro-Cats**

5. In 11.13.1.2, *Type of Corporate Body*, ALA recommends:

- a. Replacing the “Niagara” examples with ones using “Enterprise”. This would allow qualifiers such as: Aircraft carrier, Schooner, Sloop, and Fictitious spacecraft.

- b. Replacing the “Tamworth Two” example with:

The Amazing Acro-Cats (Cat circus)

ALA recommends adding the following additional examples to represent fictitious entities:

- 10.3.1.3, *Recording Type of Family*:

Fictitious clan

Legendary dynasty

- 10.11.1.2, *Type of Family*:

Clan MacKenzie (Fictitious clan)

Yngling (Legendary dynasty)

- 11.2.2.3, *Choosing the Preferred Name*:

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

- 11.2.2.5.3, *International Bodies*:

Justice League International

*not* Liga de la Justicia Internacional

*not* Liga da Justiça Internacional

- 11.2.3.4, *Expanded Name*:

Alpha Teens on Machines

**Initialism recorded as preferred name: A.T.O.M.**

- 11.2.3.5, *Acronym / Initialism / Abbreviated Form*:

JLI

**Full form recorded as preferred name: Justice League International**

11.13.1.2, *Type of Corporate Body*:  
UNACO (Fictitious organization)  
WKRP (Fictitious radio station)

***Additional issues not addressed in the proposal:***

1. Fictional events

Would fictional events have the same formulation as real events and follow the same conventions? Does RDA permit recording other fictitious attributes of a fictitious entity, such as location or dates? Examples include:

Hunger Games (Fictitious event) (74th : Capitol, Panem)  
Running Man (Fictitious event) (2025 : United States)

2. Fictitious governments

Presumably, fictitious governments are also covered by this proposal. However, this raises the question of whether Chapter 16 also needs revision to cover fictitious and imaginary places, as well as places named in scriptures and apocryphal books. Examples will be needed. In the exception for governments in 11.2.2.5.4, *Conventional Name*, would this example be valid?

Genovia  
***not*** Kingdom of Genovia

3. Jurisdictions

If fictitious places/governments are allowed, examples of appropriate types of jurisdiction are needed, such as: Fictitious kingdom; Imaginary place; Legendary place; etc. Examples include:

Aaron (Book of Mormon place)  
Bashan (Biblical place)  
South Park (Colo. : Imaginary place)  
Genovia (Imaginary place)

As the South Park example above shows, instructions would be needed to show how to combine the larger place with the type of jurisdiction (is “Imaginary place” or “Biblical place” a “type of jurisdiction” or something else?).

We also wonder how RDA should treat extinct cities.

4. Additional examples needed in Chapters 19 and 20

ALA believes that additional examples should be incorporated into Chapters 19 and 20 to reflect these changes, such as the following for 20.2.1.3, *Recording Contributors* (8<sup>th</sup> example box (Performer)):

Denver, John

The Muppets

**Authorized access point representing the performers for: A Christmas together /**

John Denver and The Muppets