

To: ALA/ALCTS/CaMMS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access
From: Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative to the RDA Steering Committee
Subject: Greater flexibility in creating variant access points for persons, families and corporate bodies

Background

RDA provides greater flexibility in providing variant access points for works and expressions than it does for persons, families and corporate bodies, by including the following paragraph in 6.27.4.1 (and in 13 other related instructions for works and expressions in 6.27-6.31).

Construct additional variant access points if considered important for access.

This paragraph is absent from the equivalent instructions for agents.

Currently, RDA restricts the basis of a variant access point for a person to “a variant name for the person” (RDA 9.19.2.1). Having a broader basis for a variant access point would be helpful to address new information (for example, a corrected death date), or to provide alternative qualifiers for the same preferred name (such as a variant with the date of birth, discovered after the profession was used as a qualifier in the authorized access point).

A similar rationale for broadening the basis for a variant access point also applies to families and corporate bodies.

Proposal

(only marked-up copy provided)

Add the Chapter 6 paragraph “Construct additional variant access points if considered important for access.” at the end of the instructions for variant names for persons (9.19.2.1), families (10.11.2.1), and corporate bodies (11.13.2.1). Add a new example box after the new paragraph in 9.19.2.1 and in 11.13.2.1 to demonstrate the application of this instruction.

9.19.2 Variant Access Point Representing a Person

9.19.2.1 General Guidelines on Constructing Variant Access Points to Represent Persons

[current paragraphs and examples unchanged]

Construct additional variant access points if considered important for access.

EXAMPLE

Miller, David L., J.D.

Form recorded as authorized access point: Miller, David L. (Lawyer)

Bailey, Sue, Dr.

Form recorded as authorized access point: Bailey, Sue, 1943-

Ariel (Fictitious character from Disney)

Form recorded as authorized access point: Ariel (Mermaid)

Brown, Jeremy, 1975 January 10-

Form recorded as authorized access point: Brown, Jeremy (Novelist)

Price, Billy, 1949-

Form recorded as authorized access point: Price, Billy (Singer)

10.11.2 Variant Access Point Representing a Family

10.11.2.1 General Guidelines on Constructing Variant Access Points to Represent Families

[current paragraphs and examples unchanged]

Construct additional variant access points if considered important for access.

11.13.2 Variant Access Point Representing a Corporate Body

11.13.2.1 General Guidelines on Constructing Variant Access Points to Represent Corporate Bodies

[current paragraphs and examples unchanged]

Construct additional variant access points if considered important for access.

EXAMPLE

CEPSI (Exhibition).

Form recorded as authorized access point: CEPSI (Conference)

Adventure (Barque)

Form recorded as authorized access point: Adventure (Bark)

Amazon (Bark)

Form recorded as authorized access point: Amazon (Ship : 1815-1856)

Beagle (Ship : 1977)

Form recorded as authorized access point: Beagle (Bark)