

To: Robert Rendall, chair
ALA/ALCTS/CaMMS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access

From: Robert Bratton, representative, American Association of Law Libraries (AALL);
John Hostage, former representative

Subject: Revision proposal for RDA instructions for armed forces (11.2.2.22.1)

Background

A comma is commonly used when the words given in an access point are given in inverted order, i.e., the access point begins with a word other than the initial word in the name, title, etc., and the initial word is moved to the end of the access point, preceded by a comma (cf. RDA 9.2.2.9 “If a name consists of a surname preceded by other parts of the name, such as given names, record the surname and follow it by a comma and the parts of the name that precede it.”; *Chicago Manual of Style*, 16.94 “Commas are also used when a heading is an inversion ...”).

RDA 11.2.2.22.1 calls for placing the numbering in the name of a component branch of the armed forces after the name, preceded by a comma. This makes sense when the name begins with the numbering, which is often an ordinal number in many names. The comma is unnecessary when the numbering occurs in the middle or at the end of a name. One of the examples is for “United States. Navy. Torpedo Squadron, 35,” but the usage of this name is “Torpedo Squadron 35,” so no inversion was necessary and the comma serves no purpose and does not represent the name as found.

This proposal clarifies that the comma should be used in such headings only to indicate that the numbering has been inverted from the beginning of the name. The comma has been deleted from the Torpedo Squadron example, and a German example with the number at the end has been added. Another example has been added to show a name with the numbering occurring in the middle of the name. (This seems to represent a change from current practice.) The proposal also adds a full stop at the end of four German examples and one Russian-language example to reflect the fact that these are ordinal numbers. (These five examples have already been reported to the RDA Examples Editor.)

AACR2 24.24A1 did not mention a comma, nor did the examples supply one unless the name was inverted.

Proposal

11.2.2.22.1 Armed Forces at the National Level

[first 2 paragraphs and sets of examples unchanged]

If the component branch, etc., is identified by a number, follow the style of numbering found in the name (spelled out, roman numerals, or arabic numerals). If the number occurs at the beginning of the name of the component branch, etc., place the numbering after the name, preceded by a comma.

EXAMPLE

United States. Army. Infantry Division, 27th

United States. Navy. Fleet, 6th

United States. Army Air Forces. Air Force, First

United States. Marine Corps. Amphibious Corps, V

United States. Army. Engineer Combat Battalion, 1st

United States. Army. Volunteer Cavalry, 1st

United States. Navy. Torpedo Squadron, 35

Confederate States of America. Army. Tennessee Infantry Regiment, 41st

Canada. Canadian Army. French-Canadian Battalion, 22nd

Canada. Canadian Army. Royal 22nd Regiment

France. Armée. Régiment de dragons, 26e

Germany. Heer. Gebirgs-Jäger-Regiment 100

Germany. Heer. Panzerdivision, 11.

Germany. Heer. Armeekorps, XIII.

Germany. Luftwaffe. Fallschirmjägerdivision, 9.

Germany. Kriegsmarine. Unterseebootsflottille, 7.

Soviet Union. Raboche-Krest'ianskaïa Krasnaïa Armîia. Vozdushnaïa armîia, 5.