

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: John Attig, ALA Representative
Subject: Revision of RDA 11.2.2: Heads of State and Heads of Government

This document incorporates the decisions made by the Joint Steering Committee on 1 November 2011. Because the revision includes some issues not previously decided by the JSC, JSC response is required by **January 9, 2012**.

The following points were agreed by the JSC and are incorporated into the revised text below:

1. The preferred name for both heads of state and heads of government should be recorded in the language preferred by the agency creating the data.
2. Instructions on ruling executive bodies should be separate from those on heads of state, heads of government, etc.
3. The wording here incorporates some of the tentative decisions made by the JSC on recurring phrases identified by the copy editor in the rewording of Chapter 9.
4. The general instruction at RDA 11.2.2.21 and RDA 11.2.2.21.3–5 were included in the original ALA proposal only to change instruction numbers. This is no longer necessary, and these instructions are not included in the revised proposal.
5. Changes to examples in other instructions have not been included, although any examples of preferred names or authorized access points for heads of government will need to be updated. We suggest that this be referred to the new examples group.
6. Changes to the index have not been noted, but the entries for heads of government will need to be changed, and an entry for ruling executive bodies added.

The following points are offered for discussion by the JSC:

- a. Regarding generic vs. gender-specific terms, ACOC offered additional language, but we believe that this was based on the assumption that the name was being recorded in the language of the jurisdiction. LC, on the other hand, strongly preferred generic terms for the title of the office. The third paragraph of the revised 11.2.2.21.1 does this. Does JSC agree?
- b. In the third paragraph of the revised 11.2.2.21.1 (“If the title varies ...”), John Hostage asks whether the instruction should read “If the title in the language preferred by the agency creating the data varies ...” because the title in the official language of the jurisdiction may not vary. It seems to me that the first paragraph of 11.2.2.21.1 makes it clear that the title is recorded in the language preferred by the agency creating the data, and that it is unnecessary to repeat this in subsequent instructions. Does JSC agree?

- c. In the same paragraph, John noted that it is often difficult to determine the title for a head of government, particularly as the resource being described is likely to contain the title only in the official language of the jurisdiction. The literal English translation of *Bundeskanzler* and *Bundeskanzlerin* is *Federal Chancellor*, and that English equivalent is used on the official website (<http://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/Webs/BK/En/homepage/home.html>); *Chancellor* is often used as a short form, but literary warrant for that might be more difficult to find. My sense is that this is an application issue, and that RDA need not provide further guidance on how to determine the equivalent in another language. Does JSC agree?
- d. ACOC suggested using an English example for the titles that vary with the gender of the incumbent, and suggested the heading for the current British monarch. My original intention was to include the following headings for both a king (George I), a queen (Elizabeth II), and a joint incumbent (William and Mary):
- Great Britain. Sovereign (1714–1727 : George I)
 - United Kingdom. Sovereign (1952– : Elizabeth II)
 - England and Wales. Sovereign (1689–1694 : William and Mary)
- Unfortunately, Adam Schiff informs me, because of complications in the implementation of headings for Great Britain and the United Kingdom in the NACO authority file, the Examples Group — with JSC approval — determined not to include examples for these jurisdictions in RDA. Although I believe that this situation ought to be resolved, I have also avoided the issue, by using the examples of Charles II as King of Scotland, and Mary Stuart as Queen of Scotland; I believe that the heading for William and Mary may be used. Which headings does JSC wish to include in the third paragraph of 11.2.2.21.1?
- e. It was not clear from the JSC discussion whether the preferred name for ruling executive bodies (proposed RDA 11.2.2.21.2) should be recorded in the language preferred by the agency creating the data or in the official language of the jurisdiction. Because of the variety of designations for ruling executive bodies and the lack of commonly-used generic terms, we are recommending that the name be recorded in the official language of the jurisdiction. Does JSC agree? If not, what English equivalents would you recommend for the examples given in 11.2.2.21.2?

The revisions noted above cover the comments noted in the response table for 6JSC/ALA/2. Were there other issues relating to these instructions that JSC members would like to raise?

Proposed revisions: marked version

11.2.2.21.1 Heads of State, Heads of Government, Etc.

Record the title of a sovereign, president, other head of state, or governor, head of government, or chief executive acting in an official capacity (see [6.31.1](#)) as a subdivision of the authorized access point representing the jurisdiction. Record the title in the language preferred by the agency creating the data (unless there is no equivalent term in that language).

EXAMPLE

Indonesia. President
not Indonesia. Presiden
Chiapas (Mexico). Governor
not Chiapas (Mexico). Gobernador
Swaziland. Prime Minister
Managua (Nicaragua). Mayor
not Managua (Nicaragua). Alcalde
King County (Wash.). Executive
Japan. Prime Minister
not Japan. Naikaku Sōri Daijin
Thailand. Prime Minister
not Thailand. Nāyok Ratthamontri

If the official being identified is a specific incumbent of the office, add, in parentheses, the inclusive years of the reign or incumbency and the name of the person in a brief form and in the language of the preferred name for that person. Separate the years of the reign or incumbency from the name of the person using a space, colon, space.

EXAMPLE

Portugal. President (1996–2006 : Sampaio)
New Jersey. Governor (2002–2004 : McGreevey)
Iran. Shah (1941–1979 : Mohammed Reza Pahlavi)
Brunei. Sultan (1967– : Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah)
Papal States. Sovereign (1800–1823 : Pius VII)
British Columbia. Premier (2000–2001 : Dosanjh)
Central African Republic. Prime Minister (2001–2003 : Ziguèle)

Germany. Chancellor (1990–1998 : Kohl)
Germany. Chancellor (2005– : Merkel)
Israel. Prime Minister (1999–2001 : Barak)
New Zealand. Prime Minister (2008– : Key)
Seattle (Wash.). Mayor (1978–1990 : Royer)

If the title varies with the gender of the incumbent, use a general term (e.g., *Sovereign* rather than *King* or *Queen*).

EXAMPLE

Scotland. Sovereign (1649–1685 : Charles II)
Scotland. Sovereign (1542–1567 : Mary)
Spain. Sovereign (1833–1868 : Isabella II)
Spain. Sovereign (1975– : Juan Carlos I)
Spain. Sovereign (1479-1504 : Ferdinand V and Isabella I)
England and Wales. Sovereign (1689-1694 : William and Mary)

If there are two or more nonconsecutive periods of incumbency, create separate access points.

EXAMPLE

United States. President (1885–1889 : Cleveland)
United States. President (1893–1897 : Cleveland)
Canada. Prime Minister (1867–1873 : Macdonald)
Canada. Prime Minister (1878–1891 : Macdonald)

Record the relationships between the office and the person applying
Apply the instructions in chapters [30](#) and [32](#).

~~11.2.2.21.2~~ **Heads of Governments**

~~Record the title of a head of government or chief executive acting in an official capacity (see [6.31.1](#)) who is not also a head of state as a subdivision of the authorized access point representing the jurisdiction. Record the title in the official language of the jurisdiction.~~

EXAMPLE

~~Swaziland. Prime Minister~~
~~Managua (Nicaragua). Alcaldía~~

King County (Wash.). Executive
Japan. Naikaku Sōri Daijin
Thailand. Nāyok Ratthamontri

If there is more than one official language in the jurisdiction, apply the instructions given under [11.2.2.5.2](#).

If the official being identified is a specific incumbent of the office, add, in parentheses, the inclusive years of the incumbency and the name of the person in a brief form and in the language of the preferred name for that person. Separate the years of the incumbency from the name of the person using a space, colon, space.

EXAMPLE

British Columbia. Premier (2000–2001 : Dosanjh)
Central African Republic. Premier ministre (2001–2003 : Ziguèle)
Germany. Bundeskanzler (1990–1998 : Kohl)
Israel. Rosh ha memshalah (1999–2001 : Barak)
New Zealand. Prime Minister (2008 : Key)
Seattle (Wash.). Mayor (1978–1990 : Royer)

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Record the relationships between the office and the person applying the instructions in chapters [30](#) and [32](#).

11.2.2.21.2 Ruling Executive Bodies

Record the name of a ruling executive body (e.g., a military junta) (see [6.31.1](#)) as a subdivision of the authorized access point representing the jurisdiction. Record the name in the official language of the jurisdiction.

EXAMPLE

Argentina. Junta Militar

Somalia. Golaha Sare ee Kacaanka

Thailand. Khana Patiwat

Ghana. Armed Forces Revolutionary Council

If there is more than one official language in the jurisdiction, apply the instructions at [11.2.2.5.2](#).

If necessary for identification, add, in parentheses, the inclusive years of the ruling executive body.

EXAMPLE

Chile. Junta de Gobierno (1813)

Chile. Junta de Gobierno (1973–1990)

Proposed revisions: clean version

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EXAMPLE

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Chile. Junta de Gobierno (1973–1990)