

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of RDA

FROM: Barbara B. Tillett, LC Representative

SUBJECT: Initial articles – Revision of RDA 0.5; 6.2.1.7; 9.2.2.25; 9.2.2.26; 11.2.2.8; Appendix C; Initial articles

Library of Congress agrees with the proposal from the Office for Library Standards, German National Library, with the following modifications. LC's proposed modifications are given as "clean versions" because adding strike-out or double underlining to the wording in the proposal would be confusing for others to read.

1. 0.5 Structure

LC recommends simplifying the wording for Appendix C to read as follows:

Appendix C lists initial articles in selected languages.

2. 6.2.1.7 Initial Articles.

First paragraph: Because the preferred title is not a transcribed element and because the second sentence is covered by the first sentence, LC recommends the revised wording below:

Record the title for a work as it appears on the source of information without modification.

Alternative: LC recommends not including the proposed wording "or which is originated from an inflected language" because that wording represents the situation in the instruction in the first paragraph; the two proposed examples (Eines ... and Der goldene ...) should not be included for the same reason. LC also recommends retaining the example "Kleine Nachtmusik" to be consistent with the scope of the alternative recommended.

3. 9.2.2.25. Characterizing Word or Phrase

LC would prefer that the current proposed wording for the Alternative statement be moved to become the basic instruction to be consistent with the wording in 9.2.2.26 (e.g., allowing for the addition of diacritics, etc., from 8.5 with the omission of the instruction to "omit the initial article"). The alternative would then allow recording the characterizing word or phrase as it appears on the source without modification as follows.

9.2.2.25 Characterizing Word or Phrase

Record a characterizing word or phrase applying the general guidelines on recording names given under [8.5 RDA](#)  
Consider such a word or phrase to be the name for a person if that person is

commonly identified by it in resources associated with the person and in reference sources.

**EXAMPLE**

....

**Alternative**

Record a characterizing word or phrase as it appears on the source of information without modification.

Record the phrase in direct order. Omit the initial article see Appendix C [RDA](#)

Consider such a word or phrase to be the name for a person if that person is commonly identified by it in resources associated with the person and in reference sources.

4. 9.2.2.26 Phrase Naming Another Work by the Person

In order to provide a clear instruction LC recommends inserting a comma after the word person in the first sentence.

Record a phrase naming another work by the person, applying the general guidelines on recording names given under 8.5 [RDA](#)

5. 11.2.2.8 Initial Articles. Alternative

LC recommends not including the proposed wording “or which is originated from an inflected language,” because that wording represents the situation in the instruction in the basic rule. The proposed example Der Alte Mystische Orden vom Rosenkreuz as it presents potential confusion.

6. Appendix C Initial Articles. C.0 Scope

Change sentence to match suggested change in 1 above to read as follows:

This appendix lists initial articles in selected languages.