

To: RDA Steering Committee
From: Robert L. Maxwell, NARDAC representative to RDA Steering Committee
Subject: Proposal for correction of the narrower element hierarchy in Manifestation: manufacturer agent (etc.) and its inverses

All NARDAC constituencies support this proposal.

A few comments were received for RSC consideration:

1. One commenter disagreed with the statement in the justification section that “collotypers, engravers, etchers, lithographers, platemakers and printmakers are responsible for preparing plates that are later used for printing, but not for the printing itself.” A platemaker is an agent who creates the plate; but a printmaker is an agent who uses the plate a platemaker has created to create a print, i.e., a printmaker is generally considered to be a type of printer. The terms collotyper, engraver, etcher, and lithographer are perhaps more ambiguous.

A related constituency comment observed that there may be some disagreement on the hierarchies proposed here and how rare materials catalogers regard these hierarchies. (See: https://rbms.info/vocabularies/relators/alphabetical_list.htm).

However, in the proposed changes to the text of RDA both platemaker and printmaker are narrower terms to “related agent of manifestation”, while collotyper, engraver, etcher, and lithographer are narrower terms to “printmaker”. The RBMS hierarchy give “printmaker” and “platemaker” at the same level of hierarchy, as the proposed RDA text does. This seems correct.

Additionally, NARDAC notes that the Getty Art and Architecture Thesaurus (AAT) hierarchies do not match the proposed RDA hierarchies either (<https://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/aat/>) but we do not feel there is a need for the hierarchies in the three standards to match each other.

2. Another commenter wonders if “collotyper” should be “collotypist”, given the usage in AAT <https://www.getty.edu/vow/AATServlet?english=N&find=collotypist&logic=AND&page=1¬e=>. AAT doesn't even include “collotyper” as a variant term. The term “collotyper” does not appear in this reference source published by the Getty, but the term “collotypist” does: https://www.getty.edu/conservation/publications_resources/pdf_publications/pdf/atlas_collotype.pdf.

The RBMS thesauri do use the term “collotyper”:
<https://rbms.info/vocabularies/relators/tr41.htm>.

The AAT term, on the other hand, might represent more common usage.

3. Another constituency comment observed: A distinction was noted between “printer agent” and the modified “printmaker agent” elements. “Printer agent” remains as a subtype of “Manufacturer agent” which applies only to published manifestations. By moving “printmaker agent” to under “related agent of manifestation”, the printmaker element would now apply to both published and unpublished resources.

If describing unpublished resources like “engraved plates” or “a set of handmade papers”, the modified

element "printmaker agent" can now be applied readily as a "related agent of manifestation" for unpublished resources. It was noted though that if the printmaker was also responsible for the actual *creation* of these unpublished manifestations then an additional element like "creator agent of manifestation" or "producer agent of unpublished manifestation" could also be applied for descriptions of engraved plates or sets of handmade papers.