

Religious titles

Prepared by the Religions Working Group for the July 2023 meeting of the RDA Steering Committee

Abstract

This proposal seeks to eliminate a set of options that are specific to certain religions.

Background

The working group was charged to identify examples of religious and Western bias in the toolkit. One of the issues which we identified was the presence of problematic options related to access points for persons. These options are specific to one religion and their application to other religions is often unclear. Even if there were a clear parallel in another religion, the options assume enough awareness of the tenets of Catholicism to know what would be parallel. Furthermore, the fact that all of the options relate to one religion is inherently biased. A comprehensive list which would include all religions would be impractical to create and would always be incomplete. Therefore, the options should be removed. Instructions on the inclusion of titles for specific religions should be community based and not part of base RDA.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

Access point for person. Additional elements and designations in access points for person. [Option 10](#).

Marked-up version

~~OPTION~~

~~Include the term Pope or Antipope.~~

Clean version

This option should be deleted.

Recommendation 2

Access point for person. Additional elements and designations in access points for person. [Option 11](#).

Marked-up version

~~OPTION~~

~~Include a term or part of a term of rank of bishop, etc., or other religious vocation that appears frequently with a name of a person in manifestations associated with the person or in another source of information, following a given name that is recorded as the first part of the name.~~

Clean version

This option should be deleted.

Recommendation 3

Access point for person. Additional elements and designations in access points for person. [Option 12.](#)

Marked-up version

OPTION

~~Include the term Saint unless the person is a pope, emperor, empress, king, or queen.~~

Clean version

This option should be deleted.

Recommendation 4

Access point for person. Additional elements and designations in access points for person. [Option 13.](#)

Marked-up version

OPTION

~~Include the term Spirit for a person represented as a spirit.~~

Clean version

This option should be deleted.

Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Remove option.

Recommendation 2: Remove option.

Recommendation 3: Remove option.

Recommendation 4: Remove option.