

To: RDA Steering Committee  
From: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary  
Subject: Proposal to Revise Term of Rank or Honour or Office

The text below sets out the decisions taken by the RDA Steering Committee during the Public Session on 17 October 2023.

The original proposal, RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2, is available [on the RSC website](#) and with a stable URI [in the institutional repository](#). The discussion in the meeting is recorded as Item 419 in [RSC/Minutes/413-443](#) (and with stable URI [in the repository](#)).

RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2 consisted of 3 recommendations. They were all approved by voting members of the RSC, with some changes to the wording proposed by the working group. This Decisions document records the wording approved by the RSC on 17 October, and implemented in November 2023 for the next release of the RDA Toolkit.

## **RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2 Recommendations**

### **Recommendation 1**

Revise the definition of [term of rank or honour or office](#)

(<http://rdaregistry.info/Elements/a/P50110>) to be applicable to all religions

### **1A Glossary**

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**term of rank or honour or office**

A word or phrase indicative of royalty, nobility, rank, honour, office or a term of address for a person of religious vocation.

A term of rank, honour, or office, includes initials or abbreviations representing an academic degree, or membership in an organization, ~~and excludes civil terms of address that simply indicate gender or marital status such as Mr. or Mrs.~~

*Use for:* title of person

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**1B Toolkit Text**

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## **term of rank or honour or office**

### **Definition and Scope**

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[...]

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## **term of rank or honour or office**

### **Definition and Scope**

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[...]

## Recommendation 2

Remove the existing instructions for **Popes** ([38.91.64.22](#)) and **Bishops, etc.** ([83.87.64.58](#)), etc. from base RDA to Community Resources.

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### **Popes**

~~CONDITION~~

~~A person is a pope.~~

~~CONDITION OPTION~~

~~Record the term *Pope*.~~

~~CONDITION~~

~~A person is an antipope.~~

~~CONDITION OPTION~~

~~Record the term *Antipope*.~~

### **Bishops, etc.**

~~CONDITION~~

~~A person has two or more terms of rank.~~

~~CONDITION OPTION~~

~~Record the highest rank.~~

~~CONDITION~~

~~A person is an archbishop other than a cardinal.~~

~~CONDITION OPTION~~

~~Record the term *Archbishop*.~~

~~CONDITION~~

~~A person is a bishop other than a cardinal.~~

~~CONDITION OPTION~~

~~Record the term *Bishop*.~~

~~CONDITION~~

~~A person is designated as a chorepiscopus.~~

~~CONDITION OPTION~~

~~Record the term *Chorepiscopus*.~~

~~CONDITION~~

~~A person is a cardinal bishop, cardinal priest, and cardinal deacon.~~

~~CONDITION OPTION~~

~~Record *Cardinal*.~~

OPTION

Add to the term of rank of a diocesan bishop, archbishop, or patriarch a value of Place: [name of place](#) of the latest diocese, archdiocese, or patriarchate of the person.

CONDITION

A person is an ecclesiastical prince of the Holy Roman Empire.

~~CONDITION OPTION~~

~~Record the term *Prince Bishop, Prince Archbishop, Archbishop and Elector, etc.*, as appropriate.~~

~~CONDITION OPTION~~

~~Add a Place: [name of place](#) of the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of a person.~~

~~[Example](#)~~

~~CONDITION OPTION~~

~~Also add the term *Cardinal*, if appropriate.~~

~~[Example](#)~~

### Recommendation 3

Revise the instructions for **Other persons of religious vocation** ([28.93.03.66](#)) to be applicable for all persons rather than those who do not have a term of ecclesiastical rank and to allow for recording multiple terms as multiple instances of this element.

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## ~~Other p~~Persons of religious vocation

### CONDITION

A person is of a religious vocation ~~but is not a pope, antipope, archbishop, bishop, chorepiscopus, cardinal bishop, cardinal priest, cardinal deacon, or ecclesiastical prince of the Holy Roman Empire.~~

### CONDITION OPTION

Record a term of rank, honour, office or address in a language in which the term was conferred ~~or in a language used in the country in which the person resides.~~

### Example

### CONDITION OPTION

Record a term of rank, honour, office or address in a country in which the person resides.

### ~~CONDITION OPTION~~

~~Record a term that is most often associated with a person or the one that is considered to be more important if there are two or more such terms.~~

CONDITION OPTION

Record a term of rank, honour, office or address in a spelling found in dictionaries in a language preferred by ~~the~~ an agent who creates the metadata.

CONDITION

A person of religious vocation has a term of rank, office, or address that includes a value of

Place: name of place.

CONDITION OPTION

Add to the term of rank of the person a value of Place: name of place.

[...]

*Clean version*

**Persons of religious vocation**

CONDITION

A person is of a religious vocation.

CONDITION OPTION

Record a term of rank, honour, office or address in a language in which the term was conferred.

CONDITION OPTION

Record a term of rank, honour, office or address in a country in which the person resides.

CONDITION OPTION

Record a term of rank, honour, office or address in a language preferred by an agent who creates the metadata.

CONDITION

A person of religious vocation has a term of rank, honour, office or address that includes a value of Place: name of place.

CONDITION OPTION

Add to the term of rank, honour, office, or address a value of Place: name of place.

[...]