

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee

CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary

From: Robert L. Maxwell, NARDAC representative to RDA Steering Committee

Subject: Response to RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2 – Proposal to Revise Term of Rank or Honour or Office

NARDAC generally agrees with this proposal, but has some comments and a few reservations.

NARDAC also requests that examples of religious terms of rank, etc., be included as examples with the newly generalized instructions to make clear that these terms can still validly be recorded.

Recommendation 1:

NARDAC generally supports this recommendation, but disagrees with the introduction of the term “civil” into the definition. We think this is confusing and unnecessary. Qualifying “terms of address” with “civil” implies there are other terms of address that simply indicate gender or marital status that could be recorded, but it is not clear what those terms are. The original instruction without the introduction of the term “civil” seems clear.

The WG did not explain why the term “civil” was introduced. Perhaps the WG introduced “civil” to contrast with religious terms of address such as “Sister” or “Brother” or “Mother” or “Father”? If so, NARDAC maintains that such terms do not “*simply* indicate gender or marital status” and still believes the introduction of the term “civil” is unnecessary. Possible confusion could be remedied instead by the inclusion of “Sister” or “Brother” or similar term as an example. We note that “Sor” (truncation of Latin for “Sister”) is already included as an example, which should remain in the more generalized version of the instruction.

We also note that the name of the element is “term of rank or honour or office” but neither the current nor the proposed definition includes “term of honour”. We recommend:

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

A further clarifying reorganization of the definition was suggested, which NARDAC passes on for consideration:

A word or phrase indicative of royalty, nobility, rank, honour, or office.

A term of rank or honour or office includes:

Terms of address for a person of religious vocation.

Initials or abbreviations representing an academic degree, or membership in an organization.

A term of rank or honour or office excludes:

Terms of address that simply indicate gender or marital status such as Mr. or Mrs.

Use for: title of person

Recommendation 2:

NARDAC supports this recommendation.

However, we would like to see some of the terms in the deleted instructions retained as examples of the generalized instruction alongside similar terms from non-Christian religious traditions.

Recommendation 3:

NARDAC generally supports this recommendation but suggests that the first Option be split into two. The first Option would reflect the principle of representation, in recording a term in the original language or in a language used in the country in which the person resides. The second Option would be a term in a language preferred by an agent who creates the metadata. Both Options could be applied to record multiple values but the reason for the values could then be traced back to separate and distinct Options.

Editorial improvements to the language of Recommendation 3 were also identified:

- 1) the phrase "an agent who creates the metadata" should be used as this is the convention in the Toolkit
- 2) the phrase "term of rank, office, or address" should be in full in both the Condition and Condition Option. Currently, the Condition Option only has the truncated phrase "term of rank".

OPTION

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

OPTION

Record a term of rank, 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, office, or address that includes a value of Place: name of place.

CONDITION OPTION

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