To: RDA Steering Committee
            Official Languages Working Group

From: Renate Behrens, RSC Chair

Subject: Discharge of Official Languages Working Group

As agreed at the January 2024 RSC Meeting, this document discharges the members of the Official Languages Working Group.

As set out in RSC/Chair/2023/5 (and preceding charge documents[1]) the purpose of the Official Languages Working Group was to support the improvement of the RDA standard by examining the concept of "official language" for corporate bodies in RDA. Established in 2022 by RSC Chair Kathy Glennan, it prepared RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1 – Preferred names and official languages of corporate bodies, governments, and places in RDA, which was discussed in the Public Session of the July 2023 RSC Meeting on 2 August (RSC/Minutes/393-412 Item 409) and RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1/Decisions will be implemented in the next Release of the RDA Toolkit. Therefore the Official Languages Working Group is being disbanded, its duties having been discharged.

The RSC would like to thank each of the members of the Working Group for their diligent and detailed work over the last two years.

The rest of this document summarises the work of the Official Languages Working Group and provides links to relevant documentation.

1   Background

      This topic was on the agenda for the RSC in-person meeting in Santiago in 2019 as a Fast Track change proposal. The RSC determined that the proposal uncovered a bigger issue and could not be resolved by the Fast Track process and agreed to form a task-and-finish working group. Here are the minutes for this topic:

            173.1   The RSC considered Fast Track proposal 01 submitted by Paradis for changes to Corporate Body: *name of corporate body. Names of corporate body in more than one language.* Substantive discussion surrounded the concept of "official language" for a corporate body, a concept that seems to have been lost in the process of adjusting language in the beta Toolkit. Glennan presented a

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[1] RSC/Chair/2022/5.

flowchart that demonstrated the complexity of the instructions. The committee agreed that this proposal uncovered a bigger issue and that it cannot be resolved through the Fast Track process. The RSC will consider establishing a Working Group to discuss the issue of "official language," including whether to retain this concept and define it in the Glossary. "Official language" appears in five elements, and all need to be considered.

ACTION ITEM: The RSC will consider setting up a working group to examine the concept of "official language" in RDA. This will be discussed further when setting up the three-year operational plan.

The five (now four) elements are:
- Corporate Body: preferred name of corporate body
- Corporate Body: category of corporate body
- Corporate Body: category of government
- Place: preferred name of place

2   Membership

Peter Rolla, USA, Chair

Christel Kayser, Luxembourg
Hannes Lowagie, Belgium
Daniel Paradis, Canada (from 2023; formerly RSC Translations Team Liaison Officer and ex officio member of the Working Group)
Hanock Roniger, Israel
Valentina Sebastiani, Switzerland

Szabolcs Dancs, Hungary, RSC Translations Team Liaison Officer, ex officio

3   Terms of Reference

The Working Group operated within RSC/Operations/3, the general terms of reference for RSC Working Groups. As a task-and-finish group, the Working Group had a two-year term, 2022-2023. It completed its work within that time-frame, with implementation carried out by the RSC Secretary and RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer for the 2024 Toolkit Release.

4   Tasks

1. Reviewed the documents in the reference sources section for fuller context of the issues.

2. Reviewed the elements and instructions related to "official language" in both the original Toolkit and official Toolkit and evaluate the intended cataloguing outcomes for each.

3. Discussed whether the concept of "official language" should be retained in base RDA. Considered the potential need for changes to other elements.

4. Prepared a proposal for RSC review, complying with in RSC/Operations/4 and RSC/Operations/5.

Document Number	Document Date	Distribution Date
RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1	27 June 2023	27 June 2023
RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1/EOO	12 July 2023	12 July 2023
RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1/EURIG response	12 July 2023	12 July 2023
RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1/NARDAC response	12 July 2023	12 July 2023
RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1/ORDAC response	10 July 2023	10 July 2023
RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1/RDA Examples Editor response	12 July 2023	12 July 2023

RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1/TranslationsTLO	10 July 2023	10 July 2023
RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1/TTLO response	13 July 2023	13 July 2023
RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1/WCEO response	12 July 2023	12 July 2023
RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1/Decisions	15 September 2023	15 September 2023

5. Provided brief progress reports to the RSC for each meeting:
    - RSC/ Minutes/Restricted/332-343 Item 334
    - RSC/Minutes/362-372 Item 366.2
    - RSC/Minutes/393-412 Item 399.6 (and proposal at Item 409)
    - RSC/Minutes/413-443/datecorrected Item 437.3
    - RSC/Minutes/444-455 Items 446.1.1 and 453.1

6. Provide a final report to the RSC in December 2023.
    The Official Languages Working Group provided an interim report to the RSC Meeting in June 2022 (RSC/Minutes/Restricted/332-343 Item 334). This report was restricted because it reflected interim work, but now that work has been completed, it can be included here (Appendix).

    The Working Group submitted its proposal RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1 – [Proposal on] Preferred Names and Official Languages of Corporate Bodies, Governments and Places in RDA for discussion at the July 2023 meeting of the RSC. The discussion at the July Meeting is recorded as Item 409 in RSC/Minutes/393-412 (and with stable URI in the repository).

    Following discussion in July 2023, RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1/Decisions (website | repository) was created in September 2023 with the intention of implementation in the January 2024 release of the RDA Toolkit, but following discussion of RSC/Places/WG/2023/2 in October 2023, it was decided to complete implementation of the proposals from the Places/Jurisdiction Working Group first. These have been completed and

RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1/Decisions will be implemented in the next Toolkit Release.

5   Reference sources provided to the Working Group in 2022

- [RSC/Minutes/Public/159-204](#) Appendix Item 173: Fast Track Proposal 01. Corporate Body: preferred name of corporate body > Names of corporate body in more than one language.
- [RSC/Minutes/Public/159-204](#) Appendix Item 173: Glennan analysis of Language of Corporate Body.

Appendix

Progress report of the Official Languages Working Group, June 2022 (RSC/Minutes/Restricted/332-343 Item 334)
[Submitted to the RSC] June 23, 2022

The Official Languages Working Group spent the first half of 2022 essentially laying the foundation for our future work and for our ultimate recommendation to the RSC. We are still moving slowly, due both to the challenges of getting momentum going for an international group, as well as needing to wait until after the March 2022 update to RDA to confirm any changes to the current text of RDA.

The concrete steps we have taken are:
- Individually, the members have reviewed the relevant documents, including Daniel Paradis's original Fast Track Proposal on this topic
- We met once as a group via Zoom to get to know each other, as well as to give each member a chance to discuss their unique situation regarding language diversity. Except for the chair, all of the members of the group come from countries (and libraries) that are officially bi- or multilingual, and each library represented has specific policies around languages and names of corporate bodies.
- Similar discussions on the needs and policies of the libraries represented have taken place on Basecamp, providing us with written documentation of the concerns of the various libraries and countries represented.

Next Steps
- First, evaluate the new (post-March 2022) text of RDA to determine if it has changed at all from the version or versions of the text we were working with earlier, including the version in Daniel's original Fast Track proposal.

- Compare the various policies, needs, and viewpoints of the libraries represented on the group and try to distill common ideas that can then inform our final recommendation.

The working group should finish the above two steps by the end of 2022, before the next progress report will be due. At that point we should be able to then turn the second step above into final recommendations, which we can write and submit to the RSC in 2023.