To: RDA Steering Committee
From: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
Subject: Religious Titles

The text below sets out the decisions taken by the RDA Steering Committee during the Public Session on 2 August 2023 (part of its July Meeting).

The original proposal, RSC/ReligionsWG/1, is available on the RSC website and with a stable URI in the institutional repository. The discussion at the July Meeting is recorded as Item 408 in RSC/Minutes/393-412 (and with stable URI in the repository).

RSC/ReligionsWG/1 consisted of 4 recommendations relating to access points for religious titles. It was approved on a majority vote on the understanding that all these options were covered in RDA by the general option (06.58.35.33) to “Include an appropriate designation associated with a person in a language preferred by the agent who creates the metadata.” There was one absence and one acceptance. The RSC accepted Past Chair Kathy Glennan’s suggestion (RSC/Minutes/393-412 Item 408.6) to delay implementation until issues dealing with elements were resolved, as highlighted in the UKCoR’s response (RSC/Minutes/393-412 Appendix 408.3). These highlighted the elements term of rank or honour or office and creator corporate body of work and the glossary term official communication.
This Decisions document, therefore, summarises decisions made at the July 2023 Meeting which will not be implemented in the RDA Toolkit until 2024.

**RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/1 Recommendations**

**Recommendation 1**

12.30.01.55 access point for person. Additional elements and designations in access points for person. Option 10.

*Marked-up version*

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OPTION
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Include the term Pope or Antipope.

*Clean version*

[Option removed from base RDA to Community Resources]

**Recommendation 2**

61.58.07.41 access point for person. Additional elements and designations in access points for person. Option 11.

*Marked-up version*

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OPTION
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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

[Option removed from base RDA to Community Resources]

Recommendation 3

23.68.15.86 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

[Option removed from base RDA to Community Resources]

Recommendation 4

90.06.00.10 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:

[Option removed from base RDA to Community Resources]