

Proposal to Revise Term of Rank or Honour or Office

Prepared by the Religions Working Group for the October 2023 meeting of the RSC

Abstract

We are proposing changes to the instructions for the element [Person: term of rank or honour or office](#) (<http://rdaregistry.info/Elements/a/P50110>). This is related to tasks 2 and 3 of our charge ([RSC/Chair/2023/4](#)) to review instructions that address religious agents and to consider where general, internationally applicable instructions should be placed and how they should be framed. Our proposal would eliminate some conditions, condition options, and options that are specific to Christian denominations from base RDA, add a new general condition and condition option group that is not specific to Christianity, and generalize the condition group on terms of address for religious vocation. As always, individual communities can choose to keep removed instructions in their application profiles. We also propose a change to the definition of the element to make it applicable to religious denominations beyond those in Christianity.

Background

This proposal complements [RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/1](#), which proposed to eliminate the instruction related to adding these titles in access points for persons as they are covered by other instructions.

Justification

The instructions for **Popes** ([38.91.64.22](#)) and **Bishops, etc.** ([83.87.64.58](#)) are a legacy from AACR2 that are specific to ecclesiastical ranks for Christian denominations. We believe these instructions are better suited to a place specific to a cataloging community that needs them such as policy statements or the Community Resources part of the Toolkit. Therefore, we propose to delete these instructions and generalize the remaining instructions on religious titles. Then the appropriate communities can determine how best to provide these instructions outside of base RDA.

Our proposed change to the instructions on a term of address for a person of religious vocation would eliminate the restriction on recording such a term for a person that also holds a term of rank in a religious denomination. We believe this is a legacy practice from AACR2 in which these terms were only recorded as part of headings for persons. Because this is an element identifying a person, we see no reason why both could not be recorded. We also see no reason why there should be a restriction on how many terms are recorded, and therefore our proposed revisions eliminate the instruction about which term to record if there are two or more such terms for persons of religious vocation.

Impact

We believe that existing practices for describing most persons with ecclesiastical rank or office are still valid with our proposed revisions. The generalized instruction we are proposing to replace the ones about popes and bishops, etc., provides the means to add policy statements that would address those specific ecclesiastical ranks. The exception to this is where offices hold a mix of secular and religious power. However, these cases can be covered with community policies.

The RDA Registry will need to be updated to reflect the change in definition to the element if this proposal is approved.

We believe that existing examples in the deleted instructions could be moved to other instructions and examples involving these persons in other parts of the Toolkit will still be valid.

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, ~~ecclesiastical rank,~~ or 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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term of rank or honour or office

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Use for: title of person

1B Toolkit Text

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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 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 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 in a spelling found in dictionaries in a language preferred by the agent who creates the metadata.~~

OPTION

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

[...]

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Persons of religious vocation

OPTION

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

[...]