

To: RDA Steering Committee
From: Kathy Glennan, RSC Chair
Subject: Place/Jurisdiction Working Group, 2022-2023

This document sets out the membership, terms of reference, and specific tasks for the Place/Jurisdiction Working Group.

The purpose of the Place/Jurisdiction Working Group is to support the improvement of the RDA standard by examining the concepts of place and jurisdiction (corporate body) and their associated definitions and instructions in RDA. The primary deliverable is a discussion paper or a proposal (or both if needed) with recommendations for disentangling the semantics and clarifying the instructions.

1 Background

Work was done on this topic in 2014 by the Technical Working Group and in 2015 by the Places Working Group prior to the implementation of the IFLA LRM model; their papers are linked in the Reference Sources section below.

The minutes to the 2018 RSC meeting in Montréal say:

132.4 Place and jurisdiction: The RSC hoped to be able to sort out the semantics for places and corporate names as part of the 3R Project, but it may not be possible before the English text is stable. If not, this issue will be added to a list of post-3R development efforts. The American law community may have some opinions about this and should be consulted.

At the 2019 meeting in Santiago, it was agreed to set up a Working Group to address place/jurisdiction issues as part of the 2021 work plan.

2 Membership

Esther Scheven, Germany, Chair
Amit Biv, Israel
Robert Bratton, USA
Nerissa Lindsey, USA

Damian Iseminger, RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer, ex officio

3 Terms of Reference

The Working Group operates within [RSC/Operations/3](#), the general terms of reference for RSC Working Groups. As a task-and-finish group, the Working Group has a two-year term, 2022-2023.

4 Tasks

1. Review the documents in the reference sources section for fuller context of the issues.
2. Review the elements and instructions related to place and jurisdiction in both the original Toolkit and official Toolkit and evaluate the intended cataloguing outcomes for each. This includes elements in Nomen and Work entities, as well as in Corporate Body and Place. The RSC has a commitment to not unnecessarily disrupting cataloguing data created by earlier versions of RDA.
3. Discuss how these concepts should be clarified or refined in RDA. Consider the impact on legacy data and, if needed, mitigation strategies.
4. Prepare a discussion paper or proposal (or both if needed) for RSC review.

A discussion paper may request RSC feedback on issues or options, ask questions and/or suggest possible next steps. Discussion papers typically precede formal proposals to choose among multiple possibilities, or if the path isn't clear.

A proposal should have specific implementation recommendations for elements and/or guidance, including for the RDA Registry (new or re-defined elements, semantics, hierarchy) and for RDA instructions (guidance, principles, conditions and options).

Either document may identify problem areas where further consultation is needed and provide recommendations for next steps where feasible. More information is available in [RSC/Operations/4](#) and [RSC/Operations/5](#), and proposals that can be considered models are on the [2021 Documents page](#). Questions may be sent to the RSC at any time from the working group chair to the RSC Chair.

5. Provide brief progress reports to the RSC in June and December 2022 and in June 2023.

6. Provide a final report to the RSC in December 2023.

5 Reference sources

- [6JSC/PlacesWG/1](#) (and responses) – Place as an RDA entity (2015). See especially the ALA LC, and UK responses
- [Minutes of the 2015 JSC meeting](#) – agenda item 555 describes the discussion and decisions related to 6JSC/PlacesWG/1
- [6JSC/TechnicalWG/4](#) (and responses) -- Court and Jurisdiction in RDA (2014)
- [Minutes of the 2014 JSC meeting](#) – agenda item 494 describes the discussion and decisions related to 6JSC/TechnicalWG/4
- [RDA-L thread](#) “Jurisdiction governed/Jurisdiction governed of” August 1-3, 2021