

**To:** RDA Steering Committee  
Place/Jurisdiction Working Group

**From:** Renate Behrens, RSC Chair

**Subject:** Discharge of Place/Jurisdiction Working Group

As agreed at the January 2024 RSC Meeting, this document discharges the members of the Place/Jurisdiction Working Group.

As set out in [RSC/Chair/2022/3](#), the purpose of the Place/Jurisdiction Working Group was 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. Established in 2022 by RSC Chair Kathy Glennan, it prepared [RSC/Places/2023/1 – Jurisdictions, Governments and Courts in RDA](#), which was discussed in the Public Session of the May 2023 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/373-392](#) Item 380) and [RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2 – Revision of Corporate Body: jurisdiction governed and Place: jurisdiction governed of](#), which was discussed in the Public Session of the October 2023 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/413-443](#) Item 418). [RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1/Decisions](#) was implemented in the RDA Toolkit in the July 2023 release and [RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2/Decisions](#) was implemented in the RDA Toolkit in the January 2024 release.

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 Place/Jurisdiction Working Group and provides links to relevant documentation.

## 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 Niv, Israel

Robert Bratton, USA

Nerissa Lindsey, USA

Damian Iseminger, RSC Technical 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 place and jurisdiction in both the original Toolkit and official Toolkit and evaluated the intended cataloguing outcomes for each. This included 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. Discussed how these concepts should be clarified or refined in RDA. Considered the impact on legacy data and mitigation strategies.
4. Prepared two proposals for RSC review, complying with in [RSC/Operations/4](#) and [RSC/Operations/5](#).

<b>Document Number</b>	<b>Document Date</b>	<b>Distribution Date</b>
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1</a>	21 April 2023	23 April 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1/EEO response</a>	3 May 2023	3 May 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1/EURIG response</a>	2 May 2023	2 May 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1/NARDAC response</a>	3 May 2023	4 May 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1/ORDAC response</a>	3 May 2023	3 May 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1/RDA Examples Editor response</a>	4 May 2023	4 May 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1/TranslationsTLO</a>	3 May 2023	3 May 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1/TTWG response</a>	16 May 2023	17 May 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1/WCEO response</a>	3 May 2023	4 May 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1/summary</a>	9 May 2023	9 May 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1/Decisions</a>	6 June 2023	6 June 2023

<b>Document Number</b>	<b>Document Date</b>	<b>Distribution Date</b>
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2</a>	31 July 2023	5 September 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2/EEO</a>	25 September 2023	2 October 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2/EURIG response</a>	2 October 2023	2 October 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2/NARDAC response</a>	22 September 2023	2 October 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2/ORDAC response</a>	29 September 2023	2 October 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2/RDA Examples Editor response</a>	2 October 2023	3 October 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2/TranslationsTLO</a>	3 October 2023	4 October 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2/TTWG response</a>	21 September 2023	2 October 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2/WCEO response</a>	2 October 2023	3 October 2023

<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2/Summary</a>	10 October 2023	10 October 2023
<a href="#">RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2/Decisions</a>	23 January 2024	23 January 2024

5. Provided brief progress reports to the RSC for each meeting:

- RSC/ Minutes/Restricted/332-343 Item 334
- [RSC/Minutes/362-372](#) Item 366.3
- [RSC/Minutes/373-391](#) Item 380
- [RSC/Minutes/393-412](#) Item 399.5
- [RSC/Minutes/413-443/datecorrected](#) Items 418 and 437.4
- [RSC/Minutes/444-455](#) Items 446.1.1 and 453.1

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

The Place/Jurisdiction Working Group provided two interim reports to the RSC Meeting in June 2022 ([RSC/Minutes/Restricted/332-343 Item 334](#)) and December 2022 ([RSC/Minutes/Restricted/362-372 Item 366.3](#)). These reports were restricted because they reflected interim work, but now that work has been completed, they can be included here ([Appendix](#)).

In its first proposal, the Place/Jurisdiction Working Group examined the treatment of jurisdiction as “a place that is governed by a law, regulation, constitution, court rule, or other legislation enacted by a corporate body that is a government” in RDA and proposed changes RDA to harmonize this concept with elements related to corporate bodies that are governments and courts.

The RSC discussed this proposal at length in its public session in May 2023, and approved three of its seven recommendations. The original proposal, [RSC/PlacesWG/1](#), is available [on the RSC website](#) and with a stable URI [in the institutional repository](#). The discussion at the May Meeting is recorded as Item 380 in [RSC/Minutes/373-392](#) (and with stable URI [in the repository](#)).

The three approved recommendations in RSC/PlacesWG/1/Decisions ([website | repository](#)) were implemented in the RDA Toolkit in July 2023.

In May 2023, [RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1](#) made several recommendations for removing ambiguity concerning the use of the term jurisdiction in RDA. Recommendations 4 and 7 from the proposal were withdrawn at the meeting due to RSC objections ([RSC/Minutes/372-392](#) Item 380.4) and so the Place/Jurisdiction Working book considered the best way to deal with the issues and returned in October 2023 with a fresh proposal.

[RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2](#) is available [on the RSC website](#) and with a stable URI [in the institutional repository](#). The discussion in the meeting is recorded as Item 418 in [RSC/Minutes/413-443](#) (and with stable URI [in the repository](#)).

All three recommendations were approved by the RSC, with the additional change of wording from “place governed of” to “place governed by” to reflect the more usual preposition used in standard English. RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2/Decisions ([website](#) | [repository](#)) was implemented in the January 2024 RDA Toolkit release.

## 5 Reference sources provided to the Working Group in 2022

- [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

## Appendix

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

Submitted by Esther Scheven  
17 June 2022

The Place/Jurisdiction Working Group started its work.

The members are: Esther Scheven, Germany (Chair), Amit Niv, Israel, Robert Bratton, USA, Nerissa Lindsey, USA, Damian Iseminger, USA.

The Working Group works with a wiki from the German National Library (there the tasks of the RSC-Chair are uploaded) and by video calls every few weeks (up to the 17th of June: four video calls).

The Working group started with the task 1 "Review the documents in the reference sources section for fuller context of the issues." To achieve this, all documents were uploaded or linked in the wiki. The working group did check the references and determined the document 6JSC/TechnicalWG/4 as the most important.

Up to June 2022 the Working group did focus on the task to check, if their recommendations of the document 6JSC/TechnicalWG/4 were implemented in the official toolkit.

In the quoted document there are 8 recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Replace the term "political jurisdiction" in RDA with "political body" or a similar term, and the term "religious jurisdiction" in RDA with "religious body" or a similar term.

Recommendation 2: Replace references in the RDA instructions to the unqualified term "jurisdiction" with a specific term chosen from "political body", "religious body", "territorial jurisdiction", "ecclesiastical jurisdiction", or similar terms, or other general terms established in RDA such as "place", as indicated in Table 1

Recommendation 3: Encourage the use of a vocabulary encoding scheme for the RDA element Type of Corporate Body but do not specify a scheme.

Recommendation 4: Add a definition for the RDA element Type of Corporate Body. A scope note should be added to clarify the inclusion of political body, religious body, and court.

Recommendation 5: Add a definition for the RDA element Type of jurisdiction. A scope note should be added to clarify the inclusion of territorial jurisdiction and ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

Recommendation 6: Add a definition and scope note for the RDA term "jurisdiction" to the RDA Glossary. The definition should indicate that a jurisdiction is a place.

Recommendation 7: Add a definition and scope note for the RDA term "court" to the RDA Glossary. The definition should indicate that a court is a corporate body.

Recommendation 8: Amend the definitions of the relationship designators appellant, appellee, enacting jurisdiction and jurisdiction governed. Amend the label of the relationship designator enacting jurisdiction.

Most of the recommendations from 6JSC/TechnicalWG/4 have already been implemented in RDA Toolkit.

Five of the eight recommendations deal with „jurisdiction“.

Therefore we have focused on the topic of „jurisdiction“. After review, „jurisdiction“ should continued to be used as defined in RDA Toolkit. It is common use that the government of a jurisdiction is named according its geographic name, the place. The name of a jurisdiction, we call it „place“, is used for the government of this place. Laws of a jurisdiction (place) are listed under the place name not under the parliament which passes the law.

A jurisdiction is a specific type of a geographic entity. A jurisdiction is a place governed by a government. Although the word „jurisdiction“ is not a word often heard in everyday speech it should be maintained in RDA to provide the necessary clearness.

„Jurisdiction“ and „government“ are defined in the glossary of the RDA Toolkit. There are some text passages where „jurisdiction“ is not correctly used in the toolkit. These passages should be corrected. The WG Places has already listed these corrections. The definitions could be improved and will be presented in a future proposal.

If RSC will confirm the results of WG Places, WG Places will submit an appropriate proposal for the next meeting of RSC

## [Progress report of the Official Languages Working Group, June 2022 \(RSC/Minutes/Restricted/362-372 Item 366.3\)](#)

Submitted by Esther Scheven  
19 December 2022

The members are: Esther Scheven, Germany (Chair), Amit Niv, Israel, Robert Bratton, USA, Nerissa Lindsey, USA, Damian Iseminger, USA.

The Working Group works with a wiki from the German National Library (there the tasks of the RSC-Chair are uploaded) and by video calls every few weeks (up to the 19th of December: eight video calls).

From June to December we focus on the term "jurisdiction".



A jurisdiction is a specific type of a geographic entity. A jurisdiction is a place governed by a government. Although the word "jurisdiction" is not a word often heard in everyday speech it should be maintained in RDA to provide the necessary clearness.

"Jurisdiction" and "government" are defined in the glossary of the RDA Toolkit. There are some text passages where "jurisdiction" is not correctly used in the toolkit. These passages should be corrected. The WG Places has already listed these corrections. The definitions could be improved and will be presented in a future proposal.

We focussed on a proposal to amend the present RDA and discussed a draft of Damian. The final proposal should be submitted in March.