

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
From: Robert L. Maxwell, NARDAC representative to RDA Steering Committee
Subject: Response to RSC/Examples Editor/2024/1 – Proposal to add glossary definitions for *fictitious entity* and *non-human entity*

NARDAC generally supports this proposal but has some wording suggestions.

We suggest using “outside the scope of RDA” rather than “external to RDA.” We realize that the phrase has been used in seven existing elements (see following paragraph), but the difference (if any) between this phrase and “outside the scope of RDA” (used in two Guidance chapters, [Introduction to RDA](#) and [Data elements](#)) is unclear. If there is no distinction between these two we recommend that the language be regularized throughout RDA. We prefer “outside the scope of RDA” as more precise than “external to RDA”.

If NARDAC’s suggestion is accepted, the language in these elements should also be revised: [Fictitious and non-human appellations](#) (Guidance chapter), [manifestation title and responsibility statement](#), [name of producer](#), [name of distributor](#), [name of agent of manifestation](#), [name of manufacturer](#), [name of publisher](#), [statement of responsibility](#).

In addition to using the phrase “outside the scope” we also suggest somewhat more extensive rewording of the first paragraph of each recommendation, and replacement of the article “the” with “an” in the final paragraph of each (see our suggested rewording below).

We also suggest that the first sentence of the scope note of *non-human entity* might be difficult to parse for translators. We recommend rearranging some of the words to clarify which names are qualified by the adjectives *legendary* or *mythological* (see our suggested rewording below).

Finally, we also note that existing language in Guidance > [Fictitious and non-human](#) appellations may need to be re-examined, especially use of the term “fictitious personage.” The word “personage” isn’t defined in RDA. It would seem to refer to an association with the agent Person but the instructions suggest it is being used more broadly and can relate to any Agent entity. It might be possible simply to replace the word “personage” with “entity.”

Recommendation 1: Add a glossary definition for fictitious entity.

Approve. Recommended wording:

~~An entity that is external to RDA and that may be considered by users to be an invention of a human mind.~~

An entity that is outside the scope of RDA and that is a conceptual creation originating from human imagination, representing a character, a place, an event, or other entity that does not exist in reality.

An appellation of ~~the~~ an entity may appear in a manifestation statement or reference source or may be the subject of a work.

*See also: **non-human entity**.*

Recommendation 2: Add a glossary definition for non-human entity.

Approve. Recommended wording:

~~An entity that is external to RDA that exhibits characteristics users may associate with an agent.~~

An entity that is outside the scope of RDA and that exhibits characteristics typically associated with agents, but does not possess human attributes.

Includes non-human animals, spirits, deities, and legendary or mythological beings, ~~spirits, and deities,~~ and automated processes that may or may not exhibit some human characteristics.

An appellation of ~~the~~ an entity may appear in a manifestation statement or reference source or may be the subject of a work.

*See also: **fictitious entity***