

To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Charlotte Christensen, ORDAC representative

Subject: Formal response to RSC/NARDAC/2025/1 - Proposal on numerals associated with given names

ORDAC thanks NARDAC for this proposal which improves the international applicability of RDA. We support the proposal as written, and endorse the recommended changes.

Numbers that are not regnal

While we are very much in favour of the recommendations, the proposal did raise a related issue. There are situations where the numbering - in whatever numbering form it appears - are not in fact representative of regnal numbers but instead could be considered part of a value of Person: [term of rank or honour or office](#). These are not associated with a particular given name which has been used more than once, but instead to do with the office itself.

Examples would include Tibetan Buddhist names such as in the existing LC authorities:

Bstan-'dzin-rgya-mtsho, Dalai Lama XIV, 1935-

(<https://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n80079447.html>) and **Dkon-mchog 'Jigs-med-dbang-**

po, 'Jam-dbyangs-bzhad-pa II, 1728-1791

(<https://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n91055487.html>)

This also occurs with the Māori monarch in New Zealand such as **Tuuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero, VII, 1955-2024**, (<https://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/no2022142890.html>) who was the seventh Māori monarch, but all six predecessors had different names.

This situation is not explicitly covered by existing RDA options and could easily be confused for regnal numbers in examples, so it will be important to ensure that all examples gathered for the changes recommended by NARDAC are in fact appropriate. The issue around these non-regnal numbers would require a separate proposal to resolve and is not intended to delay the progression of the current proposal.

Recommendation 1

ORDAC approves of this recommendation.

Recommendation 2

ORDAC approves of this recommendation.

Recommendation 3

ORDAC approves of this recommendation.