

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
Cc: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
From: Chris Holden, RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer
Subject: Formal response to RSC/NARDAC/2025/1 – Proposal on numerals associated with given names

The Technical Working Group thanks NARDAC for their proposal, which helps to further the international scope of RDA and to remove instances of Western bias from the standard.

Recommendation #1: Under [Preferred names of person that include neither a surname nor a term of rank of nobility](#), revise the first condition option ([64.31.88.71](#)).

Approve.

Recommendation #2: Under [Names of person that include neither a surname nor a term of rank of nobility](#), revise the condition option ([41.40.53.39](#)).

Approve.

Recommendation #3: Add a definition and scope of “regnal number” to the Glossary.

Approve, with amendments.

Members of the Technical Working Group had several minor notes on terminology:

For consistency, the Glossary definition should be in the present tense, with the verb in the first sentence reading as “hold” instead of “held.”

The use of “name” in the Glossary definition is ambiguous, and the RDA term “given name” would be clearer.

The phrase “names of monarchs and other royals or ecclesiastics” in the Glossary does not match the phrase used in the text of RDA (“in the case of some popes, royalty, and ecclesiastics”). The phrase from the text dates back to AACR2 and may be worth reviewing in light of the work of the Religions in RDA Working Group.

For clarity, the Technical Working Group suggests rewording the Glossary definition for regnal number:

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regnal number

A number used ~~primarily~~ in combination with a given names of monarchs and other royals or ecclesiastics ~~a person~~ in order to identify, sequence, or distinguish ~~among~~ persons who ~~held~~ hold an regal or ecclesiastical office ~~under the same name~~.

A regnal number may be expressed as a roman numeral, or using another numbering system, such as an arabic numeral, a spelled-out number, or a combination of a numeral with a word, abbreviation, ordinal suffix or symbol.

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regnal number

A number used in combination with a given name of a person in order to identify, sequence, or distinguish persons who hold a regal or ecclesiastical office.

A regnal number may be expressed as a roman numeral, or using another numbering system, such as an arabic numeral, a spelled-out number, or a combination of a numeral with a word, abbreviation, ordinal suffix or symbol.