To: RDA Steering Committee

From: NARDAC

Subject: Proposal on numerals associated with given names

Background

Under both authorized access point for person and variant access point for person RDA has a condition option to "Treat a roman numeral associated with a given name as an integral part of the name (e.g., in the case of some popes, royalty, and ecclesiastics)" (RDA 17.05.43.58 ; RDA 13.42.83.17) This use of just "roman numeral" in these options reflects a bias toward Western languages and Anglo-American cataloging traditions, and does not correspond to the principle of representation.

This proposal seeks to accommodate other types of numbers that are associated with a given name and that are an integral part of the name. The standard term for such numbers is *regnal* numbers[1] (or numerals), regardless of the numbering system used; that is, ordinal numbers used with the names of regnants or holders of the same office (primarily monarchs and other royalty; popes and other ecclesiastics) who also bear the same regnal name (the name adopted by the regnant during their reign or tenure, and by which they are subsequently referred to; this may or not be the same as their given name at birth). The regnal number may be used by the person during their reign or tenure, or it may be assigned subsequently based on the chronological sequence of regnants. The number generally serves to distinguish and identify regnants with the same regnal name (e.g., King Charles I, King Charles II; Pope Alexander III; Pope Alexander VI).

While roman numerals are commonly used in association with names in Western languages and in Latin script, other types of numbers are often found in association with names in other languages, especially in languages that use non-Roman scripts. Neither AACR2 nor RDA contain instructions for (or examples of) regnal numbers in other numerical forms associated with names, nor do they explicitly instruct catalogers to convert other numerals associated with names into roman numerals in order to consider them part of the name. Especially in cases involving multiple languages and scripts, it may be useful to record numeration in a form consistent with the script and language of the name with which it is found, even if these are not roman numerals.

As RDA is intended to be international in scope, it makes sense to revise current instructions that refer only to roman numerals to allow any type of number associated with a given name to be

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[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regnal_number "Regnal numbers are ordinal numbers used to distinguish among persons with the same name who held the same office"

treated as an integral part of the name. For some examples, consider the following access points that can represent the same person (associated regnal numbers highlighted):

Nicholas I, Emperor of Russia, 1796-1855
Николай Первый, Emperor of Russia, 1796-1855

Nebuchadnezzar II, King of Babylonia, -562 B.C.
Ναβουχοδονόσορ Β', King of Babylonia, -562 B.C.
尼布甲尼撒 二世, King of Babylonia, -562 B.C.
ネブカドネザル 2世, King of Babylonia, -562 B.C.
네부카드네자르 2세, King of Babylonia, -562 B.C.
เนบูคัดเนสซาร์ ที่ 2, King of Babylonia, -562 B.C.
நெபுகாத்நேசர் இரண்டாம், King of Babylonia, -562 B.C.
নেবুচাদনেজার দ্বিতীয়, King of Babylonia, -562 B.C.

John XXIII, Pope, 1881-1963
若望 二十三世, Pope, 1881-1963
요한 23세, Pope, 1881-1963
ヨハネ 23世, Pope, 1881-1963
Ιωάννης ΚΓ΄, Pope, 1881-1963
Иоанн XXIII, Pope, 1881-1963
Иоанн Двадцать Третий, Pope, 1881-1963
जॉन तेविसावा, Pope, 1881-1963
ዮሐንስ 23ኛ, Pope, 1881-1963
ယွှာန ၂၃, 1881-1963

Gustav VI Adolf, King of Sweden, 1882-1973
Густав VI Адольф, King of Sweden, 1882-1973
Густав VI Адолф, King of Sweden, 1882-1973
Густаў VI Адольф, King of Sweden, 1882-1973
古斯塔夫 六世·阿道夫, King of Sweden, 1882-1973
グスタフ 6世アドルフ, King of Sweden, 1882-1973
구스타프 6세 아돌프, King of Sweden, 1882-1973
Γουσταύος ΣΤ΄ Αδόλφος, King of Sweden, 1882-1973

Under current RDA instructions, only forms with roman numerals can be used in either authorized or variant access points, regardless of whether the name is found in a language/script that uses other kinds of numbers.

Impact statements

Impact of proposed changes on users

Impact, if any, would be positive, allowing database users to see regnal numbers associated with name in the commonly-known form they expect.

Impact of proposed changes on cataloguers

Minimal impact. Cataloguers would need to consider types of mumerals aside from roman numerals that can be associated with a given name.

Impact of proposed changes on legacy data

Policy writers would need to consider whether the change should be applied restrospectively or only prospectively. RDA does not require adjustment of legacy data.

Impact of proposed changes on RDA

The proposed changes require changes to two places within the text of RDA and the addition of a glossary entry.

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):

Marked-up copy:

CONDITION
A value of Person: name of person does not include a value of Person: surname.

> **CONDITION OPTION**
> Record a value that is a part of the name under which a person is listed in a *source of information* as the first part.
>
> Treat a ~~roman numeral~~ regnal number associated with a given name as an integral part of the name (e.g., in the case of some popes, royalty, and ecclesiastics).

Clean copy:

CONDITION

A value of Person: name of person does not include a value of Person: surname.

    CONDITION OPTION

    Record a value that is a part of the name under which a person is listed in a *source of information* as the first part.

    Treat a regnal number associated with a given name as an integral part of the name (e.g., in the case of some popes, royalty, and ecclesiastics).

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):

Marked-up copy:

A value of Person: name of person does not include a value of Person: surname.

A person is not identified by a term of rank of nobility.

A person is commonly associated with a place of origin or residence, an occupation, or other characteristics in manifestations associated with the person or in reference sources.

    CONDITION OPTION

    Record the name using as the first element the words or phrases for a place of origin or residence, an occupation, or other characteristic, followed by the part of the name under which the person is listed in reference sources.

    Treat a ~~roman numeral~~ regnal number associated with a given name as an integral part of the name (e.g., in the case of some popes, royalty, and ecclesiastics).

Clean copy:

A value of Person: name of person does not include a value of Person: surname.

A person is not identified by a term of rank of nobility.

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Record the name using as the first element the words or phrases for a place of origin or residence, an occupation, or other characteristic, followed by the part of the name under which the person is listed in reference sources.

Treat a regnal number associated with a given name as an integral part of the name (e.g., in the case of some popes, royalty, and ecclesiastics).

Recommendation #3

Add a definition and scope of "regnal number" to the Glossary.

regnal number

A number used primarily in combination with names of monarchs and other royals or ecclesiastics in order to identify, sequence, or distinguish among persons who held an 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.