

Proposal to Revise Name of Corporate Body

Prepared by the Religions Working Group for the April 2024 meeting of the RSC

Abstract

We are proposing changes to the instructions for the element [Preferred name of corporate body](#).

This is related to tasks 2 and 3 of our charge ([RSC/Chair/2024/4](#)) to review instructions that address religious agents and to consider where general, internationally applicable instructions should be placed and how they should be framed. Our proposal would eliminate some conditions, condition options, and options that are specific to Christian denominations from base RDA, and generalize the condition for religious institutions. As always, individual communities can choose to keep removed instructions in their policy statements/Community Resources.

Background

This proposal complements [RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/1](#) and [RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2](#), which proposed to eliminate the instruction related to adding titles in access points for persons as they are covered by other instructions.

Justification

The instructions for [Local places of Worship](#) are a legacy from AACR2 that are specific to Christian denominations. We believe these instructions are better suited to a place specific to a cataloging community that needs them such as policy statements or the Community Resources

part of the Toolkit. Therefore, we propose to generalize the instructions on religious institutions. Then the appropriate communities can determine how best to provide these instructions outside of base RDA.

Impact

We believe that existing practices for describing most religious institutions are still valid with our proposed revisions. The generalized instruction we are proposing to replace the existing instructions regarding places of worship provide the means to add policy statements that would address those specific institutions.

We believe that existing examples in the deleted instructions could be moved to other instructions and examples involving these persons in other parts of the Toolkit will still be valid.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

Remove the instructions on church councils from [Ancient and international bodies](#); these can fall under the general instructions for corporate bodies. Furthermore, the instructions include "religious bodies", which would include church councils.

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Examples of ancient or international bodies include religious bodies, fraternal and knightly orders, ~~church councils~~, and diplomatic conferences.

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Recommendation 2

Remove the instructions on [Autocephalous patriarchates, archdioceses, etc](#); these are specific to one religion and belong in the Community Resources area.

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~~Autocephalous patriarchates, archdioceses, etc.~~

~~CONDITION A corporate body is an ancient autocephalous patriarchate, archdiocese, etc., of the Eastern Church. A corporate body has an official name and a name of place by which it is identified.~~

~~CONDITION OPTION Record a value of Place: name of place of a place by which a corporate body is identified.~~

Recommendation 3

Revise the definition of [Local places of worship](#) to be applicable to all religions.

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Local pPlaces of worship

CONDITION

A corporate body is a religious institution that congregates at a local place of activity.

A value of Corporate Body: [name of corporate body](#) appears in different forms.

CONDITION OPTION

Record a value that appears most frequently in sources of information.

Example ...

CONDITION OPTION

Record a value that is chosen in this order of preference:

1. a form of name containing the name of any person, object, place, community or event to which a ~~local church, etc.~~, place of worship is dedicated or after which it is named
2. a form of name ~~beginning with~~ containing a word or phrase descriptive of a type of ~~local church, etc.~~ place of worship
3. a form of name ~~beginning with~~ containing a name of a place in which a ~~local church, etc.~~, place of worship is or has been situated.

CONDITION OPTION

Record a value that includes the name of a larger corporate body with which the place of worship is affiliated.

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Places of worship

CONDITION

A corporate body is a religious institution that congregates at a local place of activity.

A value of Corporate Body: [name of corporate body](#) appears in different forms.

CONDITION OPTION

Record a value that appears most frequently in sources of information.

Example ...

CONDITION OPTION

Record a value that is chosen in this order of preference:

1. a form of name containing the name of any person, object, place, community or event to which a place of worship is dedicated or after which it is named
2. a form of name containing a word or phrase descriptive of a type of place of worship
3. a form of name containing a name of a place in which a place of worship is or has been situated.

CONDITION OPTION

Record a value that includes the name of a larger corporate body with which the place of worship is affiliated.

Recommendation 4

Add an option to [Religious orders and societies](#) to cover various cases in non-Christian religions.

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(At end of section)

CONDITION OPTION

Use the official name of the organization.

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(At end of section)

CONDITION OPTION

Use the official name of the organization.

Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Remove the instructions on church councils from [Ancient and international bodies](#); these can fall under the general instructions for corporate bodies. Furthermore, the instructions include "religious bodies", which would include church councils.

Recommendation 2: Remove the instructions on [Autocephalous patriarchates, archdioceses, etc](#); these are specific to one religion and belong in the Community Resources area.

Recommendation 3: Revise the definition of [Local places of worship](#) to be applicable to all religions.

Recommendation 4: Add an option to [Religious orders and societies](#) to cover various cases in non-Christian religions.