

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
From: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
Subject: Formal responses to RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1 – Proposal to Revise
Name of Corporate Body

This document collates in tabular form the responses received from voting members of the RSC to [RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1](#), viz.:

- [RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1/EOO](#)
- [RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1/EURIG response](#)
- [RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1/Examples Editor response](#)
- [RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1/NARDAC response](#)
- [RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1/ORDAC response](#)
- [RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1/TranslationsTLO](#)
- [RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1/TTWG response](#)
- [RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1/WCEO response](#)

Recommendation 1	<p>Approved by 7 : EOO, EURIG, Examples Editor, ORDAC, Translations TLO, TTWG, WCEO</p> <p>Approved with amendment by 1 : NARDAC</p>	<p>Note 1: NARDAC suggests the retention of “church councils” in parenthesis</p>
Recommendation 2	<p>Approved by 8 : EOO, EURIG, Examples Editor, NARDAC, ORDAC, Translations TLO, TTWG, WCEO</p>	
Recommendation 3	<p>Approved by 3 : EOO, EURIG, WCEO</p> <p>Approved with amendment by 5 : Examples Editor, NARDAC, ORDAC, Translations TLO, TTWG</p>	<p>Note 2: removal of “local” from CONDITION (Examples Editor, NARDAC, ORDAC, Translations TLO, TTWG)</p> <p>Note 3: NARDAC suggests an alternative wording</p>
Recommendation 4	<p>Approved by 3 : EOO, EURIG, WCEO</p> <p>Clarification requested by 3 : NARDAC, Translations TLO, TTWG</p>	<p>Note 4: Examples Editor highlights an issue with the suggested corporate body instruction.</p>

	Rejected by 2 : Examples Editor , TTWG	Note 5: Clarification is requested by several RSC members (NARDAC , Translations TLO , TTWG).
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Note 1

[NARDAC](#) suggests that some cataloguers may be confused without church councils being mentioned, citing two different ways in which the term “church council” is used (Note from RSC Secretary: the term “church council” is used differently in different Christian denominations and across different countries – the two instances given by NARDAC are not the only ones).

Marked-up copy in RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1:

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

Marked-up copy in RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1/NARDAC response:

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

Note 2

[Examples Editor](#), [NARDAC](#), [ORDAC](#), [Translations TLO](#), and [TTWG](#) suggest the removal of the word “local” in the CONDITION as well as the heading:

Marked-up copy only:

CONDITION

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

Note 3

[NARDAC](#) suggests an alternative wording:

Marked-up copy only:

CONDITION

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

Note 4

[Examples Editor](#) rejects this recommendation, stating “I am not sure how the proposed condition option addresses non-Christian religions”. She also highlights an

issue with the assertion that these bodies can be dealt with under general rules for corporate body:

“The condition for preferred name of corporate body that covers conventional names ([84.78.34.67](#)) does not include a condition option for recording the official name when a corporate body has both an official and conventional name. While this does not preclude adding such a condition option for religious orders and societies, I would prefer consistency among the condition options unless there is a compelling reason to deviate.”

Note 5

Clarification is sought by several RSC members.

[TTWG](#) states that “Pending clarification, the Technical Working Group does not approve of Recommendation 4” and asks for the following clarification:

“The Technical Working Group seeks clarification from the Religions Working Group about why the Option is needed. We surmise it is because some religious traditions would prefer that an official name be used as opposed to a conventional name, even when the conventional name predominates in sources, but we would like to have this confirmed.

If that is the case, the inclusion of such an option has implications for other Condition Options in this element concerning the use of official names. In all cases, when the choice is between an official name or a conventional name, a conventional name is always chosen, provided that conventional name is more well known than the official name.

In fact, for all of the preferred name/title elements, preference is given to the name or title that is the best known, i.e. through statements found on manifestations or found in other sources of information.

All of the preferred name/title elements do include a general option that a value of name/title of an RDA entity may be chosen as a value of a preferred name or title. This option would cover those cases where a less well-known name is preferred, if this is indeed the purpose of the proposed option in Recommendation 4.”

[Translations TLO](#) largely agrees with [NARDAC](#) (see below), and in particular states that “wordings such as ‘A corporate body has a real or official name and a conventional name’ should also be corrected, as the mention of ‘real name’ seems to make no sense here”.

[NARDAC](#) offers extensive feedback, which is reproduced here in its entirety (including footnotes):

“NARDAC could support this recommendation, but has concerns:

1. The addition of a final condition option in **Recommendation 4** is confusing in relation to the existing condition options.

- a. When/why should the *conventional name*, which the RDA Glossary defines as “A name, other than the real or official name, by which a corporate body has come to be known” (i.e., it is presumably the commonly known name of the body), *not* be the basis of the preferred name?
 - b. How does the inclusion of this new condition option enhance the coverage of non-Christian religions in RDA? (As always) examples would be helpful in understanding why adding this option is necessary. We would have liked an explanation as to why preferring an official name is more appropriate for certain religions.
 - c. In short, why is this addition necessary in accomplishing the goal of generalizing and removing Christian bias from religiously-oriented RDA instructions?
2. If this recommendation is accepted as is by RSC, based on wording used elsewhere, the condition option should read:

CONDITION OPTION

Record an official name.

However, we believe there are other issues with the condition and condition options associated with Religious orders and societies that warrant a more extended discussion in the RSC.

The existing language leaves implicit conditions unmentioned. The two existing condition options present an alternative: either a best-known form of the name can be determined and it is then chosen, or such a form cannot be determined and other names can be chosen, in a specific order of preference.

We think it would make more sense and the instructions would be clearer if 1) the implicit conditions were made explicit, resulting in a new set of conditions¹ and 2) the new option were integrated into each set of conditions, preserving the alternative. Some inconsistencies in the wording could also be corrected at the same time:

1. The second line of the condition, “A corporate body has a real or official name and a *conventional name*.” seems strange (aren’t all names real?). Since we believe the real distinction between the two condition options is whether the cataloger is or is not able to determine a well-established form of a name for

¹ This analysis is based on the equivalent instruction in the original toolkit. The instruction about religious orders and societies was placed under 11.2.2.5.4, Conventional Name, as one of many exceptions to the general instruction saying to use a conventional name in the language of the body. The first sentence of the instruction for Religious orders and societies did not mention the terms “conventional name” or “real or official name”, but said to choose “the best-known form of the name in a language preferred by the agency creating the data, if possible.” “In case of doubt” Instructions followed, which became the second condition option in the official toolkit. Some orders only have one name (although the name might exist in more than one language). That is, they might have a “real or official name” but do not have a “real or official name” AND a “conventional name” as specified in the condition. The Suore collegine della Sacra Famiglia example in the official toolkit seems to be such a case. We therefore think that the second line of the first condition, added in the official toolkit, is too restrictive and should not have been included.

the body, not whether it has “real”, “official”, or “conventional” names, we suggest simply deleting that line (see also our analysis of the phrase in footnote 1 on page 2).

2. The term “best-known” in the first condition option is used only here in RDA. We suggest “well-established,” language used elsewhere (e.g. under [Ancient and International bodies](#)) to express this concept.

Our suggested language:

CONDITION

A corporate body is a religious order or society.

~~A corporate body has a real or official name and a *conventional name*.~~

A value of Corporate Body: name of corporate body has become well-established in a language preferred by an agent who creates the metadata.

CONDITION OPTION

~~Record ~~the best-known~~ a well-established form of the name in a language preferred by the agent who creates the metadata.²~~

CONDITION OPTION

Record an official name.

CONDITION

A corporate body is a religious order or society.

A value of Corporate Body: name of corporate body that is well-established in a language preferred by an agent who creates the metadata cannot be determined.

CONDITION OPTION

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

1. a conventional name by which members of a corporate body are known in a language that is preferred by an agent who creates the metadata
2. a form of name in a language that is preferred by an agent who ~~records~~ creates the metadata and used by units of the order or society located in places where that language is spoken
3. a name of the order or society in a language of a place of its origin

CONDITION OPTION

Record an official name.

² The suggested text, including deleting “in a language preferred by the agent who creates the metadata” from the condition option, follows the pattern used under [Ancient and International bodies](#).

Note: NARDAC shares the Examples Editor's concern about Recommendation 4 (RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1/Examples Editor response) but is not prepared to outright reject the recommendation.