To: ALA/ALCTS/CCS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA)
From: CC:DA Task Force on RDA Instructions for Heads of State and Heads of Government
Subject: Final Report

After ALA Annual 2010, CC:DA appointed the Task Force with the following charge:

The CC:DA Task Force on RDA Instructions for Heads of State and Heads of Government is charged with reviewing the current RDA instructions under 11.2.2 on Heads of state and Heads of government to address previously identified concerns of ALA that “the principle behind [having separate rules for recording the Heads of state and the Heads of government] is unclear. … [T]he instructions for these two kinds of officials [should] be consistent, particularly regarding choice of language”. The task force should consider the possibility of merging the two groups of instructions in a rational and principle-based solution, generating appropriate rules revisions to accomplish those ends.

Further, the task force should review the previously drafted proposal for Ruling Executive Bodies — 5JSC/RDA/Full draft/ALA response, p. 19 — to insure that it is consistent with the task force’s recommendations and proposal(s) regarding the instructions for Heads of state and Heads of government. The proposal regarding ruling executive bodies may be included in the Task Force’s proposal(s) or submitted separately.

The task force will submit an interim report at the 2011 ALA Midwinter Meeting and a final report at least a month prior to the 2011 ALA Annual Conference.

The Task Force was formed in August 2010 with the following members:

- John Hostage, Harvard Law School Library
- Robert Rendall, Columbia University Libraries
- Amanda Sprochi, University of Missouri
- Kathy Winzer, Robert Crown Law Library, Stanford Law School
- Bob Wolverton, Mississippi State University Libraries

**Brief Summary of the History of the Rules**

The Task Force first looked at the development of the rules over time. The specific rules for heads of state and colonial governors were introduced in 1949, for heads of government in 1967, and for heads of international intergovernmental organizations in 1978. In RDA, the official language of the jurisdiction is used to create the access point for heads of government, but the language preferred by the agency creating the data is used for heads of state.
A specific instruction to use general terms for heads of state when the title varies with the incumbent was introduced with the 1967 rules (although the 1949 examples already illustrated the use of such terms). In 1978 the wording of this instruction was changed slightly to indicate that this should be done when the title varies specifically with the sex of the incumbent.

**Ruling Executive Bodies**

The Task Force incorporated ruling executive bodies into the combined rule for heads of state and heads of government. A ruling executive body is a government corporate body, and we believe that they could simply be established according to the general rules for government corporate bodies. However, since 19.2.1.1.1(f)(ii) reads: "for decrees of a head of state, chief executive, or ruling executive body", we have included them in this proposal for consistency.

**Extending Use of the Official Language of the Jurisdiction to Heads of State**

We propose to combine RDA 11.2.2.21.1 and 11.2.2.21.2 and specify the use of the language of the jurisdiction to record the title of heads of state. Below are listed some of the presidents of Uruguay currently established in the LC/NAF, sorted as they appear in an alphabetical display in a typical catalog.

- Uruguay. President (1931–1938 : Terra)

Under our proposal, the Spanish term replaces the English term, and the order of the list remains the same:

- Uruguay. Presidente (1931–1938 : Terra)

We recognize that in some cases, when the resource being cataloged is in a language other than that of the jurisdiction, it may be difficult to determine what term should be used. Catalogers may need to establish authorized access points provisionally until the correct term in the language of the jurisdiction can be identified.


  [established provisionally until correct term can be identified]

**Titles That Vary with the Gender of the Incumbent**

Using the official language of the jurisdiction, as we currently do for heads of government and propose to do for heads of state, introduces variations not encountered when English terms are
used. The title used for the office varies with the gender of the incumbent in many languages. The following two access points are constructed according to the current rules for heads of government:

Germany. Bundeskanzlerin (2005– : Merkel)

[The second name is not yet established, but the feminine form is used in official documents.]

These variations have not yet appeared in many established names for heads of government, but they would be more common for heads of state. Many jurisdictions have had both male and female monarchs over the course of their history. These variations are not currently reflected in access points for heads of state because the provision in the current rule instructs the cataloger to use a general term in these cases.

The AACR2 instruction to use a general term in English for heads of state when the title varies by gender produces a list of names in chronological order when the title does not vary in other ways. Since the structure of the access point is Jurisdiction. Title (date-date : Name), they sort by the first date. RDA changes the instruction to use “the language preferred by the agency creating the data (unless there is no equivalent term in that language)” but will also produce a chronologically ordered file if the term used by the agency creating the data is consistent for all incumbents.

Examples constructed using a general term according to the current rules, with English as the language preferred by the agency creating the data (the second and third are included as examples in the current text of RDA):

Spain. Sovereign (1814–1833 : Ferdinand VII)
Spain. Sovereign (1833–1868 : Isabella II)
Spain. Sovereign (1975– : Juan Carlos I)

[Use of a general term produces a chronologically ordered list; if the English words King and Queen were used, the order of the second and third headings would be reversed.]

If it is important to keep this chronological order, a single general term in the language of the jurisdiction could be used in some cases to replace the current general term in English. However, for languages with no gender-neutral term, and for languages unknown to the cataloger, determining such a term would be challenging. At the midwinter 2011 meeting of CC:DA, the Task Force was advised to disregard the chronological ordering of the resulting access points. Therefore, we propose to remove the instruction to use a general term for establishing the access point for individual heads of state, and use the gender-specific term appropriate for each. As a result the order will be affected.

Spain. Reina (1833–1868 : Isabella II)
Spain. Rey (1814–1833 : Ferdinand VII)
Spain. Rey (1975– : Juan Carlos I)

The above solution will not be applicable to authorized access points covering multiple incumbents of the head of state position when the title varies with the gender of the incumbent,
or to those for joint rulers. These access points are needed for compilations of official communications of more than one holder of an office (6.31.1.4). For these instances we suggest that a neutral term that applies to both genders be used, in the official language of the jurisdiction if such a term can be readily determined; otherwise use a term in the language preferred by the agency creating the data.

Great Britain. Sovereign [term representing kings and queens collectively]
Spain. Monarca [term representing kings and queens collectively]
Spain. Monarca (1479–1504 : Ferdinand V and Isabella I) [joint ruler]

Effects of the Proposed Change

The change we are proposing will significantly disturb the current chronological order produced for many existing names when they are sorted alphabetically in OPAC display. However, if the title of the head of state has varied historically for reasons other than gender, the chronological order is disrupted even under current rules. For example, all the presidents of France currently index before the earlier kings, because “France. President” precedes “France. Sovereign” in an alphabetically ordered display. So even now we do not have perfectly chronological sequences of headings for all jurisdictions.

List generated for selected French heads of state by current rules:

France. Sovereign  
France. Sovereign (1774–1792 : Louis XVI)  
France. Sovereign (1814–1824 : Louis XVIII)  
France. Sovereign (1824–1830 : Charles X)  
France. Sovereign (1830–1848 : Louis-Philippe)  
France. Sovereign (1852–1870 : Napoleon III)  
France. Sovereign (923–936 : Raoul)

List generated for the same heads of state by the proposed rules:

France. Empereur  
France. Empereur (1852–1870 : Napoleon III)  
France. Roi  
France. Roi (1774–1792 : Louis XVI)  
France. Roi (1814–1824 : Louis XVIII)  
France. Roi (1824–1830 : Charles X)  
France. Roi (1830–1848 : Louis-Philippe)  
France. Roi (923–936 : Raoul)
RDA Examples Affected by the Proposed Change

An example at 6.31.1.2:

Canada. Sovereign (1952– : Elizabeth II). Speech by Her Majesty the Queen in reply to the Prime Minister, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Wednesday, September 26, 1984

*Authorized access point for:* Speech by Her Majesty the Queen in reply to the Prime Minister, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Wednesday, September 26, 1984

would change to:

Canada. Queen (1952– : Elizabeth II). Speech by Her Majesty the Queen in reply to the Prime Minister, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Wednesday, September 26, 1984

*Authorized access point for:* Speech by Her Majesty the Queen in reply to the Prime Minister, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Wednesday, September 26, 1984

An example at 11.2.2.19:

Norway. Sovereign

would change to:

Norway. Monark

An example at 19.2.1.3:

France. Sovereign (1774–1792 : Louis XVI)
Louis XVI, King of France, 1754–1793

*Authorized access points representing the official and the person issuing the communication for:* Proclamation du roi, pour la conservation des forêts & bois: du 3 novembre 1789. An official communication of King Louis XVI

would change to:

France. Roi (1774–1792 : Louis XVI)
Louis XVI, King of France, 1754–1793

*Authorized access points representing the official and the person issuing the communication for:* Proclamation du roi, pour la conservation des forêts & bois: du 3 novembre 1789. An official communication of King Louis XVI

Additional examples throughout RDA for Catholic Church. Pope would also need to be changed.

Advantages of the Proposed Change

Using the language of the jurisdiction for heads of states has the advantage of being consistent with current practice not only for heads of government, but all for other names established subordinately to a jurisdiction. It will lead to more consistent results in international application of the instructions. Including ruling executive bodies in this rule provides instructions previously omitted from the rules.

The current rules in RDA require the cataloger to determine first whether the official in question is a head of state or a head of government and then to apply the appropriate rule in constructing the access point. This step is removed by using the same rule for both, simplifying the process of creating access points for these officials.
Disadvantages of the Proposed Change

Unlike with other government departments, etc., resources naming a head of state or head of government are less likely to name them in a formal and consistent way. It is not always easy for a cataloger to determine the proper title in a foreign language or a different culture, nor to determine whether the title varies with the gender of the incumbent, and if so, to find an appropriate neutral term. The titles used in RDA access points are a formalized shorthand in any case. For example, the full title of Queen Elizabeth is “Her Majesty Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.” This proposal will create inconsistencies in some cases between the access points for a single holder of an office and joint or multiple holders of an office, as well as inconsistencies between male and female holders of an office.
Proposed revisions: marked version

11.2.2.21 Government Officials

Apply the instructions given under 11.2.2.21.1–11.2.2.21.5 only to officials of countries and other states, governors of dependent or occupied territories, and officials of international intergovernmental organizations that have existed in post-medieval times.

11.2.2.21.1 Heads of State, Etc. and Heads of Government at All Levels, and Ruling Executive Bodies

Record the title of a sovereign, president, other head of state (e.g., monarch, president, governor, sultan), head of government (prime minister, premier, mayor, or other chief executive acting in an official capacity), or governor acting in an official capacity ruling executive body (e.g., a military junta) (see 6.31.1) as a subdivision of the authorized access point representing the jurisdiction. Record the title in the official language preferred by the agency creating the data (unless there is no equivalent term in that language) of the jurisdiction.

EXAMPLE

Indonesia. President
not Indonesia. Presiden

Chiapas (Mexico). Governor
not Chiapas (Mexico). Gobernador

Swaziland. Prime Minister
Managua (Nicaragua). Alcalde

King County (Wash.). Executive
Japan. Naikaku Sōri Daijin

Thailand. Nāyok Ratthamontri

Argentina. Junta Militar
Somalia. Golaha Sare ee Kacaanka

Thailand. Khana Patiwat

Ghana. Armed Forces Revolutionary Council

If there is more than one official language in the jurisdiction, apply the instructions given under 11.2.2.5.2.

If necessary for identification, add, in parentheses, the inclusive years of a ruling executive body.
To represent the collective access point for a position when the title varies with the gender of the incumbent, use a general term in the official language of the jurisdiction (e.g., Sovereign rather than King or Queen), if such a term can be readily determined. Otherwise, use a term in the language preferred by the agency creating the data.

**EXAMPLE**

Chile. Junta de Gobierno (1813)

Chile. Junta de Gobierno (1973-1990)

If the official being identified is a specific incumbent of the office, add, in parentheses, the inclusive years of the reign or incumbency and the name of the person in a brief form and in the language of the preferred name for that person. Separate the years of the reign or incumbency from the name of the person using a space, colon, space.

**EXAMPLE**

Spain. Rey (1975– : Juan Carlos I)

Spain. Reina (1833–1868 : Isabella II)


Iran. Shāh Shāh (1941–1979 : Mohammed Reza Pahlavi)


Papal States. Papa (1800–1823 : Pius VII)


Germany. Bundeskanzlerin (2005– : Merkel)


New Zealand. Prime Minister (2008– : Key)

Seattle (Wash.). Mayor (1978–1990 : Royer)

If the title varies with the gender of the incumbent, use a general term (e.g., Sovereign rather than King or Queen).
EXAMPLE
Spain. Reina (1833–1868 : Isabella II)
Spain. Rey (1975— : Juan Carlos I)
If there are two or more nonconsecutive periods of incumbency, create separate access points.

EXAMPLE
United States. President (1885–1889 : Cleveland)
United States. President (1893–1897 : Cleveland)
For an access point covering joint heads of state, heads of government, etc., where the title varies with the gender of the incumbent, use a general term (e.g., Sovereign rather than King or Queen) in the official language of the jurisdiction if such a term can be readily determined; otherwise, use a term in the language preferred by the agency creating the data.

EXAMPLE
England and Wales, Sovereign (1689-1694 : William and Mary)
Spain, Monarca (1479-1504 : Ferdinand V and Isabella I)
Record the relationships between the office and the person applying the instructions in chapters 30 and 32.

11.2.2.21.2 Heads of Governments
Record the title of a head of government or chief executive acting in an official capacity (see 6.31.1) who is not also a head of state as a subdivision of the authorized access point representing the jurisdiction. Record the title in the official language of the jurisdiction.

EXAMPLE
Swaziland. Prime Minister
Managua (Nicaragua). Alcaldía
King County (Wash.). Executive
Japan. Naikaku-Sōri-Daijin
Thailand. Nāyok Ratthamontri
If there is more than one official language in the jurisdiction, apply the instructions given under 11.2.2.5.2.
If the official being identified is a specific incumbent of the office, add, in parentheses, the inclusive years of the incumbency and the name of
the person in a brief form and in the language of the preferred name for that person. Separate the years of the incumbency from the name of the person using a space, colon, space.

EXAMPLE

New Zealand. Prime Minister (2008– : Key)
Seattle (Wash.). Mayor (1978–1990 : Royer)

If there are two or more nonconsecutive periods of incumbency, create separate access points.

EXAMPLE

Canada. Prime Minister (1867–1873 : Macdonald)
Canada. Prime Minister (1878–1891 : Macdonald)

Record the relationships between the office and the person applying the instructions in chapters 30 and 32.

11.2.21.3 2 Heads of International Intergovernmental Bodies

Record the title of a head of an international intergovernmental organization acting in an official capacity as a subdivision of the authorized access point representing the organization. Record the title of the official in the language of the preferred name for the organization.

EXAMPLE

Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración. Secretaría General
European Commission. President

If the official being identified is a specific incumbent of the office, add, in parentheses, the inclusive years of the incumbency and the name of the person in a brief form and in the language of the preferred name for that person. Separate the years of the incumbency from the name of the person using a space, colon, space.

EXAMPLE

European Commission. President (2004– : Barroso)
Record the relationships between the office and the person applying the instructions in chapters 30 and 32.

11.2.21.4 Governors of Dependent or Occupied Territories

Record the title of a governor of a dependent territory (e.g., a colony, protectorate) or of an occupied territory (see 11.7.1.5) acting in an official capacity as a subdivision of the authorized access point representing the colony, territory, etc. Record the title of the governor in the language of the governing power.

EXAMPLE

Hong Kong. Governor
French Polynesia. Gouverneur
Macau. Governador
Bechuanaland Protectorate. Prime Minister
France (Territory under German occupation, 1940–1944). Militärbeauftragter in Frankreich
Norway (Territory under German occupation, 1940–1945). Reichskommissar für die besetzten norwegischen Gebiete
Michigan (British military government, 1812–1813). Governor

If there is more than one official language in the jurisdiction of the governing power, apply the instructions given under 11.2.5.2.

If the official being identified is a specific incumbent of the office, add, in parentheses, the inclusive years of the incumbency and the name of the person in a brief form and in the language of the preferred name for that person. Separate the years of the incumbency from the name of the person using a space, colon, space.

EXAMPLE


11.2.21.5 Other Officials

For any official not covered under 11.2.21.1–11.2.21.4, use the preferred name for the ministry or agency that the official represents.
EXAMPLE

Northern Ireland Audit Office
not Northern Ireland. Comptroller and Auditor General

not United States. Surgeon General (Public Health Service)

For an official who is not part of a ministry, etc., or who is part of a ministry, etc., that is identified only by the title of the official, record the title of the official as a subdivision of the authorized access point representing the jurisdiction.

EXAMPLE

Scotland. Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer
North Carolina. State Geologist
Alberta. Superintendent of Insurance
Northern Ireland. Commissioner for Complaints
Australia. Director of National Parks
South Africa. Minister of Public Health
Bahamas. Minister of Transport
Proposed revisions: clean version

11.2.2.21 Government Officials

Apply the instructions given under 11.2.2.21.1–11.2.2.21.4 only to officials of countries and other states, governors of dependent or occupied territories, and officials of international intergovernmental organizations that have existed in post-medieval times.

11.2.2.21.1 Heads of State and Heads of Government at All Levels, and Ruling Executive Bodies

Record the title of a head of state (e.g., monarch, president, governor, sultan), head of government (prime minister, premier, mayor, or other chief executive acting in an official capacity), or ruling executive body (e.g., a military junta) (see 6.31.1) as a subdivision of the authorized access point representing the jurisdiction. Record the title in the official language of the jurisdiction.

EXAMPLE

Indonesia. President
Chiapas (Mexico). Gobernador
Swaziland. Prime Minister
Managua (Nicaragua). Alcalde
King County (Wash.). Executive
Japan. Naikaku Sōri Daijin
Thailand. Nāyok Ratthamontrī
Argentina. Junta Militar
Somalia. Golaha Sare ee Kacaanka
Thailand. Khana Patiwat
Ghana. Armed Forces Revolutionary Council

If there is more than one official language in the jurisdiction, apply the instructions given under 11.2.2.5.2.

If necessary for identification, add, in parentheses, the inclusive years of a ruling executive body.

EXAMPLE

Chile. Junta de Gobierno (1813)
Chile. Junta de Gobierno (1973-1990)
To represent the collective access point for a position when the title varies with the gender of the incumbent, use a general term in the official language of the jurisdiction (e.g. Sovereign rather than King or Queen), if such a term can be readily determined. Otherwise, use a term in the language preferred by the agency creating the data.

EXAMPLE
Great Britain. Sovereign
Spain. Monarca

If the official being identified is a specific incumbent of the office, add, in parentheses, the inclusive years of the reign or incumbency and the name of the person in a brief form and in the language of the preferred name for that person. Separate the years of the reign or incumbency from the name of the person using a space, colon, space.

EXAMPLE
Spain. Reina (1833–1868 : Isabella II)
Spain. Rey (1975– : Juan Carlos I)
Iran. Shāh (1941–1979 : Mohammed Reza Pahlavi)
Papal States. Papa (1800–1823 : Pius VII)
Germany. Bundeskanzlerin (2005– : Merkel)
New Zealand. Prime Minister (2008– : Key)
Seattle (Wash.). Mayor (1978–1990 : Royer)

If there are two or more nonconsecutive periods of incumbency, create separate access points.

EXAMPLE
United States. President (1885–1889 : Cleveland)
United States. President (1893–1897 : Cleveland)
For an access point covering joint heads of state, heads of government, etc., where the title varies with the gender of the incumbent, use a general term (e.g., *Sovereign* rather than *King or Queen*) in the official language of the jurisdiction if such a term can be readily determined; otherwise, use a term in the language preferred by the agency creating the data.

EXAMPLE

England and Wales. Sovereign (1689-1694 : William and Mary)
Spain. Monarca (1479-1504 : Ferdinand V and Isabella I)

Record the relationships between the office and the person applying the instructions in chapters 30 and 32.

11.2.2.21.2 Heads of International Intergovernmental Bodies

Record the title of a head of an international intergovernmental organization acting in an official capacity as a subdivision of the authorized access point representing the organization. Record the title of the official in the language of the preferred name for the organization.

EXAMPLE

Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración. Secretaría General
European Commission. President

If the official being identified is a specific incumbent of the office, add, in parentheses, the inclusive years of the incumbency and the name of the person in a brief form and in the language of the preferred name for that person. Separate the years of the incumbency from the name of the person using a space, colon, space.

EXAMPLE

European Commission. President (2004– : Barroso)

Record the relationships between the office and the person applying the instructions in chapters 30 and 32.

11.2.2.21.3 Governors of Dependent or Occupied Territories

Record the title of a governor of a dependent territory (e.g., a colony, protectorate) or of an occupied territory (see 11.7.1.5) acting in an official capacity as a subdivision of the authorized access point
representing the colony, territory, etc. Record the title of the governor in the language of the governing power.

**EXAMPLE**

Hong Kong. Governor
French Polynesia. Gouverneur
Macau. Governador
Bechuanaland Protectorate. Prime Minister
France (Territory under German occupation, 1940–1944). Militärbefehlshaber in Frankreich
Norway (Territory under German occupation, 1940–1945). Reichskommissar für die Besetzten Norwegischen Gebiete
Michigan (British military government, 1812–1813). Governor

If there is more than one official language in the jurisdiction of the governing power, apply the instructions given under 11.2.2.5.2.

If the official being identified is a specific incumbent of the office, add, in parentheses, the inclusive years of the incumbency and the name of the person in a brief form and in the language of the preferred name for that person. Separate the years of the incumbency from the name of the person using a space, colon, space.

**EXAMPLE**


11.2.2.21.4 Other Officials

For any official not covered under 11.2.2.21.1–11.2.2.21.3, use the preferred name for the ministry or agency that the official represents.

**EXAMPLE**

Northern Ireland Audit Office
*not* Northern Ireland. Comptroller and Auditor General

*not* United States. Surgeon General (Public Health Service)

For an official who is not part of a ministry, etc., or who is part of a ministry, etc., that is identified only by the title of the official, record the title of the official as a subdivision of the authorized access point representing the jurisdiction.
EXAMPLE

Scotland. Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer
North Carolina. State Geologist
Alberta. Superintendent of Insurance
Northern Ireland. Commissioner for Complaints
Australia. Director of National Parks
South Africa. Minister of Public Health
Bahamas. Minister of Transport