

## Changes to Headings in the LC Catalog to Accommodate RDA

### **Background**

For several years, the Library of Congress has been working with libraries around the world to implement *RDA: Resource Description & Access*, the successor standard to the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Revised (AACR2)*. As part of that implementation discussion, task groups of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) have been examining the shared LC/NACO Authority File (LC/NAF) to understand the implications of implementing *RDA* in the context of that very large file (nearly 9 million authority records).

After extensive analysis, categories of the LC/NAF were identified in order to run automated programs that would update the records whenever human review was not essential. As a result, several mass changes of records have been accomplished:

- 1) 437,000 records were updated in August of 2012 to signal in the record that a cataloger needs to review/revise the heading if it will be used in an *RDA* record.
- 2) Records identified as clearly being invalid for *RDA*, **but**, with a known data pattern that could be fixed and converted to *RDA* automatically by program. 378,000 records were updated in April of 2013 in this category, and several “small batch” fixes were made as well.

The next phase of this project is to again update about 350,000 authority records in order to prepare for an even larger batch change sometime in mid-2015. This set of changes will commence on Monday, Dec. 8, and it will take a few weeks for the program to change all applicable authority records. After these changes have been made, a similar program will be run to update the headings found on bibliographic records to make the same types of changes, when applicable.

**Because these changes will be made over time, there will be a period of time that headings in authority records do not match the equivalent headings in bibliographic records.** We ask for your patience during this time period of automated changes, recognizing that there will be a lack of synchronicity between headings in bibliographic and authority records. During this transition period, it will not be necessary to report the lack of synchronization between authority and bibliographic headings.

### **What types of changes will happen?**

The categories to be changed are given below—they represent the vast majority of all changes, but there are a couple of things to keep in mind:

- Some authority records are created by PCC partners and have never been used by LC for headings in bibliographic records. The changes to these records will have no direct impact on LC’s catalog.

- For most authority records, the only change will be to a part of the record that does not directly impact the authorized form used in bibliographic records, e.g., the change may be to a cross reference (“see” and “see also” references), obsolete MARC content designation will be corrected, outdated punctuation practices will be modernized, notes will be added to flag certain conditions for the next cataloger that will review the record (e.g., that the record represents more than one person and multiple headings are now required). The changes to these records will have no direct impact on LC’s catalog.
- All records cannot be changed at once. While the goal is to move through these changes as quickly as possible, the pace of the changes must be tempered with the need to keep all systems operating effectively during this period, at LC and our bibliographic partners.
- Data that were not accurate before, will likely still have problems—the programs will convert headings based on known issues, but incorrect or miscoded headings will still have those problems after the conversion.

### **Change Categories**

The changes to **existing authority headings** generally apply to the following categories:

1. Modifying headings containing a medium of performance for music that represents a “standard combination of instruments” in favor of identifying each of the instruments in the combination. This change is due to a revision to RDA that eliminated conventional groupings of instruments used in \$m (medium of performance for music); instead, access fields will use an enumerated list of instruments for all musical works, whether intended for a conventional group or otherwise.

*Examples:*

*Before:* Jergensen, Erik, 1912-2005. Improvisations, wind quintet

*After:* Jergensen, Erik, 1912-2005. Improvisations, flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon

*Before:* Dallinger, Fridola. Quintets, winds

*After:* Dallinger, Fridola. Quintets, flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon

*Before:* Lévinas, Michaël. Quartets, strings, no. 3

*After:* Lévinas, Michaël. Quartets, violins (2), viola, cello, no. 3

**Search strategy pending completion of changes:** In keyword searches, search using both the “standard combination” term and the individual instruments. In browse searches, look for both forms in an alphabetic array.

2. Handling of certain additions to personal names. Under AACR2 practice, words were sometimes added to non-distinct names to break conflicts with other persons with the same name. While the same will be true under RDA, some of these additions (such as those that represent a profession/occupation) will be reformatted as appropriate.

*Example:*

*Before:* Gray, John, bookseller

*After:* Gray, John (Bookseller)

***Search strategy pending completion of changes:*** Generally no impact other than the display of the heading itself. Keyword and browse searches are generally not sensitive to the punctuation differences.

### **Contact for more information**

Questions about this project may be sent to the Policy & Standards Division's email address ([policy@loc.gov](mailto:policy@loc.gov)). Thanks for your patience during this transition.