



**Program for Cooperative Cataloging**  
NACO: Name Authority Cooperative Program

# **SERIES TRAINING FOR PCC PARTICIPANTS**

**Series Statements and Series Authority Records**

**Session 7: Variant Access Points**

**Program for Cooperative Cataloging**  
**Standing Committee on Training**

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# Series Training for PCC Participants

## Session 7: Variant Access Points

### Summary

Although variant access points are not required elements in *RDA*, there are still situations in which a cataloger may judge it useful to provide one. This session covers the general guidelines for creating variant access points for series and how to create those variant access points suggested in LC-PCC PS 6.27.4.

### Objectives

At the end of this session you should be familiar with:

- the purpose of variant access points
- basic guidelines governing creation of variant access points
- the two main categories of variant access points: alternate approaches and variant forms
- the wide variety of possible variants and related issues of cataloger's judgment



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## Introduction

*RDA* defines a variant access point as:

*“An alternative to the authorized access point representing an entity.”*

Variant access points serve the same purpose for SARs as they do for NARs. They direct a searcher from the form *not used* as the authorized access point to the form *used* as the authorized access point. We want people to find the SARs we’ve created.

The variant access point, according to the instructions (6.27.4) is **not a core element**. So *RDA* requires no variant access points. There are, however, situations in which a cataloger might choose to include one and where, in the past, NACO practice has judged them useful. At a minimum, it is advisable to provide variant access points for a series whenever one would make them on a corresponding bibliographic record for the series cataloged as a serial, multipart monograph, or integrating resource. LC-PCC PS 6.27.4 provides additional guidance.



## General Guidelines for Variant Access Points

Always search to determine if there is already an existing SAR for your series with that form as the authorized access point, and also to determine whether you need a qualifier (see below).

Generally, construct the variant access point in the same form that would be used as the authorized access point. If the series authorized access point has been constructed using the authorized access point representing a person, corporate body or family followed by the preferred title (*RDA* 6.27.1.2-6.27.1.8), construct a variant access point using the authorized access point representing the person, body, or family followed by the variant title. In a departure from this practice, however, a variant consisting of the title alone may be recorded if thought helpful to the user of the database.

In MARC 4XX subfields \$a, \$n, \$p, and \$t, omit an initial article unless the title is to be accessed under that article (*RDA* 6.2.1.7 alternative LC-PCC PS).

When evaluating an existing SAR, add any appropriate variant access points. Do not delete variant access points made according to earlier policies.

Even though variant access points are not a core element, *RDA* is not restrictive of them. Provide variant access points if they are considered important for access or otherwise helpful to the database user.

### Qualifiers

Add a qualifier if the variant access point conflicts with the authorized access point of another resource (*RDA* 6.27.1.9).

EXAMPLE: Variant title for the work is identical to the preferred title for other works.

130 #0 Beacon science series  
430 #0 Science series (Boston, Mass.)

Add the qualifier "(Series)" if the variant access point is identical to a preferred name for a person, family, or corporate (including geographic) body (*RDA* 6.27.1.9).

Do **not** add qualifiers to differentiate one *variant* access point from another *variant* access point.

Do **not** predict a conflict.

If the authorized access point includes a parenthetical qualifier ...

1. Do not include that qualifier when recording the title proper in the variant access point.
2. Don't give a variant for the form in the 130 without the parenthetical qualifier

EXAMPLE:

130 #0 \$a Essays in American literature (New York, N.Y.)

410 2# \$a American Humanities Association. \$t Essays in American Literature

NOT:

410 2# \$a American Humanities Association. \$t Essays in American Literature (New York, N.Y.)

AND NOT:

430 #0 \$a Essays in American literature

## Justification of Variant Access Points

Record the usage in 670 subfield \$b to support the 4XX. But there are a few exceptions to this:

1. When the 4XX is already justified by instructions
2. When different Romanization or orthography is involved
3. When the name portion of a name/title authorized access point does not need to be justified in a 670 field

(per DCM Z1, section on 670 field)

Usage is as important for variants as for the authorized access point!

## Categories of Variant Access Points

There are two main categories of variant access points:

- alternate approaches to formulating the authorized access point
- variant forms

### Alternate Approaches in Formulating the Authorized Access Point

There are three possibilities for the form of an authorized access point for series:

1. the preferred title in a 130 field
2. a name/title proper, or
3. a name/conventional collective title.

#### Situation 1: Preferred Title in a 130 Field

(This is the most common situation)

Because other library staff as well as users who search in our catalogs/databases may not know what the authorized access point is for a series, record variants for the approaches not selected.

*NOTE: In the following situations, "body" means a noncommercial body or a commercial body whose responsibility extends beyond merely publishing the series. University presses are considered commercial publishers in this context.*

Consider providing a name/title variant access point for the following situations:

- When a body is responsible and the issuing of the series is an extension of the body's mission

<p>130 #0 \$a Economic papers (Brussels, Belgium)          410 2# \$a Commission of the European Communities. \$b Directorate-General for Economic          and Financial Affairs. \$t Economic papers</p>
--

- When the name, an initialism/acronym, or part of the name of a corporate body is in the series title, even if that body is not responsible for the series

<p>130 #0 \$a Miami University studies in aging          410 2# \$a Miami University (Oxford, Ohio). \$t Miami University studies in aging</p>
--

- When the title of a *numbered* series consists solely of a form of a corporate body's name (this applies even if the form of name is not identical to the authorized access point for the body)

130 #0 \$a Suffolk Records Society (Series)  
410 2# \$a Suffolk Records Society. \$t Suffolk Records Society

- When the title proper of the series differs from the preferred title except when the difference is the addition of a language name or a parenthetical qualifier

130 #0 \$a EDI policy seminar report. \$l Spanish  
430 #0 \$a Informe de un seminario de política del IDE  
NOT:  
430 #0 \$a EDI policy seminar report

130 #0 Information (Zurich, Switzerland). \$l French

Note: No variant access point given from title proper in English, *Information*, because it does not differ from the preferred title.

Consider providing a title variant access point for the following situations:

- When a variety of qualifiers might have been used and a different one from that chosen by the cataloger would help lead the database user to the authorized access point. This type of variant is particularly useful when the title is quite common

130 #0 \$a Research report (Honolulu, Hawaii)  
430 #0 \$a Research report (Hawaii. Department of Education)

- When more than one body has responsibility for the series but only one can be chosen as the qualifier

130 #0 \$a Joint publication (Canada. Forestry Canada)  
430 #0 \$a Joint publication (British Columbia. Ministry of Forests)

### Situation 2: Name/Title Proper as Authorized Access Point

- Provide a variant for the title proper.

110 2# \$a Library of Congress. \$b Manuscript Division. \$t Registers of papers in the  
Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress  
430 #0 \$a Registers of papers in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress

- Provide a name/title proper variant for another person or body sharing responsibility for the series.

100 1# \$a Brenner, Barbara. \$t Hide and seek science  
400 1# \$a Chardiet, Bernice. \$t Hide and seek science

### Situation 3: Name/Conventional Collective Title as Authorized Access Point

- Generally, provide a variant access point for the title proper.

100 1# \$a Carlyle, Thomas, \$d 1795-1881. \$t Works. \$k Selections (Carlyle's choice works)  
430 #0 \$a Carlyle's choice works

- Generally, provide a variant access point from name/title proper when the title proper differs from the conventional collective title, except when the difference is the addition of a language name, a date, or a parenthetical qualifier.

100 1# \$a Carlyle, Thomas, \$d 1795-1881. \$t Works. \$k Selections (Carlyle's choice works)  
430 #0 \$a Carlyle's choice works  
400 1# \$a Carlyle, Thomas, \$d 1795-1881. \$t Carlyle's choice works

- Provide a variant access point from name/title proper for another person or corporate body sharing responsibility for the series.

[no example provided]

## Variant Forms

### Variant of the Series Title Found in the Same Part

Provide a 670 subfield \$b usage and 4XX references for variants of the series title found in the same part used to create the SAR.

- Provide a variant for all parallel titles, unless burdensome. If the authorized access point consists of a main series and subseries, use the same language, when present, for all parts of the parallel main series/parallel subseries variant access point(s). In other words, don't mix languages in the 4XX.

```
130 #0 $a Europäische Hochschulschriften. $n Reihe XXV, $p Forst- und Holzwirtschaft
430 #0 $a Publications universitaires européennes. $n Série XXV, $p Sciences forestières
430 #0 $a European university studies. $n Series XXV, $p Forestry and forest products
```

- If important for identification or access, provide a variant for titles found on other sources of the same part (e.g., cover, spine, etc.).

```
130 #0 $a Composers series (Contemporary Records (Firm))
430 #0 $a Contemporary composers series
670 ## $a _____ $b label (Composers series) container (Contemporary composers series)
```

- Non-Latin forms: it is optional to provide a variant for a non-Latin form. These are normally in the original script of the part. For specific instructions, see the PCC/NACO documentation: *Non-Latin Script References in Name Authority Records*.

## Variant of the Series Title Found in a Different Part

When you're cataloging a volume in a series with different forms of the series title and there is already a SAR in the authority file, it is **VERY** important that you check the preferred source of information in that volume and ensure that the form of the series title there is the form in the SAR authorized access point.

- If the form on the preferred source does not match the form of the authorized access point in the SAR, and if the series is a monographic series (vs. a multipart monograph) you must determine if the change is major or minor (this will be covered in Session 8, Related Series).
- If the form does match, you can use the SAR authorized access point as established, but you must add a variant (with a supporting 670 field) for any form not already present in the SAR. **When you create that 670 field, provide the usage for the new reference, as well as for the usage matching the form in the authorized access point.** If you don't provide both, it will appear that the series title has changed and the appropriate new SAR was not created.

130 #0 \$a Boys' and girls' magic series  
 430 #0 \$a Magic series  
 670 ## \$a \_\_\_\_\_ \$b ser. t.p. (Boys' and girls' magic series)  
 670 ## \$a \_\_\_\_\_ \$b ser. t.p. (Boys' and girls' magic series) cover (Magic series)

If you have determined that you have a minor change, record the title in your volume as a 4XX variant access point on the existing SAR and document usage in a 670.

130 #0 \$a Bulletin (Southern Humanities Conference)  
 430 #0 \$a Bulletin of the Southern Humanities Conference  
 670 ## \$a \_\_\_\_\_ \$b ser. t.p. (Bulletin, Southern Humanities Conference)  
 670 ## \$a \_\_\_\_\_ \$b ser. t.p. (Bulletin of the Southern Humanities Conference)

**Reminder:** The issue of major/minor title change **does not apply to multipart monographs**. If the *title proper* of a multipart monograph changes, provide a variant access point from the later title. If the *responsible person, family, or body* changes, provide a name/title proper variant access point from the later person, family, or body.

100 1# \$a Phillips, Jolene. \$t Preschool vocabulary building activities  
 400 1# \$a Bolling, Diane. \$t Preschool vocabulary building activities  
 670 ## \$a Phillips, J. \_\_\_\_\_ \$b (Preschool vocabulary building activities ; volume 1)  
 670 ## \$a Bolling, D. \_\_\_\_\_ \$b (Preschool vocabulary building activities ; volume 4)  
 670 ## \$a Info. from publisher \$b (Jolene Phillips was author of v. 1-3; v. 4-5 by Diane Bolling)



## Other Situations

### Other Permutations of the Series Title

Once you've created 4XX variant access points for variant titles found on issues, apply cataloger's judgment in deciding whether 4XX variants for partial titles or alternate forms would be helpful. Use the same judgment you would when considering whether to provide a 246 field in a bibliographic record for forms of the 245 title proper. Consider: Will this help the user find the authorized access point?

- Provide a variant for a partial title if it has typographical prominence.

130 #0 \$a Springer proceedings in physics  
430 #0 \$a Proceedings in physics

On priority source "Springer" appears on one line and "proceedings in physics" on another line; other sources in the issue indicate that the title begins with "Springer"

- Provide a variant for a subseries or section title unless it is dependent on the main title or misleading without that title. Do not include a preceding designation in the variant access point.

130 #0 \$a Soviet scientific reviews supplement series. \$p Physiology and general biology  
430 #0 \$a Physiology and general biology

- Provide a variant omitting a generic introductory noun (series, collection, etc.) when that noun is followed by a noun or noun phrase that can stand on its own grammatically. If the partial title variant access point would consist only of a name, add the qualifier "(Series)."

130 #0 Collection cultures of medicine  
430 #0 Cultures of medicine

**BUT NOT:**

130 #0 Collection of Roman archaeological excavations in England  
430 #0 Of Roman archaeological excavations in England

- When the series title begins with a person's forename(s), initial(s), or title, provide a variant access point from: (1) the surname and the remainder of the title, (2) the forename(s) and/or initial(s) and surname and remainder of the title, and (3) the title without the name.

130 #0 \$a Dr. Leonard P. Schultz ichthyological reprint  
 430 #0 \$a Schultz ichthyological reprint  
 430 #0 \$a Leonard P. Schultz ichthyological reprint  
 430 #0 \$a Ichthyological reprint

- If users might expect an alternate form of a word ("and" vs. "&," for example) provide a variant for the form not used in the authorized access point.

130 #0 \$a Mathématiques & applications  
 430 #0 \$a Mathématiques et applications

- Provide a variant access point from a form representing another policy on transliteration or word division.

130 #0 \$a Li xue cong shu (Zhonghua shu ju)  
 430 #0 \$a 理學叢書 (Zhonghua shu ju)

- If there is a change in the parenthetical qualifier in the existing series authorized access point and a new record is not required, provide a variant access point from the series title proper and the changed qualifier if it would help in identification.

130 #0 \$a Wissenschaftliche Reihe (Husum, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany)  
 430 #0 \$a Wissenschaftliche Reihe (Nienburg, Germany)

- If introductory words to the title proper were not included as part of the series authorized access point (*RDA* 2.3.1.6), provide a variant access point from the title including those words.

130 #0 \$a Classic musicals  
 430 #0 \$a FAS Films presents classic musicals

- If a title proper has been corrected, make a 4XX for the inaccurate form as it appears on the serial or integrating resource.

130 #0 \$a Natural wonders of the world  
430 #0 \$a Natural wonders of the wolrd

## Variant Access Points for Other Title Information

Do not automatically provide a 4XX for other title information. Here are three situations where a variant access point would be useful:

- If the data string could be misinterpreted as a separate series or subseries (providing a reference will avoid the creation of an unwanted SAR):

130 #0 Worldly philosophy  
430 #0 Studies at the intersection of philosophy and economics  
670 ## \$a \_\_\_\_\_ \$b \_\_\_ (Worldly philosophy : studies at the intersection of philosophy and economics)

- If the data string could be interpreted as being part of the series title (providing a variant access point will aid in identification):

130 #0 Origins  
430 #0 Sources of scientific creativity  
430 #0 Origins, sources of scientific creativity  
670 ## \$a \_\_\_\_\_ \$b \_\_\_ (Origins : sources of scientific creativity)

- If the series title was given in both a full form and acronym or initialism, provide a 4XX for the acronym or initialism:

130 #0 \$a Investing for the future  
430 #0 \$a IFTF  
670 ## \$a \_\_\_\_\_ \$b \_\_\_ (Investing for the future : IFTF)

## Earlier or Later Resource is Not Represented by Its Own SAR

If the earlier or later resource is not represented by its own series authority record and so cannot be recorded in a 5XX field, do not record a 4XX field either. Instead, record the earlier or later information in a 667 field. Add the label "[unevaluated access point]" at the end of the 667 field.

<p>130 #0 \$a Occasional paper (University of Singapore. Department of Political Science) 667 ## \$a Continues: Singapore (City). University. Dept. of Political Science. Occasional paper series - Department of Political Science, University of Singapore [unevaluated access point]</p>
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