

To: ALA/ALCTS/CCS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access

From: John Attig, ALA Representative to the Joint Steering Committee

Subject: Revision of RDA 9.13, Affiliation

## Background: The Problem

This proposal arose from an example I used in presentations that I did on recording attributes of persons in February 2011. I was attempting to illustrate the use of the new RDA elements in authority records for persons. One of the examples that I used was Leonard Bernstein, whose multi-faceted career illustrated a number of the new elements.

I ran into some interesting problems in recording the Affiliation element. Bernstein was most famously affiliated with the New York Philharmonic, but his affiliation fell into two periods. He was Assistant Conductor from 1943 to 1945 and he was Music Director from 1957 to 1969. Does RDA allow this information to be recorded?

My first thought (because it was the latter affiliation that I judged most significant) was to record “Music Director, New York Philharmonic”. However, it was pointed out to me that the RDA definition of Affiliation is limited to “the *group* with which the person is affiliated ...” [emphasis added]. There does not seem to be a way of recording the important information about the precise nature of the affiliations over time.

Furthermore, RDA does not (yet) allow the recording of the dates during which these affiliations applied. This issue of “data about data” was determined to be out of scope for the initial release of RDA, and further discussions by the JSC have so far been inconclusive.

## Proposed Solution

The basic proposal here is to split the Affiliation element into three sub-elements:

- Affiliated Body
- Position within Affiliated Body
- Date of Affiliation

## Issues and Problems

Before presenting a specific revision proposal, here are some of the issues that this proposal raises. These issues need careful consideration in discussion of this proposal.

1. *The FRAD model.* The RDA Affiliation element is based directly on FRAD, and the RDA definition is taken verbatim from FRAD 4.1. With few (if any) exceptions, RDA is limited to elements defined in one of the Functional

Requirements models. The JSC will need to consider whether they are willing to extend the models in this way, or whether they wish to propose this change to the FRBR Review Group for decision before revising RDA.

It might be argued that the FRAD element would remain the same, and that only the sub-elements go beyond the model. This could be an important position for the JSC to take, as the CC:DA Task Force on Machine-Actionable Data Elements will probably be proposing the definition of sub-elements for some of the elements in Chapter 3. If we cannot extend the models in this way, that effort is doomed — or at best, significantly delayed.

In this case, however, it is difficult to argue that this proposal leaves the FRAD Affiliation element intact. In this proposal, the FRAD element would become one of the new sub-elements (Affiliated Body) and the definition of the RDA element would no longer correspond to that of the FRAD element. The JSC will need to decide whether it is appropriate for RDA to extend the models in this way.

2. ***Linked data.*** One of the principles of linked data is that there should be a correspondence between the things to be linked. This means that the data to be linked needs to be unambiguously identified in a distinct data element that contains no other data. The current definition of Affiliation does this. It would be possible to link the Affiliation element to the appropriate Corporate Body element because both elements contain (only) the name of a body. This proposal also does this by defining separate sub-elements for the body and the position.
3. ***Element vs relationship.*** In the text of the proposed revision, an effort was made to avoid using the word “relationship” in characterizing Affiliation. However, both as currently defined and as proposed, Affiliation is in fact a relationship between a person and a corporate body. In the proposal, Affiliated Body identifies the Related Body, and Position within Affiliated Body identifies the nature of the relationship.

As with some elements involving place, RDA follows the Functional Requirements models in treating Affiliation as an element rather than a relationship. Furthermore, if this proposal is accepted, the ability to record the Position within the Affiliated Body would provide a much more precise identification of the nature of the relationship (recording actual position titles, for example) than any list of Relationship Designators is likely to be.

4. ***Data about data.*** Two approaches to the inclusion of date of applicability information in RDA elements were discussed by the JSC: (a) a general “free-floating” sub-element, and (b) explicit definition of a date sub-element in each element for which such information is desired. There was no consensus between these two approaches. Because the Affiliation element is definitely one for which dates of applicability would be useful, and because the proposal calls for the definition of other sub-elements for Affiliation, a sub-element for Date of

Affiliation is included in the proposal. However, the JSC will need to decide whether this is the way in which they want to deal with data about data.

## Proposed Revision

### **9.13 Affiliation**

#### **9.13.1 Basic Instructions on Recording Affiliations**

##### **9.13.1.1 Scope**

An ~~affiliation~~ **Affiliation ▼** is a group with which a person is affiliated or has been affiliated through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc. the connection between a person and a body through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc.

##### **9.13.1.2 Sources of Information**

Take information on affiliation ~~or affiliations~~ from any source.

##### **9.13.1.3 Recording Affiliations**

Record the names of groups with which the person is affiliated or has been affiliated through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc. following information about affiliation, as applicable:

- a) the name of the affiliated body (see 9.13.2)
- b) the position within the affiliated body held by the person (see 9.13.3)
- c) the dates of the affiliation (see 9.13.4).

Indicate the source from which the information on affiliation was derived applying the instructions given under [8.12 RDA](#).

### **9.13.2 Affiliated Body**

#### **9.13.2.1 Scope**

An ~~affiliation~~ **affiliated body ▼** is a group with which a person is affiliated or has been affiliated through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc.

#### **9.13.2.2 Sources of Information**

Take information on affiliated bodies from any source.

#### **9.13.2.3 Recording Affiliations**

Record the names of groups with which the person is affiliated or has been affiliated.

EXAMPLE

Department of Entomology, Cornell University  
**Affiliation of Ann E. Hajek**

Istituto nazionale di economia agrarian  
**Affiliation of Carla Abitabile**

Furies Collective  
Center for Women's Global Leadership  
International Council on Human Rights Policy  
**Affiliations of Charlotte Bunch**

**9.13.3 Position within Affiliated Body**

**9.13.3.1 Scope**

A **position within an affiliated body**▼ is the title or other designation identifying the position that a person holds or held within an affiliated body.

**9.13.3.2 Sources of Information**

Take information on positions within an affiliated body from any source.

**9.13.3.3 Recording Positions in an Affiliated Body**

Record the title or other designation identifying the position or positions that a person holds or has held within an affiliated body.

EXAMPLE

Professor  
**Position of Jonathan I. Israel within the Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton University**

Sterling Professor of the Humanities  
**Position of Harold Bloom within Yale University**

Music Director  
**Position of Leonard Bernstein within the New York Philharmonic**

**9.13.4 Date of Affiliation**

**9.13.4.1 Scope**

A **date of affiliation**▼ is the beginning and/or ending dates of the time period during which the person was affiliated with the body or held a particular position within the body.

**9.13.4.2 Sources of Information**

Take information on dates of affiliation from any source.

**9.13.4.3 Recording Dates of Affiliation**

Record the beginning and/or ending dates of the time period during which the person was affiliated with the body or held a particular position within the body.

EXAMPLE

1943-1945

**Dates of affiliation of Leonard Bernstein as Assistant Conductor the New York Philharmonic**

1957-1969

**Dates of affiliation of Leonard Bernstein as Music Director the New York Philharmonic**

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**9.13 Affiliation**

**9.13.1 Basic Instructions on Recording Affiliations**

**9.13.1.1 Scope**

**Affiliation** ▼ is the connection between a person and a body through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc.

**9.13.1.2 Sources of Information**

Take information on affiliation ~~or affiliations~~ from any source.

**9.13.1.3 Recording Affiliations**

Record the following information about affiliation, as applicable:

- a) the name of the affiliated body (see 9.13.2)
- b) the position within the affiliated body held by the person (see 9.13.3)
- c) the dates of the affiliation (see 9.13.4).

Indicate the source from which the information on affiliation was derived applying the instructions given under [8.12 RDA](#).

## **9.13.2 Affiliated Body**

### **9.13.2.1 Scope**

An **affiliated body** is a group with which a person is affiliated or has been affiliated through employment, membership, cultural identity, etc.

### **9.13.2.2 Sources of Information**

Take information on affiliated bodies from any source.

### **9.13.2.3 Recording Affiliations**

Record the names of groups with which the person is affiliated or has been affiliated.

#### EXAMPLE

Department of Entomology, Cornell University  
**Affiliation of Ann E. Hajek**

Istituto nazionale di economia agrarian  
**Affiliation of Carla Abitabile**

Furies Collective  
Center for Women's Global Leadership  
International Council on Human Rights Policy  
**Affiliations of Charlotte Bunch**

## **9.13.3 Position within Affiliated Body**

### **9.13.3.1 Scope**

A **position within an affiliated body** is the title or other designation identifying the position that a person holds or held within an affiliated body.

### **9.13.3.2 Sources of Information**

Take information on positions within an affiliated body from any source.

### **9.13.3.3 Recording Positions in an Affiliated Body**

Record the title or other designation identifying the position or positions that a person holds or has held within an affiliated body.

#### EXAMPLE

Professor  
**Position of Jonathan I. Israel within the Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton University**

Sterling Professor of the Humanities

**Position of Harold Bloom within Yale University**

Music Director

**Position of Leonard Bernstein within the New York Philharmonic**

**9.13.4 Date of Affiliation**

**9.13.4.1 Scope**

A [date of affiliation](#) is the beginning and/or ending dates of the time period during which the person was affiliated with the body or held a particular position within the body.

**9.13.4.2 Sources of Information**

Take information on dates of affiliation from any source.

**9.13.4.3 Recording Dates of Affiliation**

Record the beginning and/or ending dates of the time period during which the person was affiliated with the body or held a particular position within the body.

EXAMPLE

1943-1945

**Dates of affiliation of Leonard Bernstein as Assistant Conductor the New York Philharmonic**

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**Dates of affiliation of Leonard Bernstein as Music Director the New York Philharmonic**