

To: ALA/ALCTS/CaMMS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access  
From: Council on East Asian Libraries, Committee on Technical Processing  
Subject: Recording Chinese Place Names in RDA 16.2.2

## Background

The territory of China is among the largest in the world, and its first-level jurisdiction is divided into 22 provinces, 5 autonomous regions, 2 special administrative regions, and 4 special municipalities directly under the Central Government. Under current cataloging rules, place names in China below the first-level jurisdiction are entered directly with the qualifier "(China)." The name of the province, special administrative regions, or autonomous region is not included in the qualifier unless another place with the same romanized name exists in a different jurisdiction. Because of the size of its territory, it is often difficult to identify the exact location of a place without the name of province or its equivalent to distinguish it. While name authority records may contain additional identifying information in the 670 field, it takes additional steps to get the information, and library users often are not aware of the hidden information. Public services librarians in East Asian collections have expressed concern about this issue over the years. Similarly, it is time-consuming for catalogers to establish and/or assign geographic name headings, as it often requires extensive research.

In August 2011, a survey of CEAL (Council on East Asian Libraries, a professional organization under the Association for Asian Studies) and of PCC/CONSER members was conducted by the CEAL Committee on Technical Processing (CTP). The majority of those surveyed (ca. 93%) supported adding the name of province or its equivalent to the country name as a place name qualifier for Chinese locations, in order to address this problem.

Advantages of the proposed change include:

- Makes it quick and easy to distinguish identically romanized place names.
- Less ambiguity in search result displays.
- Provides accurate and precise Chinese geographic subject headings.
- Reduction in material processing time.
- Patrons find what they need more quickly.

Responding to the strong support of the community expressed in the survey, CTP formed the "Committee to Propose a Chinese Place Names Policy for RDA" in December 2011, and charged it with studying the issues and drafting a proposal.

The committee first considered two options: either proposing it as a new section within RDA or as an alternative rule. After consulting with related parties, the committee decided to propose it as a new section (the same as the sections for Australia, etc.), to be placed after the section for "Places in British Isles." If approved, "Places in China" will be in section 16.2.2.11 and the existing instructions will be re-numbered accordingly.

**Proposed revision:**

**16.2.2.4 Recording the Preferred Name**

Record the name of a place in the form most commonly found in gazetteers or other reference sources used in choosing the name, unless the instructions given under [16.2.2.8–16.2.2.13](#)~~14~~

Record as part of the name of a place (other than a country or a state, etc., listed in [16.2.2.9.1](#) or [16.2.2.10.1](#)) the name of the larger place in which it is located or the larger jurisdiction to which it belongs applying the instructions given under [16.2.2.9–16.2.2.13](#)~~14~~.

[remainder of instruction unchanged]

...

**16.2.2.11 Places in China**

Record the preferred name for a place in China as instructed under [16.2.2.11.1](#) (provinces, autonomous regions, special administrative regions, and special municipalities) or [16.2.2.11.2](#) (places in a province, autonomous region, special administrative region, or special municipality), as applicable.

**16.2.2.11.1 Provinces, Autonomous Regions, Special Administrative Regions, and Special Municipalities**

Include the name of the country as part of the name of the place.

EXAMPLE

Anhui Sheng (China)

Beijing (China)

Guangdong Sheng (China)

Hong Kong (China)

Inner Mongolia (China)

Macau (China)

Shanghai (China)

Tibet Autonomous Region (China)

**16.2.2.11.2 Places in a Province, Autonomous Region, Special Administrative Region, or Special Municipality**

If a place is in a province, autonomous region, special administrative region, or special municipality, record the name of the province, autonomous region, special administrative region, or special municipality in which it is located, as well as the name of the country, as part of the name of the place, applying the instructions given under [16.2.2.4](#).

**EXAMPLE**

Aba Zangzu Qiangzu Zizhizhou (Sichuan Sheng, China)

Coloane Island (Macau, China)

Dongcheng Qu (Beijing, China)

Dongsheng Shi (Inner Mongolia, China)

Dongxiangzu Zizhixian (Gansu Sheng, China)

Hangzhou Shi (Zhejiang Sheng, China)

Huangshan Shi (Anhui Sheng, China)

Jiading Qu (Shanghai, China)

Lhasa (Tibet Autonomous Region, China)

New Territories (Hong Kong, China)

Qianxi Xian (Guizhou Sheng, China)

Qianxi Xian (Hebei Sheng, China)

Wutang Zhen (Fujian Sheng, China)

### **16.2.2.11 ~~12~~ Places in Other Jurisdictions**

For places in jurisdictions not covered by [16.2.2.9](#) (places in Australia, Canada, Malaysia, United States, U.S.S.R., or Yugoslavia), ~~or [16.2.2.10](#) (places in the British Isles), or [16.2.2.11](#) (places in China)~~, record the name of the country in which the place is located as part of the name of the place. Abbreviate the name of the country as instructed in Appendix B ([B.2](#)), as applicable.

[examples unchanged]

### **16.2.2.12 ~~13~~ Places with the Same Name**

If recording the name of the larger place or jurisdiction as part of the name as instructed in [16.2.2.9](#)–[16.2.2.11](#) is insufficient to distinguish between two or more places with the same name, include as part of the name of the place a word or phrase commonly used to distinguish them.

[examples unchanged]

If there is no such word or phrase, record the name of an appropriate smaller place before the name of the larger place.

[existing examples unchanged; add these additional examples:]

Xi Cun (Dali Baizu Zizhizhou, Yunnan Sheng, China)

Xi Cun (Fumin Xian, Yunnan Sheng, China)

### **16.2.2.1314** ~~1314~~ **Places within Cities, Etc.**

When recording the name of a place within a city, etc., record the name of the city, etc., and the larger place within which the city, etc., is located, as prescribed in the instructions given under [16.2.2.9-16.2.2.1213](#).

[existing examples unchanged; add these additional examples:]

Dongcheng Qu (Chengdu Shi, Sichuan Sheng, China)

Gulou Qu (Nanjing Shi, Jiangsu Sheng, China)

## **Index:**

### ***Add:***

Chinese place names 16.2.2.11

### ***Revise:***

**Cities and towns** See also [Political jurisdictions](#)  
places within, [16.2.2.1314](#)

**Countries** See also [Political jurisdictions](#)  
place names, added to, [16.2.2.1112](#)

**Clean copy:****16.2.2.4 Recording the Preferred Name**

Record the name of a place in the form most commonly found in gazetteers or other reference sources used in choosing the name, unless the instructions given under [16.2.2.8–16.2.2.14](#)

Record as part of the name of a place (other than a country or a state, etc., listed in [16.2.2.9.1](#) or [16.2.2.10.1](#)) the name of the larger place in which it is located or the larger jurisdiction to which it belongs applying the instructions given under [16.2.2.9–16.2.2.14](#).

[remainder of instruction unchanged]

...

**16.2.2.11 Places in China**

Record the preferred name for a place in China as instructed under [16.2.2.11.1](#) (provinces, autonomous regions, special administrative regions, and special municipalities) or [16.2.2.11.2](#) (places in a province, autonomous region, special administrative region, or special municipality), as applicable.

**16.2.2.11.1 Provinces, Autonomous Regions, Special Administrative Regions, and Special Municipalities**

Include the name of the country as part of the name of the place.

**EXAMPLE**

Anhui Sheng (China)

Beijing (China)

Guangdong Sheng (China)

Hong Kong (China)

Inner Mongolia (China)

Macau (China)

Shanghai (China)

Tibet Autonomous Region (China)

**16.2.2.11.2 Places in a Province, Autonomous Region, Special Administrative Region, or Special Municipality**

If a place is in a province, autonomous region, special administrative region, or special municipality, record the name of the province, autonomous region, special administrative

region, or special municipality in which it is located, as well as the name of the country, as part of the name of the place, applying the instructions given under [16.2.2.4](#).

**EXAMPLE**

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New Territories (Hong Kong, China)

Qianxi Xian (Guizhou Sheng, China)

Qianxi Xian (Hebei Sheng, China)

Wutang Zhen (Fujian Sheng, China)

### **16.2.2.12 Places in Other Jurisdictions**

For places in jurisdictions not covered by [16.2.2.9](#) (places in Australia, Canada, Malaysia, United States, U.S.S.R., or Yugoslavia), [16.2.2.10](#) (places in the British Isles), or [16.2.2.11](#) (places in China), record the name of the country in which the place is located as part of the name of the place. Abbreviate the name of the country as instructed in Appendix B ([B.2](#)), as applicable.

[examples unchanged]

### **16.2.2.13 Places with the Same Name**

If recording the name of the larger place or jurisdiction as part of the name as instructed in [16.2.2.9–16.2.2.12](#) is insufficient to distinguish between two or more places with the same name, include as part of the name of the place a word or phrase commonly used to distinguish them.

[examples unchanged]

If there is no such word or phrase, record the name of an appropriate smaller place before the name of the larger place.

[existing examples unchanged; add these additional examples:]

Xi Cun (Dali Baizu Zizhizhou, Yunnan Sheng, China)

Xi Cun (Fumin Xian, Yunnan Sheng, China)

#### **16.2.2.14 Places within Cities, Etc.**

When recording the name of a place within a city, etc., record the name of the city, etc., and the larger place within which the city, etc., is located, as prescribed in the instructions given under [16.2.2.9–16.2.2.13](#).

[existing examples unchanged; add these additional examples:]

Dongcheng Qu (Chengdu Shi, Sichuan Sheng, China)

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