

**To:** ALA/ALCTS/CaMMS/Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA)  
**FROM:** Kathy Winzer, Chair, Task Force on Relationship Designators in RDA Appendix K  
**SUBJECT:** Task Force report on work to date

**Charge:** The Task Force on Appendix K was charged to propose changes to the list of relationship designators in RDA Appendix K to enrich the vocabulary used to specify relationships between persons, families, and corporate bodies. The task force was asked to review the relationship types used in the Union List of Artist Names and any other relevant vocabularies.

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We began work soon after midwinter with the goal of completing the project in time for annual. As instructed in our charge, we consulted with the managing editor of the Getty Vocabulary Program, Patricia Harpring. She directed us to various parts of the Getty Vocabulary, requesting only that the Getty be cited if their vocabulary is included in Appendix K. We reviewed the Getty vocabularies and used many of the terms there to supplement the existing Appendix K designators. We also consulted other resources, listed at the end of this introduction.

The Task Force identified several issues that we would like CC:DA to consider and discuss at the annual meeting before a final report is submitted:

- We began with the Getty Vocabularies, which include many terms that are specific to art, and we think that these may be too detailed for the purpose of Appendix K. Perhaps ARLIS might be interested in reviewing these terms to decide what should be included in this appendix. Likewise, other subject interest groups, e.g. Medical Library Association, American Association of Law Libraries, etc., might wish to add terms to Appendix K that we did not identify.
- Appendix K is currently established as a provisional guideline, and the designators listed there are nouns, with definitions. We considered how the definitions could be presented so that the relationships could be understood by the human user of the appendix. We considered the use of verbs and of prepositions to clarify the relationship between persons, families, and corporate bodies. Whenever possible we omitted these. However, some terms require either a verb or a preposition for the definition to make sense and for the term to be applied as a relationship. We included a few examples.
- We decided to use gender neutral terms, for example, spouse instead of husband or wife; sibling instead of brother or sister. Because the English language sometimes has no

gender neutral term, supplying the reciprocal term can be complicated, as for example, the niece or nephew of an uncle or aunt. Repeating the term (i.e. aunt or uncle) so that it can be applied separately for each gender allows the issue to be addressed, but the list of terms is lengthened, and the definitions are complicated. Two separate definitions would be needed for uncle, one for niece and one for nephew.

**uncle** A brother of a female person's parent or parent-in-law

**uncle** A brother of a male person's parent or parent-in-law

If a gender neutral term is not used for "parent" the definitions become even more complex, for example:

**uncle** A brother of a female person's father or mother or a husband of a person's aunt

**uncle** A brother of a male person's father or mother or a husband of a person's aunt

**nephew** A son of a female person's brother or sister, or of a person's brother-in-law or sister-in-law

**nephew** A son of a male person's brother or sister, or of a person's brother-in-law or sister-in-law

An alternate approach for this is to conflate the two genders into a single compound term. The task force used this approach for terms with no single gender neutral word, but not without some disagreement among our members.

**aunt or uncle** A sibling or sibling in law of a person's parent; choose appropriate term.

**niece or nephew** A child of a sibling or sibling-in-law; choose appropriate term.

*Example:*

Houston, Whitney

Aunt or uncle: Warwick, Dionne

Warwick, Dionne

Niece or nephew: Houston, Whitney

We would like input from CC:DA on this issue. Should gender-specific terms be treated differently from other terms? Should the gender-neutral terms **parent**, **sibling**, **spouse**, and others be deleted in favor of gender-specific terms such as **father**, **mother**, **brother**, **sister**, **husband**, and **wife**? Should **both** gender-specific equivalent gender-neutral terms be included in the appendix?

- We point out that some terms are used with different definitions in different sections, depending on whether the term is being defined in relation to a person, family, or corporate body. We are not sure if each term should be made unique. For example, instead of repeating "member" should "personal member" or "corporate member" with reciprocals "personal member of" or "corporate member of" be used instead?

- One section of the Getty vocabularies includes roles that perhaps could be incorporated into Appendix K. They could also form the basis of a controlled vocabulary for RDA 9.16 (Profession or Occupation). We did not include these as part of Appendix K, but they can be seen in the CC:DA wiki workspace for the Task Force under the heading Roles. See also:  
[http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/guidelines/ulan\\_4\\_6\\_appendix\\_f\\_roles.html](http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/guidelines/ulan_4_6_appendix_f_roles.html)

Several resources consulted include relationship terms for geographic places. RDA's Appendix L: Relationship Designators: Relationships between Concepts, Objects, Events, and Places has not yet been developed. However, there is a need today to record relationships between jurisdiction entities, and NACO practice currently lets catalogers relate jurisdiction access points using simple see also as well as earlier/later coding. Since jurisdictions are used as corporate body access points in RDA, we believe it is appropriate to include relationship designators for them in Appendix K, at least provisionally until Appendix L is developed. Furthermore, jurisdictions may have relationships to other entities, so even if certain designators belonged only in Appendix L, their reciprocals would need to be in Appendix K (e.g., the relationship of a jurisdiction as a member of an international organization). See section following K.4.3 for some examples and also the Appendix to this report that discusses *Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names* relationship types and GNIS and GEOnet feature designators.

### Resources Consulted

Art & Architecture Thesaurus (AAT): Editorial Guidelines. Compiled and edited by Patricia Harpring. Getty Research Institute, 2004-2009. Available at  
[http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/guidelines/aat\\_1\\_contents\\_intro.html](http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/guidelines/aat_1_contents_intro.html)

Cultural Objects Name Authority (CONA): Editorial Guidelines. Compiled and edited by Patricia Harpring. Getty Research Institute, 2010. Available at  
[http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/guidelines/cona\\_1\\_contents\\_intro.html](http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/guidelines/cona_1_contents_intro.html)

Definition of the CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model: Version 5.0.4. ICOM/CIDOC CRM Special Interest Group, 2011. Available at [http://www.cidoc-crm.org/docs/cidoc\\_crm\\_version\\_5.0.4.pdf](http://www.cidoc-crm.org/docs/cidoc_crm_version_5.0.4.pdf)

FOAF Vocabulary Specification 0.98. Dan Brickley and Libby Miller, 2010. Available at  
<http://xmlns.com/foaf/spec/>

Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey. Available at <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/>

GEOnet Names Server (GNS). National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. Feature designations available at <http://geonames.nga.mil/ggmagaz/> - click on "Feature Designations" or click on "Lookup Tables: Designation Codes"

Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names (TGN): Editorial Guidelines. Compiled and edited by Patricia Harpring. Getty Research Institute, 2009. Available at

[http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/guidelines/tgn\\_1\\_contents\\_intro.html](http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/guidelines/tgn_1_contents_intro.html)

ISAAR (CPF): International Standard Archival Authority Record For Corporate Bodies, Persons and Families. Second Edition. International Council on Archives, 2004. Available at [http://www.icacds.org.uk/eng/isaar2ndedn-e\\_3\\_1.pdf](http://www.icacds.org.uk/eng/isaar2ndedn-e_3_1.pdf)

Music Ontology Specification. Edited by Yves Raimond and Frédérick Giasson, 2010. Available at <http://musicontology.com/>

Union List of Artist Names (ULAN): Editorial Guidelines. Compiled and edited by Patricia Harpring. Getty Research Institute, 2004-2009. Available at [http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/guidelines/ulan\\_1\\_contents\\_intro.html](http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/guidelines/ulan_1_contents_intro.html)

XOBIS: The XML Organic Bibliographic Information Schema. Lane Medical Library, Stanford . Available at <http://xobis.stanford.edu/>. See also Relationships at <http://medlane.stanford.edu/medlane/relationships.html>

## K.0 Scope

This appendix provides general guidelines on using relationship designators to specify relationships between persons, families, and corporate bodies, and lists relationship designators used for that purpose.

The relationship designators in this appendix are provisional. They will be reviewed, revised as necessary, and confirmed after the first release of RDA.

## K.1 General Guidelines on Using Relationship Designators

Use relationship designators to indicate the specific nature of relationships between persons, families, and corporate bodies.

If none of the terms listed in this appendix is appropriate or sufficiently specific, use a term indicating the nature of the relationship as concisely as possible.

If the element used to record the relationship (e.g., related person) is considered sufficient for the purposes of the agency creating the data, do not use a relationship designator to indicate the specific nature of the relationship.

Some relationships are not specific to persons, families or corporate bodies. These relationships can be used in more than one section and are reciprocal.

**associated with** A person, family, or corporate body associated with another person, family, or corporate body in a generic way. Use when no more specific designator is appropriate.

**collaborated with** A person, family, or corporate body that collaborated with or worked together in some way with another person, family, or corporate body.

**related to** A person, family, or corporate body is related in some way to another person, family or corporate body, but the specific nature of the relationship is not known or cannot be specified.

**formerly related to** A person, family, or corporate body that was formerly related to another person, family, or corporate body but the relationship no longer exists because the situation has changed or because the state of scholarship regarding the appropriateness of the relationship has changed.

**possibly identified with** A person, family, or corporate body that may possibly be the same entity as another person, family, or corporate body, but which has not yet been firmly established and accepted.

**distinguished from** A person, family, or corporate body that has often been confused with another person, family, or corporate body in scholarly literature.

**influenced** A person, family, or corporate body that was influenced by another person, family, or corporate body.

**influenced by** A person, family, or corporate body that influenced another person, family or corporate body.

## K.2 Relationship Designators for Related Persons

### K.2.1 Relationship Designators to Relate Persons to Other Persons

Record an appropriate term from the list below with the authorized access point or identifier for a related person (see [30.1](#)). Apply the general guidelines on using relationship designators given under [K.1](#).

**alternate identity** A pseudonymous or other identity assumed by the person.

**appointee** A person designated to fill an office or position.

**appointer** A person who designates another to fill an office or a position.

**apprentice** A person learning a trade from a master, typically at low pay for a fixed period.

**assistant** A person serving in an immediately subordinate position to the other person.

**assistant to** A person serving in an immediately superior position to the other person.

**associate** A partner or companion in business or at work.

**client** A person who engages the professional services of a service provider.

**colleague** A fellow member of a profession, staff, or academic faculty.

**consort** A person who is a spouse or close associate of the other person; often used for the spouses of monarchs or heads of state.

**co-worker** A person who works with or share a task with another.

**fellow student** An associate of a student who is also formally engaged in learning.

**friend** A person who shares a bond of mutual affection or regard with another.

**master** A skilled person teaching a trade to an apprentice who typically works at low pay for a fixed period.

**partner** A person working with another in an activity of common interest, most often, a business partnership.

**real identity** A real person who assumes the alternate identity.

**service provider** A person who provides professional services to another.

**student** A person formally engaged in learning.

**teacher** A person who instructs another.

### **Person to Person within a Family**

**adoptive child of** A person assigned to the role of child to another by legal action.

**adoptive parent** A person assigned to the role of parent to another by legal action.

**ancestor** A person from whom another person is descended. Similar to **progenitor** in [K.2.2](#).

**aunt or uncle** A sibling or sibling in law of a person's parent; choose appropriate term.

**child by marriage (in-law) of** A person who is son-in-law or daughter-in-law to another by marriage or civil union.

**child of** A person who is son or daughter to another.

**cousin of** A child of a person's aunt or uncle.

**descendent of** An offspring of a progenitor.

**domestic partner** A person other than a spouse with whom one cohabits.

**godchild of** A child presented at baptism by a person who takes an interest in the child's personal development.

**godparent of** A person presenting a child at baptism who takes an interest in the child's personal development.

**grandchild of** A child of a person's child.

**grandparent of** A parent of a person's parent.

**great-grandparent of** A parent of a person's grandparent.

**great-grandchild of** A child of a person's grandchild.

**guardian of** A person appointed to manage the affairs of another person who is unable to conduct those affairs independently.

**half-sibling of** A person who is half-brother or half-sister to another.

**nephew or niece** A child of a sibling or sibling-in-law; choose appropriate term.

**parent by marriage (in-law) of** A person who is mother-in-law or father-in-law to another by marriage or civil union.

**parent** A person who is or acts as father or mother of another.

**possible relation of** A person who may or may not be connected to another by blood, marriage, or civil union.

**relation** Connected to another by blood, marriage, or civil union; a general term used when a more specific term is unavailable.

**sibling by marriage** A person who is sister-in-law or brother-in-law to another by marriage or civil union.

**sibling of** A person sharing one or both parents with another.

**spouse** A person who is partnered by marriage, civil union, or other legal status to another person.

**step-sibling** A person who is step-brother or step-sister to another person.

**step-child** A person who is a step-son or step-daughter to another by marriage or civil union.

**step-parent** A person is a step-mother or step-father to another by marriage or civil union.

**uncle** See **aunt or uncle**

**ward** A person placed in the care of a guardian.

## K.2.2 Relationship Designators to Relate Persons to Families

Record an appropriate term from the list below with the authorized access point or identifier for a related person (see [30.1](#)). Apply the general guidelines on using relationship designators given under [K.1](#).

**family member** A person who is a member of the family.

**progenitor** A person from whom the family is descended.

## K.2.3 Relationship Designators to Relate Persons to Corporate Bodies

Record an appropriate term from the list below with the authorized access point or identifier for a related person (see [30.1](#)). Apply the general guidelines on using relationship designators given under [K.1](#).

### EXAMPLE

I.M. Pei & Associates

Founder: Pei, I. M., 1917-

Titanic (Steamship)

Officer: Smith, Edward John, 1850-1912



**administrator** A person who executes the administration of the corporate body.

**appointee** A person who was designated to fill an office or position by the corporate body.

**architect** A person responsible for the planning, design, and oversight of the construction of a building, group of buildings, and/or the space within a building site.

**client** A person who utilizes the professional services of the corporate body.

**collaborator** A person who works together in some way with the corporate body.

**curator** A person responsible for the collections of the corporate body or involved in the organization of the exhibition, fair, etc.

**delegate** A person who speaks or acts on behalf of the corporate body or organization at a conference, meeting, etc.

**director** A person who directs the activity of the corporate body, department, or organization.

**dissolver** A person who dissolved the corporate body.

**donor** A person who donates financial or in-kind support to the corporate body.

**employee** A person employed by the corporate body.

**founder** A person who founded the corporate body.

**governor** A person who governs the corporate body.

**group member** A person who is a participant in or a member of the performing group, expedition, etc.

**incumbent** A person holding an office in the corporate body.

**influenced** A person who was influenced by the corporate body.

**leader** A person who leads or led the corporate body.

**manager** A person who manages the corporate body.

**member** A person who is a member of the corporate body.

**officer** A person holding an office in or commanding the corporate body.

**owner** A person who owns the corporate body.

**partner** A person who is a member of the corporate body which is formed as a partnership.

**performer** A person who performs in a performing group.

**president** A person who is the chief executive of the corporate body.

**professor** A person who is an instructor of high rank at an educational institution.

**religious leader** A person who leads a religious organization.

**representative** A person who represents the corporate body at a conference, meeting, event, etc.

**ruler** A person that governs the corporate body.

**sponsor** A person sponsoring the corporate body.

**student** A person who receives instruction at an educational institution.

**teacher** A person who is an instructor at an educational institution.

**trustee** A person granted the powers of administration in the corporate body in order to act for its benefit

### **K.3 Relationship Designators for Related Families**

#### **K.3.1 Relationship Designators to Relate Families to Persons**

Record an appropriate term from the list below with the authorized access point or identifier for a related family (see [31.1](#)). Apply the general guidelines on using relationship designators given under [K.1](#).

**descendants** A family descended from the particular person.

#### **K.3.2 Relationship Designators to Relate Families to Other Families**

Record an appropriate term from the list below with the authorized access point or identifier for a related family (see [31.1](#)). Apply the general guidelines on using relationship designators given under [K.1](#).

**ancestor family** A family from which the other family is descended.

**descendant family** A family descended from the other family.

#### **K.3.3 Relationship Designators to Relate Families to Corporate Bodies**

Record an appropriate term from the list below with the authorized access point or identifier for a related family (see [31.1](#)). Apply the general guidelines on using relationship designators given under [K.1](#).

**founding family** A family that founded the corporate body.

**sponsoring family** A family that sponsors the corporate body.

## K.4 Relationship Designators for Related Corporate Bodies

### K.4.1 Relationship Designators to Relate Corporate Bodies to Persons

Record an appropriate term from the list below with the authorized access point or identifier for a related corporate body (see [32.1](#)). Apply the general guidelines on using relationship designators given under [K.1](#).

#### EXAMPLE

Pei, I. M., 1917–  
Founder pf: I.M. Pei & Associates

**administrator of** A corporate body that has the person as its administrator.

**appointee of** A corporate body that designated the person to fill an office or position.

**architect of** A building, group of buildings, and/or the space within a building site whose construction was planned, designed, and/or overseen by the person.

**client** A corporate body that utilizes the professional services of the person.

**client of** A corporate body that provides professional services to the person.

**collaborator** A corporate body that collaborated or worked together in some way with the person.

**curator at** A corporate body that entrusts the person with responsibility for its collections.

**curator of** An exhibition, fair, etc., for which the person was involved with its organization.

**delegate of** A corporate body represented by the person at a conference, meeting, event, etc.

**delegate to** A conference, meeting, event, etc. attended by the person as the representative of another corporate body

**director of** A corporate body whose activity is directed by the person.

**dissolver of** A corporate body dissolved by the person.

**donor to** A corporate body that receives donated support from the person.

**employee** A corporate body employed by the person.

**employer** A corporate body that employs the person.

**founder of** A corporate body founded by the person.

**governor** A corporate body governed by the person.

**group member of** A performing group, expedition, etc. of which the person is a member or participant.

**influenced** A corporate body that was influenced by the person.

**influenced by** A corporate body that influenced the person.

**leader of** A corporate body led by the person.

**manager of** A corporate body managed by the person.

**member of** A corporate body other than a performing group, expedition, etc. of which the person is a member; see also group member of.

**officer of** A corporate body that the person commands or in which the person holds an office.

**owner of** A corporate body owned by the person.

**partner in** A corporate body, formed as a partnership, in which the person is a member.

**patron** A corporate body that provides donated support to the person.

**patron of** corporate body that receives donated support from the person.

**performer with** A performing group in which a person performs.

**president of** A corporate body in which the person is the chief executive.

**professor at** An educational institution that employs the person as an instructor of high rank.

**publisher** A corporate body that publishes the works of the person.

**religious leader of** A religious organization led by the person.

**representative of** A corporate body represented by the person at a conference, meeting, event, etc.

**representative to** A conference, meeting, event, etc. attended by the person as the representative of another entity.

**ruler of** A corporate body governed by the person.

**sponsor of** A corporate body sponsored by the person.

**student at** An educational institution that provides instruction to the person.

**teacher at** An educational institution that employs the person as an instructor.

**trustee of** A corporate body that grants the powers of administration to the person in order to act for its benefit.

#### K.4.2 Relationship Designators to Relate Corporate Bodies to Families

Record an appropriate term from the list below with the authorized access point or identifier for a related corporate body (see [32.1](#)). Apply the general guidelines on using relationship designators given under [K.1](#).

**founded organization** A corporate body that the family founded.

**sponsored organization** A corporate body that the family sponsors.

#### K.4.3 Relationship Designators to Relate Corporate Bodies to Other Corporate Bodies

Record an appropriate term from the list below with the authorized access point or identifier for a related corporate body (see [32.1](#)). Apply the general guidelines on using relationship designators given under [K.1](#).

##### EXAMPLE

Australia

Member of: World Trade Organization

World Trade Organization

Member: Australia

Stanford University

Member of: Association of Pacific Rim Universities

Association of Pacific Rim Universities

Member: Stanford University

Member: University of British Columbia

Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art

Architectural firm: I.M. Pei & Partners

I.M. Pei & Partners

Architectural firm of: Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art

Titanic (Steamship)

Corporate owner: White Star Line

**architectural firm** A corporate body responsible for the planning, design, and oversight of the construction of a building, group of buildings, and/or the space within a building site.

**architectural firm of** A building, group of buildings, and/or the space within a building site whose construction was planned, designed, and/or overseen by the corporate body.

**corporate owner** A corporate body that owns the corporate body.

**corporate owner of** A corporate body owned by the corporate body.

**hierarchical subordinate** A corporate body that is subordinate to the other corporate body.

**hierarchical superior** A corporate body that is hierarchically superior to the other corporate body.

**member** A corporate body belonging to a larger organization in which its participation is characterized as a member.

**member of** A corporate body composed of other corporate bodies called members.

**mergee** A corporate body that merged with the other corporate body to form a third.

**predecessor** A corporate body that precedes the other corporate body.

**product of a merger** A corporate body that resulted from a merger of two or more other corporate bodies.

**product of a split** A corporate body that resulted from a split or division of the other corporate body.

**successor** A corporate body that succeeds or follows the other corporate body.

## APPENDIX

### Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names Relationship Types

Since the TGN relationship types are for geographic places, it's not clear that they belong in Appendix K. Instead, they probably belong in Appendix L, which has not yet been created. However, since jurisdictions are treated as corporate bodies in RDA, perhaps we should consider some of them in Appendix K? We do after all code relationships between jurisdictions in NACO, such as successor and predecessor.

These are the TGN relationship types, with the Getty definitions:

**related to:** General designation for relationships, where no specific relationship is known or appropriate.

**distinguished from:** Use when there is some significant reason why the two places are often confused, but they should be distinguished from each other. Use when a given name is sometimes applied to a different geographic area in other classification schemes. Generally applies to states or general regions rather than to inhabited places. May apply to current or historical relationships.

**possibly identified as:** Use for places, often inhabited places or deserted settlements (rather than states), about which scholars are uncertain whether or not the historical place is on the same site as the modern place. The places may have either different or similar names. (If the places are established as occupying the same site, there should be only one record, with the historical names included as variant names.)

**adjacent to:** Use when two sites are often confused or mistakenly believed to be the same site, but they are actually adjacent to each other. Generally applies to current relationships.

**coextensive with:** Use when places have two different place types for different administrative or physical designations, but the places are coextensive (e.g., when an island and a province occupy the same territory); such places may share the same name. Generally applies to current relationships.

**meaning/usage overlaps with:** Use when names of two places are associated with slightly or significantly different and overlapping boundaries in different contexts or during different historical periods. For example, sometimes Judaea is considered a synonym with the Holy Land, although in TGN, they are classified as separate places with different boundaries (although boundaries overlap)

**member of / member is:** Use for linking states to a larger organization in which their participation is characterized in your source as member. From the organization's point of view, the relationship type is member is. May be current or historical.

**capital of / capital is:** Use to link a capital city to the entity for which it is or was the capital. May be current or historical.

**ally of:** Use for allies that have a direct, important relationship that is not expressed in another way (e.g., for the towns that were members of the Medieval Tuscan Ghibelline and Guelf factions). Do not use this Relationship Type to link long lists of members to all the other members in the long list; in such cases, it is probably more appropriate to make a separate record for the organization or association, and link the members to that record.

**moved from / moved to:** Use for inhabited places that were physically moved from one location to another, often due to the threat or occurrence of natural disaster in one location, the flooding of an area due to the construction of a dam, etc. Typically, one of these places will be historical, often a deserted settlement.

**successor of / predecessor of:** Use for states that occupy similar territory, but one historically followed the other. Typically, at least one of the entities is now a former state.

**historical connection:** Use for states that have a strong, direct historical link, but the relationship is not necessarily successor of / predecessor of. Do not use for hierarchical whole/part relationships.

## Examples

France

*Capital:* Paris (France)

Paris (France)

*Capital of:* France

## Designations from GNIS and GEOnet Names Server Databases

GNIS has the following designations:

**State Capital** - the TGN designators **capital of/capital is** would cover this relationship.

**County Seat** - not sure if the TGN designators **capitol of/capital is** would cover this relationship. The Wikipedia article for “County seat” defines it as: “A county seat is an administrative center, or seat of government, for a county or civil parish. The term is primarily used in the United States. ... Most counties have only one county seat. However, some counties in Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, and Vermont have two or more county seats, usually located on opposite sides of the county. An example is Harrison County, Mississippi, which lists both Biloxi and Gulfport as county seats.” The Wikipedia article for “Capital city” says: “A capital city (or just, capital) is the area of a country, province, region, or state considered to enjoy primary status; although there are exceptions, a capital is typically a city that physically encompasses the offices and meeting places of the seat of government and is usually fixed by law or by the constitution. ... The seats of government in major sub-state jurisdictions are often called ‘capitals,’ but this is typically only the case in countries with some degree of federalism, where major sub-state legal jurisdictions have elements of sovereignty. In unitary states, an ‘administrative centre’ or other similar term is typically used for such locations besides the



national capital city. For example, the seat of government in a state of the United States is usually called its ‘capital,’ but the main city in a region of the United Kingdom is usually not called such, even though in Ireland, a county's main town is usually called its ‘capital.’ On the other hand, the four main subdivisions of the United Kingdom do have capital cities: Scotland – Edinburgh, Wales – Cardiff, Northern Ireland – Belfast, and England – London. Counties in England, Wales and Scotland have historic county towns, which are often not the largest settlement within the county and often are no longer administrative centres, as many historical counties are now only ceremonial, and administrative boundaries are different. ... In the lower administrative subdivisions in various English-speaking countries, terms such as county town, county seat, and borough seat are usually used.”

GEOnet has these Feature Designation Names, with definitions from GEOnet:

**dependent political entity**

**capital of a political entity**

**historical capital of a political entity:** A former capital of a political entity

**historical administrative division:** A former administrative division of a political entity, undifferentiated as to administrative level

**historical first-order administrative division:** A former first-order administrative division

**historical second-order administrative division:** A former second-order administrative division

**historical third-order administrative division:** A former third-order administrative division

**historical fourth-order administrative division:** A former fourth-order administrative division

**administrative division:** An administrative division of a political entity, undifferentiated as to administrative level

**first-order administrative division:** A primary administrative division of a country, such as a state in the United States

**second-order administrative division:** A subdivision of a first-order administrative division

**third-order administrative division:** A subdivision of a second-order administrative division

**fourth-order administrative division:** A subdivision of a third-order administrative division

**seat of a first-order administrative division:** Seat of a first-order administrative division

**seat of a second-order administrative division**

**seat of a third-order administrative division**

**seat of a fourth-order administrative division**

## Examples

Loudoun County (Va.)

*County seat:* Leesburg (Va.)

Leesburg (Va.)

*County seat of:* Loudoun County (Va.)

Manitoba

*First-order administrative division of:* Canada

Canada

*First-order administrative division:* Alberta

*First-order administrative division:* British Columbia

*First-order administrative division:* Manitoba

[etc.]