

To: ALA/ALCTS/CaMMS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access
From: Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative to the Joint Steering Committee
Subject: Creating instructions for using nominative case for titles (RDA 6.2), names (RDA 8.5), and places (RDA 16.2)

Background:

RDA lacks specific instructions about converting genitive or other case forms to the nominative case (sometimes called the subjective or subject case) when determining the title (RDA 6.2), the name of a person, family or corporate body (RDA 8.5), or the name of a place (RDA 16.2). This conversion has generally been the practice for NACO catalogers under AACR2, and subsequently under RDA. It is specifically mentioned in relation to serials in the LC-PCC Policy Statement for 6.27.1.9 (Serials, point #7, in regard to numbering grammatically integrated with title proper).

Conversion of found forms to the nominative case is based on the principles of Representation (RDA 0.4.3.4) and Common Usage or Practice (RDA 0.4.3.7). Forms of names and titles in the nominative case are usually the commonly known forms. The nominative case, the case that marks the subject, is the dictionary-entry form of nouns and as such is the form most users expect to find when searching.

The RDA Appendices make two mentions of nominative case: A.46.1, Polish proper names and their derivatives; and C.2, Articles listed by Language, Ancient Greek. RDA also makes one mention of genitive case: RDA F.11.2, Czech and Slovak surnames that include an article and/or preposition, which gives explicit instructions for recording a surname that consists of a place name in the genitive case, if it is preceded by “z”. None of these instructions provide any guidance about converting the case forms.

Because this practice has never been instantiated, results vary when catalogers record names and titles according to RDA. The proposal below suggests adding three new sub-instructions to rectify this situation.

Note: The following proposal suggests using 6.2.11 for the new instruction for “Case”; this takes into consideration another proposal for CC:DA discussion that proposes a new instruction as 6.2.10 for varying words. The mark-up in 6.2.1.3 assumes that the changes in CC:DA/JSC Rep/KPG/2014/4 are accepted.

Proposal:

marked-up copy

6.2 Title of the Work

CORE ELEMENT

Preferred title for the work is a core element. Variant titles for the work are optional.

[6.2.1.1 and 6.2.1.2 unchanged]

6.2.1.3 General Guidelines on Recording Titles of Works

When recording a title of a work, apply the guidelines on capitalization, numbers, diacritical marks, initial articles, spacing of initials and acronyms, abbreviations, ~~and~~ varying words, and case at [6.2.1.4–6.2.1.9](#)¹¹. When those guidelines refer to an appendix, apply the additional instructions in that appendix, as applicable.

[6.2.1.4 through 6.2.1.9 unchanged; see CC:DA/JSC Rep/KPG/2014/4 for proposed 6.2.1.10]

6.2.1.11 Case

When recording a title for a work in a language that has case endings, record the title in the nominative case, unless the title is to be accessed under a different case (e.g., ablative, elative).

EXAMPLE

Aeneis

Title embedded in another title as: Adnotationes ad Vergilii Aeneidem

Der Zauberberg

Title embedded in another title as: Thomas Mann: Einführung in Den Zauberberg für Studenten der Universität Princeton

but

Deo volente

not Deus volens

Suomesta

not Suomi

8.5 General Guidelines on Recording Names

8.5.1 General Guidelines

When recording a name, apply the following general guidelines:

capitalization (see 8.5.2)

numbers expressed as numerals or as words (see 8.5.3)

accents and other diacritical marks (see 8.5.4)

hyphens (see 8.5.5)

spacing of initials and acronyms (see 8.5.6)

abbreviations (see 8.5.7):

case (see 8.5.8).

When those guidelines refer to an appendix, apply the additional instructions in that appendix, as applicable.

[8.5.2 through 8.5.7 unchanged]

8.5.8 Case

When recording a name in a language that has case endings, record the name in the nominative case, unless the name is to be accessed under a different case (e.g., genitive, ablative).

EXAMPLE

P. Vergilius Maro

Name appears as: P. Vergili Maronis

Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft

Name appears as: Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft

but

Simpson's

not Simpson

Name of a tavern

Deo Juvante

not Deus Juvans

Name of a musical group

16.2.1.3 General Guidelines on Recording Names of Places

Record the name of a place in the form found in the source from which the name is taken, unless the instructions at 16.2.2.8-16.2.2.13 indicate otherwise.

When recording the name of a place in a language that has case endings, record the name in the nominative case, unless the name is to be accessed under a different case (e.g., genitive).

EXAMPLEМоскваName appears as: МосквеAlexandriaName appears as: AlexandriaeЦарское СелоName appears as: Царского СелаPrahaName appears as: Praze**but**St. David's**not** St. DavidRobinson's**not** Robinson**Proposal:***clean copy***6.2 Title of the Work**

CORE ELEMENT

*Preferred title for the work is a core element. Variant titles for the work are optional.***[6.2.1.1 and 6.2.1.2 unchanged]****6.2.1.3 General Guidelines on Recording Titles of Works**

When recording a title of a work, apply the guidelines on capitalization, numbers, diacritical marks, initial articles, spacing of initials and acronyms, abbreviations, varying words, and case at [6.2.1.4–6.2.1.11](#). When those guidelines refer to an appendix, apply the additional instructions in that appendix, as applicable.

[6.2.1.4 through 6.2.1.9 unchanged; see CC:DA/JSC Rep/KPG/2014/4 for proposed 6.2.1.10]

6.2.1.11 Case

When recording a title for a work in a language that has case endings, record the title in the nominative case, unless the title is to be accessed under a different case (e.g., ablative, elative).

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Aeneis

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- numbers expressed as numerals or as words (see 8.5.3)
- accents and other diacritical marks (see 8.5.4)
- hyphens (see 8.5.5)
- spacing of initials and acronyms (see 8.5.6)
- abbreviations (see 8.5.7)
- case (see 8.5.8).

When those guidelines refer to an appendix, apply the additional instructions in that appendix, as applicable.

[8.5.2 through 8.5.7 unchanged]

8.5.8 Case

When recording a name in a language that has case endings, record the name in the nominative case, unless the name is to be accessed under a different case (e.g., genitive, ablative).

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When recording the name of a place in a language that has case endings, record the name in the nominative case, unless the name is to be accessed under a different case (e.g., genitive).

EXAMPLE

Москва

Name appears as: Москве

Alexandria

Name appears as: Alexandriae

Царское Село

Name appears as: Царского Села

Praha

Name appears as: Praze

but

St. David's

not St. David

Robinson's

not Robinson