

October 11, 2012

Dear Naun and PCC Relationship Designators Task Group members,

The Committee on Technical Processing (CTP) of the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) learned that your Task Group has been charged to provide a policy statement and guidelines for providing relationship designators in PCC RDA bibliographic records. We are especially interested in the development of the Task Group's 2nd charge:

“Provide recommendations and guidance on what PCC catalogers should do when a needed term is not listed in the applicable RDA appendix, including terms found in controlled vocabulary lists outside of RDA as well as terms not found in controlled vocabulary lists.”

The Chinese Rare book cataloging community has been assigning relator terms under AACR2 using “Chinese terms and romanization (in parallel fields) to transcribe distinctive functions” as instructed in the *Cataloging Guidelines for Creating Chinese Rare Book Records in Machine-Readable Form* (p. 39, 10. Personal/Corporate Name Added Entry [MARC Tag: 700, 710]), similar to what is done in China and Taiwan. The Guidelines were developed originally for the International Union Catalog of Chinese Rare Book Project and later for Chinese rare books in general. It was published by former Research Library Group (RLG) and now is available via Catalog's Desktop.

Examples:

700 0 Qianlong, †c Emperor of China, †d 1711-1799, †e *chi zuan*.

700 0 乾隆, †c Emperor of China, †d 1711-1799, †e *勅纂*. [*compiled under his order—only used after names of emperors*]

710 2 善成堂, †e *藏版*.

710 2 Shan cheng tang, †e *cang ban*. [*woodblock owner*]

See also OCLC #53199400 for other examples.

Some of the relator terms do not have precise English equivalents. A recent inquiry from the National Central Library (in Taiwan) regarding RDA's relator terms prompted us to examine the rules closely. Our conclusion is that while it would be beneficial for English-speaking communities to use English relator terms for ease of understanding by English speakers, it is also important for other communities to decide what's best for their own environment. Rare book communities in East Asia have well established cataloging traditions which they might want to continue even if they choose to adopt RDA.

Following the principles under RDA 0.11 “Internationalization”, we intend to submit, through a proper channel, an RDA revision proposal to add the following language (extracted from RDA 0.11.2) to the relevant RDA Appendices I, J, K, and L, e.g., I.1, J.1, K.1, and L.1:

“Agencies creating data for use in a different language or script context may modify such instructions to reflect their own language or script preferences and replace the English-language terms specified in RDA with terms appropriate for use in their context.”

Individual library communities can then decide whether they want to use English terms provided in RDA or their own vocabularies.

Before the revision proposal is prepared, we thought it would be useful to bring this issue to your attention.

Thank you very much for your taking into consideration the background and our intention.

Best,

Shi Deng
Chair, CEAL Committee on Technical Services

Head, Chinese Japanese Korean Acquisitions/Cataloging Unit
Metadata Services Department, UCSD Libraries
9500 Gilman Drive, 0175K
La Jolla, CA 92093-0175
Tel: (858) 822-2104
Fax: (858) 822-0349
Email: sdeng@ucsd.edu