
Fictitious and Real Non-Human Entities

Overview	1
Changes from Original RDA	2
Implementation with Metadata Examples	3
Fictitious characters and real, non-human entities in name authority records	3
Fictitious characters and real, non-human entities in bibliographic records	4

Overview

Traditionally, all headings for fictitious characters and real, non-human entities¹ were established in the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH). However, Original RDA permitted names of individual fictitious characters to be used as descriptive access points when the character was credited with the creation of a work. In 2013, a revision to Original RDA made it possible to establish all headings for individual fictitious characters in the NACO Name Authority File (NAF). Since then, all headings for individual fictitious characters and real, non-human entities have been established in the NAF and these name headings have been used as agents and subjects, as needed in bibliographic records.

In order to align RDA more closely with the Library Reference Model (LRM), the 3R Project changed the status of fictitious characters and real, non-human entities. The 2020 publication of the Official RDA Toolkit stated that responsibility for works could only be attributed to real human beings or collective agents.

As a result of this change, the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) and the Library of Congress decided to adopt the following procedures for dealing with fictitious characters and real, non-human entities:

1. Name Authority Records (NARs) for fictitious characters and real, non-human entities

¹ Throughout this guidance document, the phrase “fictitious characters and real, non-human entities” also includes the following types of personages: legendary or mythological beings, spirits, and deities.

- will continue to be established in the NAF.
2. These NARs will receive a new description convention code (pccrda), indicating that the records conform to PCC's implementation of RDA.
 3. These NARs will also include an entity type designation.
 4. As needed, fictitious characters and real, non-human entities may be credited with the creation of a work in bibliographic records.
 5. These bibliographic records will receive a new description convention code (to be determined), indicating that the records conform to PCC's implementation of RDA.
 6. There is no change in the use of fictitious characters and real, non-human entities as subjects of works.

Changes from Original RDA

Original RDA	Official RDA
<p>[Under Section 3: Recording Attributes of Agents]</p> <p>9.6.1.5 - For a spirit, record <i>Spirit</i>.</p> <p>9.6.1.7 - For a fictitious or legendary person, record <i>Fictitious character</i>, <i>Legendary character</i>, or another appropriate designation.</p> <p>9.6.1.8 - For a real non-human entity, record a designation for type, species, or breed.</p>	<p>[Under Resources > Fictitious and non-human appellations]</p> <p>An appellation of a fictitious entity that is included in a statement in a manifestation that assigns responsibility to an agent is assumed to be a pseudonymous appellation of an Agent, Collective Agent, Corporate Body, Family, or Person...</p> <p>A non-human entity that is associated with a statement in a manifestation that assigns responsibility to an agent is treated as an entity that is external to RDA.</p>

Implementation with Metadata Examples

Fictitious characters and real, non-human entities in name authority records

Establish fictitious characters and real, non-human entities in the NAF, following the same procedures for RDA Agents.

- Do not use the description convention code “rda” on name authority records for fictitious characters and real, non-human entities. Instead, provide the new description convention code “pccrda”.
- Provide an entity type designation.
 - **PCC is developing an entity type vocabulary for use with these non-RDA Agents. This documentation will be updated when the vocabulary is implemented.**

Examples	
MARC	<p>Example 1</p> <p>Fictitious character</p> <pre>040 __ \$a WaU \$b eng \$e pccrda \$c WaU 075 __ \$a Literarische Gestalten \$b pxl \$2 gndspec 100 1_ \$a Twist, Oliver \$c (Fictitious character)</pre> <p>Example 2</p> <p>Non-human Entity</p> <pre>040 __ \$a UkCU \$b eng \$e pccrda \$c UkCU \$d DLC 075 __ \$a Personennamen, die keinem anderen speziellen Entitätentyp zugehören \$b piz \$2 gndspec 100 0_ \$a Wojtek \$c (Bear), \$d 1942-1963</pre>
BIBFRAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Record an IRI for the instance of a Nomen as a real-world object.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NARs for fictitious characters and real, non-human entities will continue to be created and maintained in the NAF using MARC 21 coding and syntax.
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Fictitious characters and real, non-human entities in bibliographic records

Fictitious, legendary, and real non-human entities may appear in bibliographic records as creators or subjects of works.

- Fictitious characters and real, non-human entities may be recorded as creators of works, when needed. Do not code the record as conforming to RDA.
 - PCC is developing a description convention code for use with these non-RDA Agents in bibliographic records. This documentation will be updated when the code is implemented.**

Examples	
MARC	<p>Example 3</p> <p>Fictitious Character</p> <pre>040 __ \$a IMnBT \$b eng \$e pccrda \$c FMG \$d OCLCO \$d DLC</pre> <pre>100 0_ \$a Oscar, \$c the Grouch (Fictitious character), \$e author.</pre> <pre>245 14 \$a The pursuit of grouchiness : \$b Oscar the Grouch's guide to life / \$c by me, Oscar, who else?!</pre>
BIBFRAME	<p>Example 4</p> <p>BIBFRAME Entity: Work</p>

	<pre><bf:agent> <bf:Agent> <rdf:type rdf:resource="http://id.loc.gov/ontologies/bibframe/Person"/> <rdfs:label>Oscar the Grouch (Fictitious character),</rdfs:label> </bf:Agent> </bf:agent> <bf:role> <bf:Role> <rdfs:label>author.</rdfs:label> </bf:Role> </bf:role></pre>
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