ORDAC RDA proposal paper on dual-language names

The Oceania region RDA Committee (ORDAC) are planning to submit a proposal to the RDA Steering Committee to recommend an adjustment to RDA in relation to dual-language strings for both Corporate Body and Place names.

This consultation version of the document is only a draft, circulated for comment. Please contact the ORDAC RSC representative Charlotte Christensen at charlotte@rdatoolkit.org if you have any feedback on the proposed wording or any other examples that should be taken into consideration.

To: RDA Steering Committee
From: ORDAC
Subject: Dual-language naming of Corporate Body and Place

ORDAC presents this paper to resolve an issue of where a string for a name contains words from two or more languages but is intended to be interpreted as a single value rather than as two parallel values. The recommendations proposed make no changes to existing options for parallel language values, but simply add an additional option to two element pages allowing descriptive communities to select this value where it is appropriate to their context.

Corporate Body names

In New Zealand it is common for corporate bodies to have a dual-language name. This is a situation where the name containing words from two languages forms a single string to represent the corporate body entity. There is usually no punctuation used to separate the language terms.

examples:
Oranga Tamariki Ministry for Children
Kāinga Ora Homes and Communities
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

While the corporate body is recognisable if only part of the name is given (e.g. Oranga Tamariki), the name is commonly formally presented as a single string.

Recommendation 1: Add a new Condition Option to Corporate Body: preferred name of corporate body

Marked-up copy

> CONDITION
> A value of a name contains words from two or more languages
>
> CONDITION OPTION
> Record a value as a single string as it appears on the source of information

Clean copy

> CONDITION
> A value of a name contains words from two or more languages

CONDITION OPTION
Record a value as a single string as it appears on the source of
information

Placenames

The same issue arises for placenames, and this is noted to occur in other countries as well.
The official languages of the jurisdiction notwithstanding, there are times when a dual name
is given preference in reference sources such as gazetteers. In this case the names are
frequently presented separated by punctuation in those reference sources.

examples:
Uluru / Ayers Rock   (Australia)
Aoraki / Mount Cook (New Zealand)

Again, the location is recognisable if only one part of the name is used (e.g. Uluru) but the
officially recognised form is the dual language form.

There are other examples where there are widely understood alternatives (e.g. Ōtautahi vs
Christchurch) which are used to describe the same place but are used intentionally as
language equivalents of each other for a given context even though they may not in fact
reflect the same geographic boundaries. This latter situation is already adequately covered
by existing options to select a language form of a name of place.

Recommendation 2: Add a new Condition for Place: preferred name of place

CONDITION
A name of place contains words from two or more languages

CONDITION OPTION
Record a value as a single string as it appears on the source of
information

Clean copy

CONDITION
A name of place contains words from two or more languages

CONDITION OPTION
Record a value as a single string as it appears on the source of
information