
22.17. DATES

Option decision

1. Establishing New Headings That Do Not Conflict

Apply the optional provision. This means adding a date whenever it is known.

Post-Nineteenth Century Persons

For persons living in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, the date upon which the heading is based should be a precise one. Specifically, add the date to headings for these persons only if it falls into any of the following categories:

- 1) The person is still living and the year of birth is known ("1930- ").
- 2) The person is no longer living and the years of birth and death are known ("1900-1981").
- 3) The person is no longer living (or there is reasonable doubt that the person is living based on the average life span) and only the year of birth is known ("b. 1900").
- 4) The person is no longer living and only the date of death is known ("d. 1981").

Note: If a date is a specific non-Gregorian year, add the Gregorian equivalent to the heading even if this means using a date in the form "1921 or 2."

Pre-Twentieth Century Persons

For pre-twentieth century persons, less precise dates may be used. Consult the examples under 22.17A for guidance.

Note: "Flourished" dates acceptable for addition to headings for pre-twentieth century persons normally express a span of years of activity. A single year "fl." may be used only in exceptional cases, as when a reference source itself designates the date in this way or there is one publication or other event in the person's life known to be the single or at least primary basis for a single year.

2. Changes to Existing Headings Already Coded for AACR2.

Optionally, add death dates to headings that have open birth dates.

Do not add dates (birth or death) to an existing heading without dates represented by a name authority record that has already been coded "AACR2" or "AACR2 compatible" (including in either case those labeled "preliminary"—008 byte 33 = d). However, if such a heading is being revised or

22.17

is found to be in conflict with another heading, etc. (cf. LCRI 22.17-20), add the date(s).

3. Changes to Existing Headings not coded for AACR2

Apply the guidelines as stated in 1. above when updating headings in this category.

Abbreviations B.C. and A.D.

Use the abbreviation B.C. for dates in the pre-Christian era. Place the abbreviation at the end of a date or span of dates in that era.

```
100 0# $a Nefertiti, $c Queen of Egypt, $d 14th cent.  
      B.C.  
100 0# $a Spartacus, $d d. 71 B.C.  
100 0# $a Pericles, $d 499-429 B.C.  
100 0# $a Ajātaśatru, $c King of Magadha, $d ca. 494-ca.  
      467 B.C.
```

Use the abbreviation A.D. only when the dates span both eras.

```
100 0# $a Augustus, $c Emperor of Rome, $d 63 B.C.-14  
      A.D.  
100 0# $a Ovid, $d 43 B.C.-17 or 18 A.D.  
100 1# $a Seneca, Lucius Annaeus, $d ca. 4 B.C.-65 A.D.
```

If a date is questionable, place the question mark immediately following the date.

```
100 0# $a Antonius Marcus, $d 83?-30 B.C.  
100 0# $a Vercingetorix, $c Chief of the Arverni, $d d.  
      45? B.C.
```