By their very nature, encyclopedias need to follow certain patterns of consistency. This was a particular challenge in dealing with Rusyns and Carpathian Rus’, a people and territory which have always been ruled by different states employing varying forms of place names and personal names. A further complication arises in transliterating names, titles, or terms from Cyrillic letters to the Roman (Latin) alphabet.

Place names for villages, towns, and cities appear in the dominant language of the state in which the place is located at present; hence, Slovak for places in Slovakia, Ukrainian for places in Ukraine, etc. The names of rivers and other geographic features, some of which may be located in more than one country, follow the main form given in *Merriam Webster’s Geographical Dictionary*, 3rd ed. (1997). Historic county names are given in Rusyn, often followed by their equivalent in Hungarian. Some towns or villages have entirely new names. In many cases, the present name is given first, followed by the older form. An exhaustive list of present and previous names of towns and villages is found in the index for the map by Paul Robert Magocsi, *Carpatho-Rusyn Settlement at the Outset of the 20th Century*, 2nd ed. (1998).

The Library of Congress system is used for transliteration from the various Cyrillic alphabets. The transliterations reflect the original form (not modernized orthography) of a name or title, whether it is Russian, Rusyn, or Ukrainian. Texts in the uncodified *iazychiie*, or “traditional Carpatho-Rusyn language” are transliterated according to the system for Rusyn. The Rusyn transliteration system is similar to the Library of Congress system for Ukrainian, with the following additions: ė = io; ы = ıy; ₀ = ₀; ь = ı. In the Vojvodinian variant of Rusyn, the vowel ı is rendered as i. One exception to the above principles is found in the entry *Language*, which uses the International system to transliterate Rusyn words and other linguistic examples. (See the Transliteration Tables at the end of this section).

Forms for personal names are equally problematic. Because Rusyns lived and live in states with different official languages, an individual may have spelled his or her name in Rusyn and/or in one or more state languages. The encyclopedia’s main entry for an individual of Rusyn background uses the transliterated Rusyn form of the name. This is usually followed by the form of the name commonly used in those states where the person generally resided or resides and whose official language is rendered in the Roman alphabet (Czech, Polish, Slovak, Hungarian, etc.). Patronymics are given for persons of Russian or Ukrainian ethnonational origin, but not for Rusyns. While it is true that patronymics were used by Rusyns living in the former Soviet Union, they are not common in traditional Rusyn culture and thus are absent here.

The spelling of Rusyn names poses yet further problems, as at least three variants of the Rusyn language have been codified. Three spelling variants of literary Rusyn are used in this encyclopedia: Lemko Rusyn for persons, organizations, and titles pertaining to the Lemko Region; Vojvodinian Rusyn for items related to the Vojvodina; and an amalgam for items related to Subcarpathian Rus’ and the Prešov Region. The differences are quite evident in adjectival endings; for instance, the adjective for Rusyn would be *rusynskii* in Lemko Rusyn; *rusinski* in Vojvodinian Rusyn; *rusyn skyi* in Prešov Region Rusyn; and *rusyns’kyi* in Subcarpathian Rus’. Given names also vary in Rusyn depending on region or time period. For instance, Mykhal is the common form used in the Prešov Region and Lemko Region; Mykhailo in Subcarpathian Rus’; and Mykhaił in all regions for persons living in the nineteenth century and earlier periods. Analogously, some persons used themselves or were described in the literature as Vasyl’ instead of Vasylii, or Ioanykii instead of loan.

For Rusyns active primarily in North America, the encyclopedia adopts the form in which persons spelled their names in English. The names of Rusyn-American and Rusyn-Canadian organizations and publications, if originally in Rusyn and using the Roman alphabet, retain their original form in this encyclopedia (with the exception of capitalization; that is, only the initial word of a title and proper nouns are capitalized).

The reality of the Rusyn language, with its different literary variants and the historic experience of individuals living and functioning under differing state languages and national orientations, makes consistency of form for personal names extremely difficult if not impossible. The editor responsible for the final version of this English text, Paul Robert Magocsi, has tried to achieve what is at best “relative” consistency. One hopes readers will understand that this is the most that is possible at this stage in Rusyn cultural and linguistic development.