To: ALA/ALCTS/CaMMS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access

From: Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative to the RDA Steering Committee

Subject: Report on RSC Activities, January-June 2017

RDA Steering Committee (RSC) activities as a whole, January-June 2017

- 3R Project communications
  Look for 3R Project updates on the RSC website (specifically RSC/Chair/18) and on the RDA Toolkit website (announcements linked at http://www.rdatoolkit.org/3RProject).

- 3R Project consultant named
  Judy Kuhagen ended her service as RSC Secretary in April and stepped into the new role of 3R Project Consultant. Her tasks will include reviewing, updating, and preparing RDA content to bring it in line with LRM principles and structure, as well as advising the RSC on RDA structure, consistency, and maintenance. For more details, see the announcement at: http://www.rda-rsc.org/April2017newsitems.

- Establishment of RSC Plus
  At the start of the 3R Project, the RSC operating structure expanded to include the chairs of the various RSC Working Groups. The larger group, named RSC Plus, participates in RSC discussions and decision-making about the 3R Project via email and at RSC meetings. This change is part of implementing the governance transition for the RSC, which puts greater emphasis on expertise within the working groups.

- Updates to RSC documents included:
    - RDA Elements (Element analysis table)
    - RSC/Policy/2 (RSC meetings)
    - RSC/Policy/4 (General terms of reference for RSC Working Groups)
    - Updated membership and tasks for the 10 existing working groups (http://www.rda-rsc.org/workinggroups)

- RDA Toolkit release, Feb. 2017
  Changes included: replacing "person, family, or corporate body" with the LRM term "agent"; replacing "resource" with the more specific WEMI term where possible; modifying the use of definite and indefinite articles; and 43 fast track changes. For details, see RSC/Sec/6.

- RDA Toolkit update, Apr. 2017
  Changes included: synchronizing vocabulary lists with the RDA Vocabularies throughout RDA, resulting in alphabetization of lists; implementing the changes from the 15 approved proposals from 2016; and 8 fast track changes. For details, see RSC/Sec/7. As a reminder, the RDA Toolkit content is frozen April 2017-April 2018.

- Enhancements to the RSC website
  New or revised pages include:
    o Links to presentations made by RSC members and others associated with RDA development (www.rda-rsc.org/rscpresentations)
    o RSC members (contact information and term limits updated)
    o Substantially revised RDA FAQ (http://www.rda-rsc.org/rda_faq)

For official documents, including the "…/Sec final" versions of the 2016 proposals, the 2016 Annual Report, and minutes of the 2016 Frankfurt meeting, visit the RSC website: http://rda-rsc.org.

Governance developments

Although some progress has been made in developing NARDAC (North American RDA Committee), the RDA Board has moved the due date for implementation of the new governance structure to the end of this calendar year, with the formal terms of reference due on Nov. 30. This is about five months earlier than the affected RSC representatives had expected. While ALA, CCC, and LC have generally agreed on the basic framework for NARDAC, some of the fine details still need to be determined. For ALA, this will include outlining the process for nominating and appointing the proposed two representatives, determining the length of the appointments, and reviewing the role of CC:DA in relation to NARDAC. ALA, at the highest level, has the responsibility for approving the final terms of reference, and the ALCTS Board will approve the ALA representatives to NARDAC.

The bottom line: once the RSC starts accepting RDA proposals from regional communities in 2018, they may only come from the regional bodies: EURIG, NARDAC, and ORDAC (the Oceania RDA Committee).

May 2017 Community outreach event

Immediately before the three-day RSC Plus meeting, the RSC held an outreach event for 29 attendees, "Reconstructing RDA in the LRM: Aggregations, Appellations, and Authorities." DePaul University Library hosted the day-long event, which featured a mix of presentations and discussions. The topics included: the 3R Project, the development of NARDAC, incorporating LRM elements and the four-fold path into RDA, and aggregates. The presentations are available at: http://www.rda-rsc.org/rscpresentations.

RSC Plus meeting

The RDA Steering Committee plus five of the RSC Working Group chairs (RSC Plus), met in executive session at ALA Headquarters in Chicago from May 17-19, 2017. The nature of the meeting, which focused on the RDA Toolkit Restructure and Redesign (3R) Project, meant that no agenda or discussion papers prepared for RSC Plus were shared on the RSC website, and that no public minutes will be available. The most substantive agenda topics built on the

presentations and discussions at the community outreach event. The group made preliminary decisions about how to proceed with the revisions to RDA. Outcomes and other formal documents arising from the May meeting will appear on the RSC website in due course.

Attendance

The RSC Plus members present were:
    Gordon Dunsire, RSC Chair
    Linda Barnhart, RSC Secretary
    Kathy Glennan, American Library Association
    Ebe Kartus, Australian Committee on Cataloguing
    Bill Leonard, Canadian Committee on Cataloguing
    Renate Behrens, Europe Community
    Dave Reser, Library of Congress
    Kate James, Examples Editor
    Daniel Paradis, Translations Team Liaison Officer
    Deborah Fritz, Aggregates Working Group Chair
    Pat Riva, Capitalization Instructions Working Group Chair
    Amanda Sprochi, Fictitious Entities Working Group Chair
    Damian Iseminger, Music Working Group Chair
    Francis Lapka, Rare Materials Working Group Chair
    Judy Kuhagen, 3R Project Coordinator
    James Hennelly, Director, ALA Digital Reference

Major topics

The RSC meeting focused on the following:
- Progress reports on 3R Project: design, content, and user-created guidance
- New RDA elements and refinements, including for Medium of performance
- Sources of information
- Manifestation statements
- Nomen entity, Nomen hierarchies, and instructions for authority control
- Aggregates
- Examples
- Communication with cataloging communities during the 3R Project

3R Project update

The 3R core team (RSC Chair, RSC Secretary, 3R Project Consultant, RDA Examples Editor, and Director of ALA Digital Reference) have taken the lead in identifying general issues, planning for structural changes to the underlying Toolkit data, and preparing early drafts of sample entity chapters. They have started working with user experience consultants to ensure a functional and meaningful design for the new Toolkit interface.

Changes to the instructions include the creation of general chapters, which will be in addition to the twelve separate entity chapters. The former will include topics such as: capitalization, transcription rules, user tasks, and provenance.

Modifying the underlying data structure will enable greater flexibility in displays and will support both an instruction and an entity view of the guidelines. The examples will support each instance of the four-fold path where possible, and will be separate from the instructions themselves. The RSC will investigate how to integrate examples, policy statements, and best practices into the views. It is possible that different format-based views of the instructions will be available as well.

Along with implementing the four-fold path and the new LRM elements, RDA will preserve the current instructions for capturing data, as long as they fit the LRM model. This multi-pronged approach will allow for RDA use in the four implementation scenarios (flat-file, "linked" authorized access points between bibliographic and authority records, relational or object database, and linked data).

The 3R Project will also seek to improve the experience in relation to user-created guidance, such as bookmarks and shared workflows. This will include offering more XML editing options, the ability to select the external workflows that appear in your own version of the Toolkit, and allowing for shared ownership of workflows (perhaps at the institutional/subscriber level).

The groundwork laid in the last several months has positioned RSC Plus well for the next step, which is to draft language for all of the suggested general chapters. Group members have accepted particular assignments, and their work is due by the end of June.

New RDA elements and refinements

The Toolkit currently has about 300 elements; the RSC anticipates that this number will double as a result of the 3R Project. Many of these arise from implementing LRM; others relate to extent (deriving from the work on 6JSC/ALA/Discussion/5). There will be large numbers of new relationship designators; the RSC is well aware of the problems with the labels for these and will work with Metadata Management Associates to resolve these issues. The new elements and refinements will also include the evolving approach to medium of performance.

Sources of information

RDA currently refers to sources of information in different contexts: sources of information for manifestation data (including "any source"); preferred sources; source consulted in relation to identifying agents, works, etc.; and reference sources. These instances all relate to provenance and are keys to understanding the reliability of the data captured. Last year, the RSC agreed to extend provenance to all RDA elements; the default instruction will likely be to always record the source of the data. The RSC will investigate creating a list of controlled terms for various sources of information.

Manifestation statements

In implementing the new LRM element Manifestation statement, RDA will define this unstructured description as being an exact transcription from the source (preserving capitalization, spacing, indicating line breaks where applicable, etc.). Manifestation statements can capture the entire title page, or they can be sub-types (a statement of responsibility, publication information, etc.). A manifestation statement meets the "Identify" user task, but none of the others. Any normalized transcription will be considered a form of ***recording*** the data. This literal transcription will be one of the options in the four-fold path; it will supplement rather than replace current practices. The RSC will develop both basic and normalized transcription rules for inclusion in the new version of the Toolkit.

Nomen

Introducing LRM's Nomen entity requires reconsidering some RDA elements and how they relate to each other. Titles, names, and identifiers are all types of nomen, and in many cases they can be sub-typed into preferred vs. variant. However, the choice of which version is considered "preferred" may vary based on the cataloging agency, language preferences, etc. The group spent some time discussing access points and whether or not elements should be established to store them; work will continue on this topic. Implementing nomen along with time span will have an impact on how RDA instructions address the complex area of multipart monographs, serials, and integrating resources. For example, earlier and later titles proper each are the title proper of a particular manifestation for a given time span.

Aggregates

RSC Plus held a lengthy discussion about the aggregates model put forth by the Aggregates Working Group and generally supported the conclusions. However, RSC Plus did not agree with the concept of "integrated aggregates", collaborative works that incorporate other works (e.g., a song and the text it contains). These are more closely aligned with whole/part relationships, which need to remain distinct from the concept of aggregates. RSC Plus also did not agree with the creation of new relationship designators specific to aggregates, such as "creator of content in manifestation". Based on the discussion, the Aggregates Working Group will start drafting a new general chapter on this topic.

Examples

The 3R Project offers an opportunity to rethink the examples, how they are presented, and what types of examples should be the same in all RDA translations. Although the examples will not be embedded in the instructions, they will be linked seamlessly and will offer multiple views of the same data, following the four-fold path. Graphic representations may also be available, as well as viewing the particular element in a broader context.

Communication with cataloging communities during the 3R Project

RSC Plus is using an agile development approach during the 3R Project. This limits the opportunities to share draft chapters, etc. for comment. However, RSC communities have been encouraged to set up groups with which to share draft documents for review and feedback. For ALA, this led to the creation of the CC:DA 3R Task Force. The 3R core team will continue to issue progress bulletins and announcements about overall progress, and RSC members will make presentations at face-to-face meetings (e.g., ALA, IFLA), give webinars, etc. as the work continues.

RSC Plus meeting, October 2017

RSC Plus will meet again this year from October 24-26, at the Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) in Madrid. The committee will meet in in executive session and will continue its discussion and work on the 3R Project. There will be a half-day public information event and a half-day meeting for RDA Translators on Monday, October 23. In addition, BNE will hold an open seminar on "RDA Tools (3R Project and RDA Registry) and Successful RDA implementation strategies across Europe" on Friday, October 27.