

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, July-December 2017

The following report summarizes the activities of the RDA Steering Committee (RSC) from July-December 2017, primarily focusing on the RSC's October 2017 meeting in Madrid, Spain. As always, I am indebted to all who supported me in preparing ALA comments and positions for the issues under discussion by the RSC, especially the CC:DA 3R Project Task Force members.

RSC Membership and Governance Changes

- Judy Kuhagen retired from her role as 3R Project Consultant at the end of August. She is missed!
- Effective Jan. 1, 2018:
 - I will serve one year as the RSC Chair Elect; my 4-year term as chair will commence on Jan. 1, 2019.
 - Ebe Kartus (currently the Australian Committee on Cataloging (ACOC) representative) will assume the new position of Wider Community Engagement Officer.
 - The Oceania RDA Committee (ORDAC) and the North American RDA Committee (NARDAC) become a formal part of the RSC governance structure, with single representatives from these regions. The ORDAC and NARDAC reps will replace those from ACOC, ALA, CCC, and LC. The current reps who do not assume these new positions may serve as co-opted members of the RSC during 2018.
- In early 2018, NARDAC and ORDAC will identify their new RSC representatives.

NARDAC Developments

- The RDA Board approved the NARDAC Terms of Reference (with minor modifications) at its November meeting.
- The ALCTS Executive Committee created a document laying out the process of appointing the two ALA representatives to NARDAC. This document clarifies requirements for appointment as a NARDAC rep, specifies the length of term, details the reps' responsibilities to ALCTS and ALA, and states which ALA body makes the appointments.
- In early 2018:
 - ALA, CCC, and LC need to determine who will serve as the first members of NARDAC.

- NARDAC will need to identify its chair and its RSC representative, and work out how this new structure will function.

3R Project Highlights

New release date: June 13, 2018

In order to accommodate more changes related to the 3R Project (RDA Restructure and Redesign Project), ALA Publishing has changed the planned release date of the new Toolkit from mid-April to June 13, 2018. The RSC anticipates that some communities will take up to a year before implementing the new Toolkit. Each community will need to work on creating new policy statements, training documents, etc. ALA Publishing has held several meetings with a small group of the policy statement creators to discuss the implications of the 3R Project, which will help expedite this work. To support the transition period, the old (i.e., current) version of the Toolkit will remain available for a final year.. However, that will be the “frozen” version we are currently using, without any of the new user interface benefits, instructions, examples, etc.

New site design/user experience

The user experience firm, Design for Context, has been working on preparing the new Toolkit public interface design and navigation. They have looked at the RDA logo, colors, fonts, and all other components of the site (windows, dropdowns, tabs).

Data transformation progress

The new content management system (CMS) came up in August and editorial testing has begun. Two steps will be taken to get initial content into the CMS: loading test files for a single entity chapter, and data that will be auto generated from the Open Metadata Registry. The RSC Core Team is also trying to get a better understanding of the “shredding” process (dispersing, deleting, and re-writing the existing Toolkit instructions) and how to most effectively carry this out.

Examples

The RDA Examples Editor is continuing her review of examples to ensure that they conform to instruction changes and to expand them where possible to support the four different recording methods (formerly known as the “four-fold path”). New examples may be added.

New RDA content from specialist communities

The pop-up meeting of specialist communities held at ALA Annual 2017 revealed four new Expression elements and two new glossary terms that will be implemented during the 3R Project.

Removal of punctuation marks in element names/labels

Because of the different types of apostrophes and hyphens that can be used in a registered vocabulary, these punctuation marks will be removed from the element names in the RDA Registry. This will have an effect on those terms in the RDA Toolkit as well. Some hyphenated words may become single terms (e.g., Timespan), while other terms will be

rearranged (for example, Publisher's Name will become Name of Publisher). The RSC will also need to make a final decision on capitalization of these terms.

New on the RSC Website

The RSC website now contains selected presentations related to RDA. See <http://www.rda-rsc.org/rscpresentations>. In addition, a section has been created for each of the RDA regions (www.rda-rsc.org/regions). Information about NARDAC's membership, meetings, etc. will be added here.

RDA issues under discussion

The following topics either have been or are planned to be considered by RSC Plus as part of the 3R Project. Some of these are discussed further in the report on the RSC's Madrid meeting below.

- Aggregates
- Application profiles
- Authorized access point /Variant access point
- Basic transcription rules
- Content vs. carrier
- Coreness
- Frequency
- Introduction to RDA
- Item entity
- Manifestation statements
- Name of person/Variant name of person
- Non-human personages
- Pre-cataloguing decisions
- Provenance
- RDA terminology
- Recording methods (i.e., the four-fold path)
- Relationships
- Representative expression elements
- Serial harmonization (see announcement at: <http://rda-rsc.org/node/543>)
- Timespan
- Use of Nomen entity
- User tasks

RSC Plus meeting

The RDA Steering Committee plus six of the RSC Working Group chairs (RSC Plus) met in executive session at Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) in Madrid, Spain from Oct. 24-26, 2017. The nature of the meeting, which focused on the 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 outcomes and public reports from this meeting are available on the

RSC website; see <http://www.rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC-Outcomes-2017%20October.pdf> and <http://www.rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/Public%20reports%20from%20Madrid%20meeting.pdf>

The RSC Plus meeting was bookended by two public events. The week started with a half-day public outreach event held at BNE, “Preparing for the New RDA Toolkit. The presentations (in English) from this session are available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBUzidNLA> (Part 1), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AhIFsm4rUc> (Part 2). On Friday, the BNE held an open seminar focused toward a Spanish audience on the “Development of RDA and implementation use cases.” This seminar included speakers from the RSC as well as from those who have been working to implement RDA in non-English speaking countries.

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
Ahava Cohen, backup representative, 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
Alan Danskin, RDA/ONIX Framework Working Group Chair
James Hennelly, Director, ALA Digital Reference

Major topics

- *New Toolkit mockups*
RSC Plus reviewed screen mockups of the new Toolkit and provided feedback.
- *Translations*
RSC Plus met with eleven translators in a closed meeting on the afternoon of Oct. 23; they shared their work methods, successes, and concerns. Specific challenges that were discussed included English homonyms, the translation and/or substitution of examples, and issues of gender in the labels of relationship designators. Another significant concern for the translators is the amount of time required to do this work, and to translate the various RSC papers for discussion by different language communities.

- *Data interoperability*

RDA needs to offer opportunities for cataloging agencies to make different choices in recording data without compromising the benefit of communities using the same international standard. The RSC confirmed that there is no intention to move in the direction of regional standards, although application profiles will need to take a more prominent role in helping catalogers navigate through the various options.

- *LRM and serials*

The work on this topic continues to evolve; the initial ideas were developed in conjunction with the ISSN International Centre (ISSN IC) following the IFLA 2017 meeting. Of particular interest are the following:

- RDA will use the “extension requirement” and “extension termination” attributes provided by the RDA/ONIX Framework to create a new RDA element, tentatively called “extension plan.” RDA will include the following categories: static work, integrating monographic work, sequential monographic work, integrating continuing work, and serial work.
- RDA will need to clearly distinguish between resources with and without a predetermined conclusion, and create specific instructions to support the latter.
- In this model, most data elements for continuing resources belong at the Work, not the Manifestation level.
- This analysis leads to a greater recognition of the publication plan in relation to serial works – we catalog the results of executing this plan and also project into the future based on those results. A change in the plan creates a new serial work. However, RDA will need to offer some flexibility on this point so that different cataloging communities can develop their own guidance about what constitutes a new work. The RSC will seek a solution that has a minimal impact on current cataloging.
- RSC Plus discussed the notion of a “work cluster” that would group and identify diachronic works (works that change over time) that are in some kind of relationship, much in the same way that an ISNI identifies a Nomen cluster.

- *Aggregating works*

Keeping in mind that the aggregating work is the publication plan, the RSC determined that there is no need to describe an aggregating work if the publication plan results in a static work. In this case, the cataloging simply focuses on the results of executing the plan. In addition, it should be possible to solve the “main entry”/authorized access point problem with aggregating works by picking a focus for the compilation without having to rely on the name of the creator. This solution requires thinking of AAPs as labels rather than as distinct strings that would be formulated the same way by all cataloging communities using RDA.

- *Non-human personages*

Non-human personages fall into two categories: names that are used as pseudonyms and names of animal performers. The instructions for pseudonyms should take care of the former; the latter will require a different structure. In either case, the nomen used for the

non-human personage needs to be associated with the Manifestation where it is used. From an RDA perspective, this solution has nothing to do with subject access.

- *Removal of appendices*
Most of the content in the current RDA Appendices will be kept but will be relocated as appropriate in the new Toolkit. Some of these may move to the equivalent of the Tools tab if they don't apply to all language versions of RDA.
- *Post-3R decisions*
Topics that cannot be resolved by March will be addressed as part of the post-3R work.

IFLA documents of interest

Several recent IFLA documents are related to the RSC's work:

- **IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM)** (<https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11412>)
Formally endorsed by IFLA in August 2017, LRM serves as the underlying model for RDA.
- **Definition of FRBRoo: A Conceptual Model for Bibliographic Information in Object-Oriented Formalism** (<http://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11240>)
FRBRoo is an ontology or high-level conceptual model for bibliographic data, closely related to IFLA's three functional requirements models. Because those models have now been replaced by LRM, IFLA has started work on bringing FRBRoo into conformance with the new model. The goal is to make LRMoo (or FRBRoo version 3) available as quickly as possible. Worldwide review could occur as soon as the fall of 2018.
- **PRESSoo** (<https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11408>)
PRESSoo is a formal ontology designed to represent the bibliographic information about continuing resources, and more specifically about serials (journals, newspapers, magazines, etc.). It is an extension of the FRBRoo model and will be consulted as the RSC continues to explore issues surrounding serial works.

The end of an era

This is the last report CC:DA will receive from the ALA Representative to the JSC/RSC, due to the changing representation at the RSC. ALA was heavily involved in the creation of the JSC and has had a representative on this international committee since 1974. As the ninth and final ALA Representative, I want to thank everyone who has participated in CC:DA over the years for their efforts, energy, commitment, and support in making the cataloging rules what they are today. Although the RSC governance is changing, CC:DA's expertise and engagement in the revision process is still needed, and I know that both NARDAC and the RSC will continue to seek out your advice and participation in both ongoing and new efforts. It has been an honor to

serve in this position for the past five and one-half years, and I have truly appreciated your insights and involvement in the rule creation and revision process. Keep up the good work!