To: Core Board of Directors

Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access

From: Stephen Hearn and Robert Maxwell, ALA Representatives to the North American RDA Committee (NARDAC)

Subject: Report on NARDAC and RDA-Related Activities, July-January 2021

NARDAC

The North American RDA Committee (NARDAC), the entity that represents the North American region on the RDA Steering Committee (RSC), is beginning its fourth year of activities. NARDAC's membership for the second half of 2020 and January of 2021 has consisted of:

- ALA Representatives:
    - o Dominique Bourassa, Yale University, NARDAC Chair through 2020
    - o Stephen Hearn, University of Minnesota NARDAC Chair beginning 2021, Back-Up Representative to the RSC
    - o Robert Maxwell, Brigham Young University, beginning 2021
- Library of Congress (LC) Representatives:
    - o Damian Iseminger, NARDAC Coordinator of Web Content, LC rep through 2020
    - o Melanie Polutta, LC Representative to NARDAC, NARDAC Coordinator of Web Content beginning 2021
    - o Clara Liao, LC Representative to NARDAC beginning 2021
- Canadian Committee on Cataloguing (CCC) Representatives:
    - o Thomas Brenndorfer, Guelph Public Library, NARDAC Representative to the RSC
    - o Thi Bao Tran Phan, Library and Archives Canada

NARDAC met virtually six times since ALA Annual: July 20, August 24, September 28, November 9, December 14, and January 29. In between meetings, we conducted our work using Basecamp, Google Drive, and email.

The last seven months saw several transitions in NARDAC's membership.

- Damian stepped down from his role as an LC representative to take on leadership of the RDA Technical Committee and was replaced by Clara Liao.
- Melanie took over responsibility for NARDAC web content from Damian.
- Dominique completed her term as chair and as ALA representative and was replaced by Robert Maxwell, the first ALA NARDAC representative approved by Core.
- Stephen was elected chair of NARDAC following Dominique's departure.
- Thomas Brenndorfer was re-elected to his role as NARDAC representative to the RSC.

Committee Work

NARDAC continued to work on the proposal for a Curator element at the Work level with help and comments from CC:DA, LC, CCC, and ARLIS-NA. The revised proposal was included on the agenda for RSC's asynchronous meeting in October 2020 and was referred to the RSC Technical Working Group for review.

NARDAC continued its work on the table of user-friendly element labels which it developed at the request of RSC. The labels were tested using RIMMF-4. The user-friendly labels could become part of the community metadata which RDA now presents under the new Resources/Community resources section.

NARDAC reviewed comments from the German cataloging community about whether information from non-title page sources can be interpolated without brackets in an unstructured description based on the title page.

Outreach Activities and Presentations

ALA's NARDAC representatives Dominique and Stephen and RSC Chair Kathy Glennan reported virtually to the ALCTS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA) at ALA Annual on NARDAC's activities and RSC's quarterly meetings for considering proposals.

NARDAC presented a virtual NARDAC Update Forum on August 3 with assistance from ALA Publishing. Presenters included NARDAC members Dominique Bourassa, Thomas Brenndorfer, Melanie Polutta, and Thi Bao Tran Phan, and Stephen Hearn; and guest presenters Daniel Paradis, RSC's Translations Team Liaison Officer; James Hennelly, ALA Publishing; and Kathy Glennan, RSC Chair. The forum was attended by over 700 people. Slides and recordings from the event and other presentations are available on the RSC web site under Presentations.

Development of policy statements

Melanie reported regularly on LC's development of policy statements for the new Toolkit. NARDAC noted that PCC has pushed its implementation of the new Toolkit out to 2022 to allow time for development of policy statements, application profiles, and other documentation and anticipated activity in relation to the shift of string-encoding scheme coverage and other content out of RDA instructions and into the community resources section of the Toolkit.

RDA Steering Committee activities

The following report summarizes the activities of the RDA Steering Committee (RSC) from July 2020 to January 2021.

RSC membership and governance changes

- Gordon Dunsire's term as Technical Team Liaison to the RSC and chair of the RSC's Technical Working Group ended on December 31. Damian Iseminger (LC) succeeded him on January 1, 2021 for a two-year term.

- ORDAC representative Catherine Amey (National Library of New Zealand) was replaced by Melissa Parent (State Library of Victoria, Australia) in March 2020.

RSC Action Plan 2021 to 2023

- The RSC developed and adopted the RSC Action Plan 2021-2023, approved at its January 2021 meeting. which is tied to the RDA Board Strategic Plan for RDA 2020-2022.

- As before, action plan items are organized under three main goals: "Develop RDA as a responsive and dynamic standard," "Increase the adoption of RDA," and "Provide relevant governance."

RSC meetings

- The RSC held three asynchronous meetings since June: July 6 to 9, October 12-23, and January 11-14. The October meeting, originally intended as a face-to-face event, was expanded to four virtual synchronous sessions over two weeks.

- The RSC Meeting Calendar for 2021 has been posted.

3R Project Highlights

Status of the 3R Project

The 3R Project concluded with the adoption of the Beta RDA Toolkit as the official version (no longer Beta) of RDA on December 15, 2020. The original version of RDA will continue to be available on the RDA Toolkit web site until further notice but will no longer be identified as the current or official version.

RDA Toolkit News

- RSC added new content to the Guidance section of the Toolkit:
  - Well-formed RDA discusses levels of conformance to the RDA content standard for metadata statements and metadata description sets.
  - Entity boundaries discusses criteria for determining whether the information known about an entity indicates one or more than one entity description is needed in RDA.

- RSC moved content specific to language-based cataloging communities into a new section of the Toolkit's Resources tab labeled Community Resources. The content of this section will be community managed rather than managed by RSC. Community managed content will include

string-encoding schemes, term lists, pseudo-element naming conventions, and other aspects of cataloging practice reflecting language and cultural preferences.

- RSC established the RDA MARC Alignment Task Force under the RDA Technical Working Group to work on alignments between RDA and MARC and on how alignments can be presented in the Toolkit. The alignments with MARC and other metadata formats have been published in the RDA Registry under the Tools menu and are included in the Element Reference block for each element.
- RSC has revised the vocabulary encoding scheme for types of binding for manifestations.

- RSC approved adding a vocabulary encoding scheme for units of time at its October meeting.

Outreach

- The RDA Lab Series was presented from June 30 to December 8, through ALA eLearning. This webinar series, which consists of six practical modules of four hour-long sessions taught by Kate James, explores new RDA concepts, in addition to new approaches to familiar topics. Modules include Relationships Basics, Nomens, Manifestations, Person, Works, and Aggregate Manifestations. The series will be repeated in 2021 at times more suitable for participants outside of North America.