To: Core Board of Directors
Core 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, February-June 2021

NARDAC

The North American RDA Committee (NARDAC), the entity that represents the North American region on the RDA Steering Committee (RSC), is midway through its fourth year of activities. NARDAC's membership for this period has consisted of:

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

NARDAC has met virtually five times since ALA Midwinter: February 19, March 15, April 12, May 10, and June 15. We conducted our work using Basecamp, Google Drive, Zoom, and email.

Committee Work

NARDAC continued to track the proposal for a Curator element at the Work level from CC:DA and ARLIS-NA. The revised proposal was referred to the RSC Technical Working Group for review. The Technical Working Group has been developing an RDA treatment for Collections, the form of work that a curator of an exhibit or collection creates, as a prerequisite for the Curator proposal. Neither the Collection nor the Curator of Work proposal are on the RSC July asynchronous meeting agenda.

The July RSC agenda includes wording changes for the definitions of Expression to Expression relationships to clarify instances where both the expressions in a relationship are realizations of the

same work. This is needed to maintain the alignment of RDA with the IFLA-LRM. NARDAC members have added comments to the RSC documents concerning the proposed rewording.

Outreach Activities and Presentations

ALA's NARDAC representatives Stephen and Robert and RSC Chair Kathy Glennan reported virtually in February to Core's Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA) in conjunction with ALA Midwinter on NARDAC's and RSC's activities.

NARDAC presented a virtual NARDAC RDA Update Forum on March 29 with assistance from ALA Publishing.   Presenters included NARDAC members Thomas Brenndorfer, Melanie Polutta, and Thi Bao Tran Phan, Robert Maxwell, and Stephen Hearn; and guest presenters James Hennelly, ALA Publishing; and Kathy Glennan, RSC Chair. A consolidated slide deck from the event is available on the RSC web site.

NARDAC was invited to develop a proposal for a half-day RDA Workshop to be held October 7 in Baltimore in conjunction with the 2021 Core Forum. NARDAC's proposal, submitted with help from RSC Chair Kathy Glennan, was accepted, and the workshop content is in development. Per Core Forum requirements, the workshop will be presented in person.

NARDAC has discussed scheduling another virtual NARDAC RDA Update Forum for July or August 2021.

Development of policy statements

Melanie reported regularly on LC's development of policy statements and metadata guidance documents for the new Toolkit. The initial posting of the new policy statements occurred with the April update release of RDA. The Library of Congress, which is responsible for coding and maintaining the policy statements, has posted a form for reporting grammar, spelling, typographical, and punctuation errors and link problems found in the policy statements. A joint working group with members from PCC (Program for Cooperative Cataloging) and LC has been organized to develop metadata guidance documentation which will live outside of the RDA paywall and provide expanded explanations, instructions, and examples to support the policy statements and the use of RDA. Catalogers are encouraged to wait for the release of the metadata guidance documents, scheduled for October 2021, before proposing more substantive changes to the policy statements, given the close integration between the two kinds of documentation.

RDA Steering Committee activities

The following report summarizes the activities of the RDA Steering Committee (RSC) from February to June 2021. More detail can be found in RSC Chair Kathy Glennan's report to the RDA Board for May, 2021.

RSC membership and governance changes

- Daniel Paradis's appointment as Translation Team Liaison Officer was extended with RSC approval to December 2022.

- RSC is recruiting for a new Wider Community Engagement Officer; applications are due July 9, 2021.

RSC meetings

- The RSC held a quarterly asynchronous meeting in April 12-15. The minutes are available on the RSC website: RSC/Minutes/Public/270-279

- RSC has been working on a number of administrative and processing issues. It has established a supportive Assessment Group to assist the RSC Secretary with determining what input should go forward as FastTrack changes or as minor issues and what needs review as a formal proposal, and what internal routing, e.g., to the Technical Working Group, might help with this process. RSC also reviewed terms of reference documents for its standing working groups.

- .The [RSC Meeting Calendar](#) for 2021 has been posted.

RDA Board

- The RDA Board met May 11-14, 2021. For more information about this meeting see [RDA Board 2021 Outcomes and Actions.pdf.](#)

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RDA Toolkit News

- RSC continued to develop structures for content specific to region- and language-based cataloging communities in the new section of the Toolkit under the Resources tab labeled Community Resources. The content of this section will be community managed rather than managed by RSC with cooperation from RSC to ensure smooth integration with the rest of the Toolkit.

- In the April release of the Toolkit RSC moved some content formerly in RDA into Community Resources. For example, instructions regarding ["pseudo-element"](#) authorized access points for the Anglo-American community for legal, music, and religious works and official communications now appear in Community Resources under Community Refinements. Community vocabularies and string-encoding schemes will also be moved to Community Resources.

- Policy statements for PCC/Library of Congress and the British Library were added to the Toolkit in the April release under the Policies tab along with a number of Best Practices from the Music Library Association.

Outreach

- The RDA Lab Series, which consists of six practical modules of four hour-long sessions taught by Kate James, was initially presented in 2020. The series is currently being repeated in 2021 at times more suitable for participants outside of North America.

- Kathy Glennan and Damian Iseminger served as two of the three panelists at the Music OCLC Users Group "Ask Anything" sessions (the panel fielded questions about RDA, LC/PCC Policy Statements, OCLC practices, and other music cataloging questions)

- Kathy Glennan presented The New RDA Toolkit: How did we get here, and what do we do next? at the joint meeting of the Music Library Association and the Theatre Library Association (online) on 1 March

- Kathy Glennan presented Accessibility and the new RDA Toolkit at the joint meeting of the Music Library Association and the Theatre Library Association (online) on 4 March

- Kathy Glennan presented RDA Updates at the Council on East Asian Libraries meeting (online) on 16 March

- Kathy Glennan presented Global Standard, Local Choices -- The New RDA Toolkit, a one-hour webinar for ALA's CORE division on 20 April

- Thomas Brenndorfer presented "RDA and Community Resources" at the EURIG Annual Meeting on 5 May

- Kathy Glennan and Jamie Hennelly (ALA Publishing) participated in the NARDAC RDA Update Forum on 29 March discussed above.