

Getting a handle on concepts and jargon in the new RDA

OLA Super Conference 2022

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About the presenters

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- Metadata Librarian at the University of Toronto Libraries
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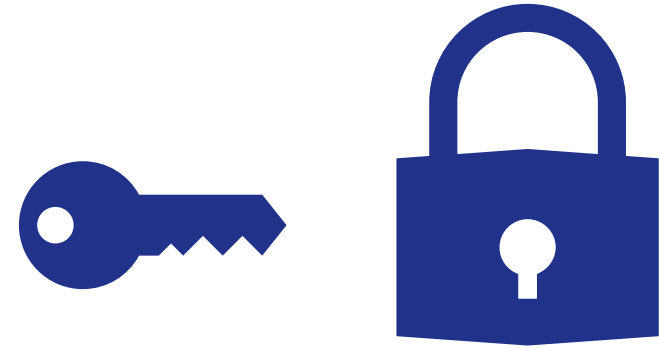
- Chair of the Canadian Committee on Cataloguing
- North American RDA Committee (NARDAC) representative to the RDA Steering Committee (2018-2021)
- Author of *RDA Essentials*
- Technical Services Librarian at the Guelph Public Library

Learning objectives

1. Attendees will be able to define basic RDA terminology in plain language.
2. Attendees will be able to explain how to navigate between different sections of the RDA Toolkit, in order to find instructions or guidelines on recording data.
3. Attendees will be able to list and discuss concepts that are foundational to RDA.

References to specific parts
of RDA Toolkit will be
marked with a tab like this.

Key concepts to know
before you begin



RDA (Resource Description and Access)

“RDA is a package of data elements, guidelines, and instructions for creating library and cultural heritage resource metadata that are well-formed according to international models for user-focused linked data applications.”

(RDA Steering Committee homepage, <http://www.rda-src.org>)

“Package of data elements,
guidelines, and
instructions”

“Creating library and
cultural heritage
resource metadata”

“Well-formed”

“International models”

“User-focused”

“Linked data
applications”

Find, Identify, Search, Obtain, Explore

R | D | A
Resource Description & Access

See Guidance page
“Introduction to RDA”

How RDA supports linked data

- Entities, elements, vocabularies, guidance, and instructions: **RDA Toolkit**, <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/>
- Entities, elements, and vocabularies as linked open data objects: **RDA Registry**, <https://www.rdaregistry.info/> (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License)
- Based on an **entity-relationship model** (IFLA Library Reference Model)
 - **Entities** are described using **elements**
 - A lot of choice around which elements to capture
- Multiple ways to implement RDA
 - Different implementations may serve different users with different needs, but can still be RDA compliant

See Guidance page

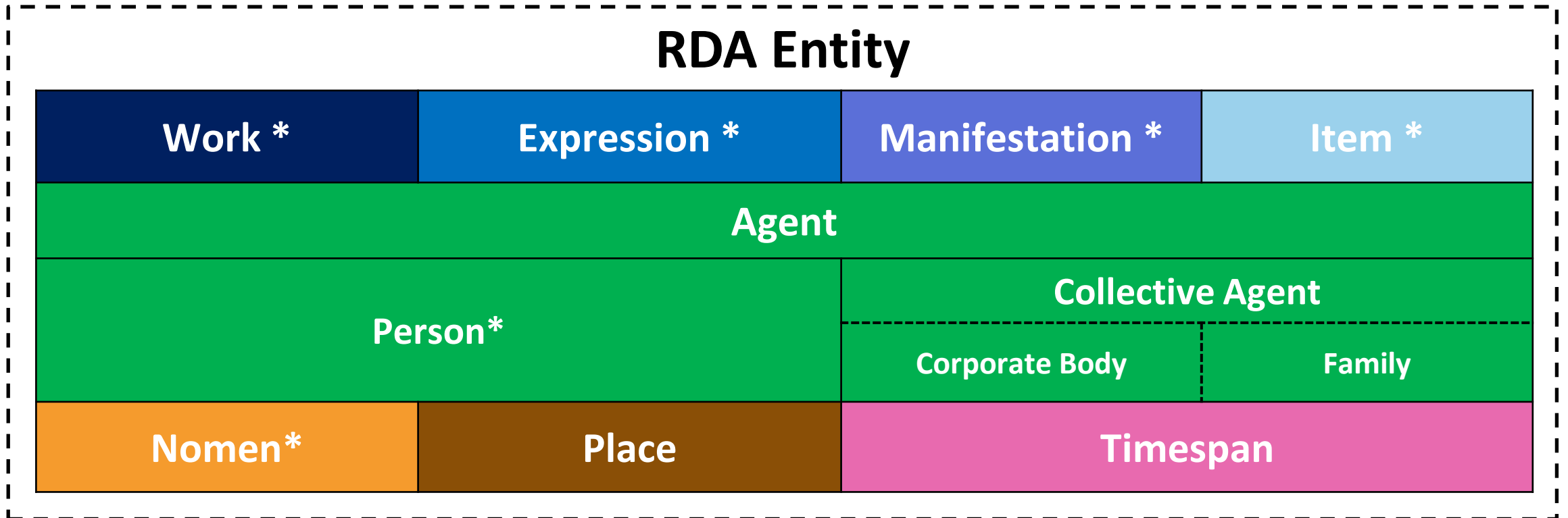
“Standards related to RDA”

Entity-relationship model

- **Entity = “Abstract class of objects”**. Think of entities as **things** you seek to describe in the course of cataloguing, OR as different **ways to think about an information resource** that is *based on how users interact with metadata to find, identify, search, obtain, or explore resources*.
- Entities can be described based on their **characteristics**.
- Entities can also be described based on the **relationships** they bear with other entities.
- Let’s look at the entities that we can describe using RDA instructions...

Entities

To describe a resource fully, you'll often describe **aspects** of more than one entity.



* Entities marked with an asterisk will be explored in this session.

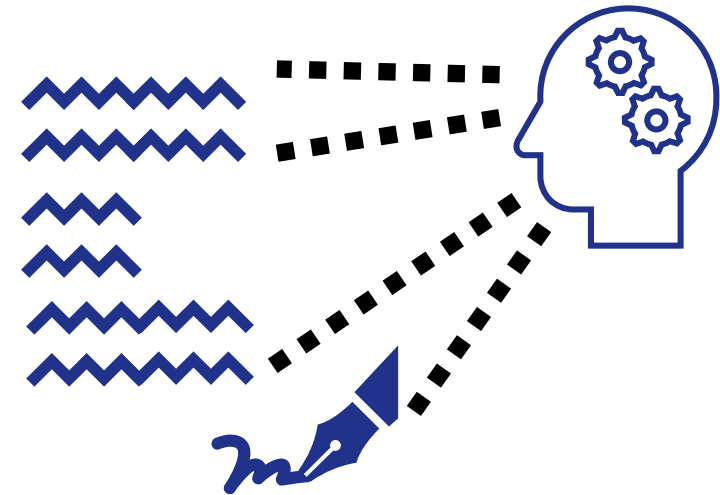
What is the “work” aspect of a resource?

- A **distinct intellectual or artistic creation**
- Conceptual object, consisting of a particular **“constellation” of ideas**



What is the “expression” aspect of a resource?

- An intellectual or artistic **realization** of a work
- Realized using notations (alphabets or numbers), sound, image, object, movement, or combinations of such forms
- Expresses or **communicates** a work in a way that **can be sensed**



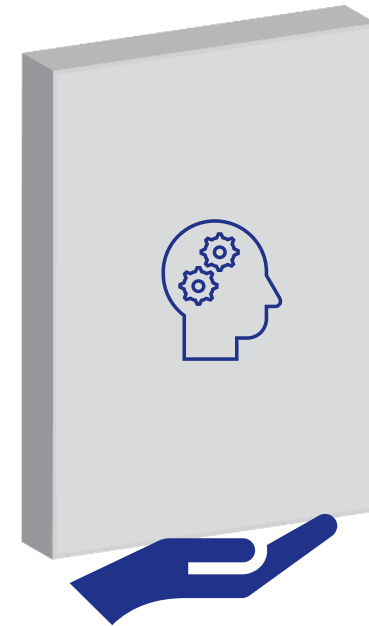
What is the “manifestation” of the resource?

- A physical **embodiment** of an expression of a work
- Something that makes the communication **real**
- Emphasis on the production plan (e.g., publication, manufacture)
- For print books, this could be **all the copies** of a specific print run that exists in the world



What is an “item”?

- A **single exemplar** or instance of a manifestation
- One copy of a particular publication that you can save as a file to your computer, or a physical copy you can hold in your hand, or pop into a DVD player, or place a barcode label on



Elements

- **Elements** are:
 - **How you describe an entity, and**
 - **Where you make data recording decisions.**
- Each entity type has its own set of elements. An element that describes one entity cannot also be used as an element to describe another entity, even though the values of those elements may look identical.
- *Work* and *Expression* entities deal with content; *Manifestation* and *Item* entities deal with the carrier (or container that holds the content)

See Guidance pages “Data elements” (under “Introduction to RDA”) and “Content and carrier”

Attribute element vs. relationship element

Which statement indicates an attribute of the print book?

Which statement indicates a relationship between the print book and another entity?

1. This print book has a height of 23 cm. **Attribute**
2. The print book is 800 pages long. **Attribute**
3. This print book was published by Oxford University Press. **Relationship**
4. This print book contains an English translation of Alexandre Dumas's *The Count of Monte Cristo*. **Relationship**

Domain and range

- **Domain** = The entity being described by an element.
- **Attribute elements** are limited to describing the **domain**.
- **Relationship elements** explain how the entity you are describing (the **domain**) relates to another entity (the **range**).

Examples:

1. This print book has a height of 23 cm. **Domain = Manifestation**
2. The print book is 800 pages long. **Domain = Manifestation**
3. This print book was published by Oxford University Press. **Domain = Manifestation, Range = Agent**
4. This print book contains an English translation of Alexandre Dumas's *The Count of Monte Cristo*. **Domain = Manifestation, Range = Expression**

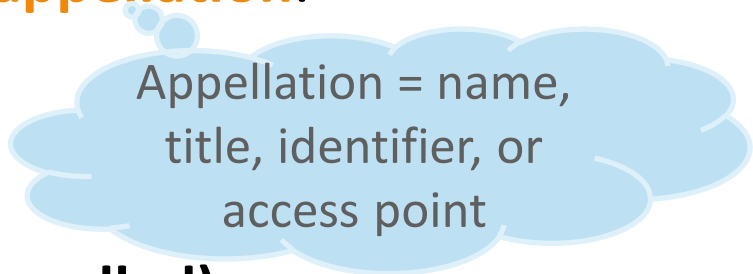
Creating “a metadata work”

- What you are creating with RDA is “**a metadata work**”
 - This could be a **single metadata statement (a single piece of metadata describing an entity)** or a plan to bring together metadata statements describing one or more entities (a “**metadata description set**”)
 - **Bibliographic records and authority records** are examples of “**metadata description sets**”
- **Data provenance**
 - Create a description at the appropriate level of **granularity** needed
 - You will be most familiar with this concept in terms of “source of information”
 - “**Recording a source of metadata**” section of the “**Data provenance**” guidance page covers the types of sources that can be used for gathering information for an element

See Guidance page
“Data provenance”

Nomen and appellations

- Any time you want to **call an entity by some label**, RDA refers to that usage as a **nomen**. In RDA, you will often see nomen referenced as an **appellation**.



Appellation = name,
title, identifier, or
access point

- **Nomen** is an **entity (the association of a thing with what it's called)**.
- **Nomen string** is the **element** that describes the nomen.
- The **value** of a nomen string is the bit of information that we (as human beings) can see, read, quote, type, or recite back.
- Let's look at an example of how we use nomens...

See Guidance page
"Nomen and appellations"

Nomen and nomen strings

Nomen 1
Nomen string: **“Montgomery, L. M., 1874-1942”**
LCNAF access point for the person

Nomen 2
Nomen string: **“MacDonald, Lucy Maud Montgomery, 1874-1942”**
Married name, if recorded in the form of a LCNAF access point

Nomen 3
Nomen string: **“n 81018346”**
LC control number



Nomen 4
Nomen string: **“Lucy Maud Montgomery”**
Full name of the author, in natural English order

Nomen 5
Nomen string: **“Q273034”**
Identifier found in Wikidata, <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q273034>

“A nomen is distinguished by both its associated RDA entity and its nomen string; a variation in either indicates a new nomen.”

Minimum vs. effective description

- Each entity has its own minimum description set out in RDA Toolkit.
- A **minimum description**
 - Captures the minimum amount of data to represent an instance of an entity and its primary relationship to another entity, while also being cost-efficient to produce
- An **effective description** includes additional data that is
 - Accurate
 - Reflects common usage or practice
 - Able to be internationalized
 - Responsive to user needs
 - Sufficient

Application profile

- Specifies the elements that will be used for resource description
 - Which elements can be repeated
 - Which elements can be used to relate two entities
 - Which **recording method** to apply for an element
- Helps cataloguers form an **effective description**
- Specifies which policy statements to follow
- Specifies controlled vocabularies (**vocabulary encoding schemes**) or access point construction (**string encoding schemes**) to apply

See Guidance page
“Application profiles”

Recording methods

- Certain elements have a prescribed recording method
- Others offer a choice of recording methods
 - Choice is determined based on your agency's policies and practices (e.g., policy statements, application profile)
- 4 methods:
 - **Unstructured** = transcribed texts or the cataloguer's own words
 - **Structured** = terms from a controlled vocabulary or authority file, or that follows a set pattern ("string encoding scheme") such as the construction of access points
 - **Identifier** = string of characters that uniquely identify an entity within a particular system
 - **IRI** = URL that has been assigned to represent a particular entity

See Guidance page
"Recording methods"

Transcription guidelines for unstructured descriptions

- Choose a transcription method and stick to it
 - **Basic transcription:** Preserve capitalization, punctuation, numerals, abbreviations, and diacritics **as they appear on the manifestation**
 - Enables automated description
 - **Normalized transcription:** Guidelines around language and script, diacritics, capitalization, punctuation, acronyms, letters, symbols, and numbers
 - Unlike with AACR2 and Original RDA, abbreviations are no longer part of the official standard, as abbreviations are community-dependent
- Follow the transcription method chosen by your cataloguing agency

See Guidance page “Transcription guidelines” and its subpages

RDA implementation scenarios

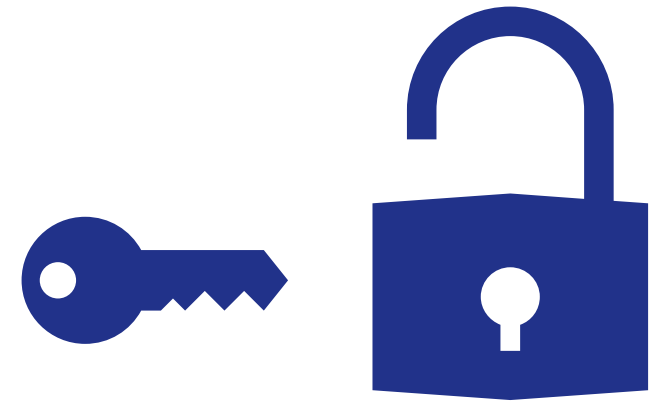
- **Scenario A:** Linked open data
- **Scenario B:** Relational or object-oriented data
- **Scenario C:** Bibliographic/authority data*
- **Scenario D:** Flat file data

***Scenario C would include records encoded for a MARC21 environment:**

- Single integrated record to describe a **single information resource** (e.g., bibliographic record). Components of WEMI entities are integrated, but not explicitly identified as such.
- **Related entities** are recorded separately (e.g., another bibliographic record or an authority record).
- A record describing an information resource is **linked** to a record describing a related entity **through the use of access points**.

See Guidance pages “RDA implementation scenarios” and “Standards related to RDA”

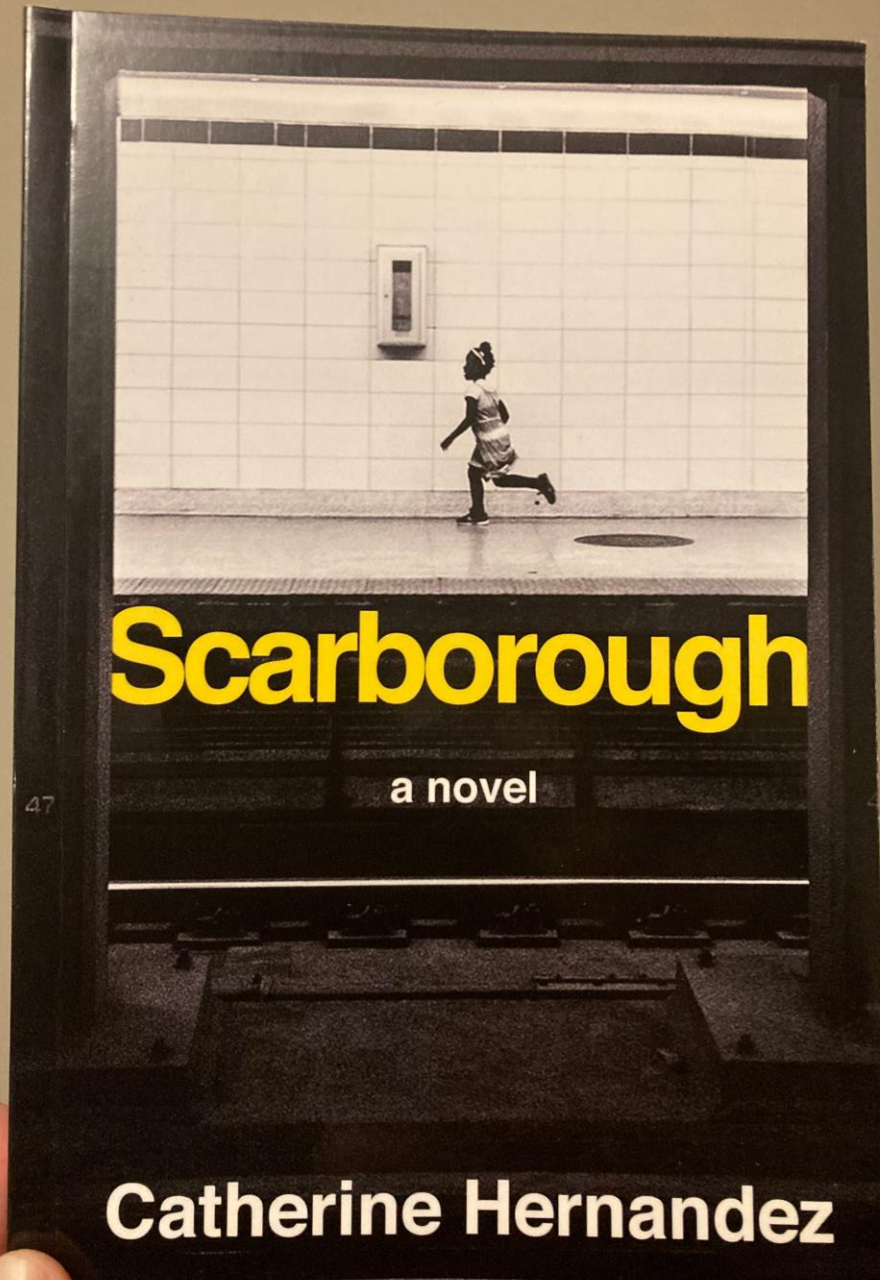
Demonstration



Example: We will use a print monograph.

The monograph: *Scarborough*, by Catherine Hernandez (single unit, static plan)

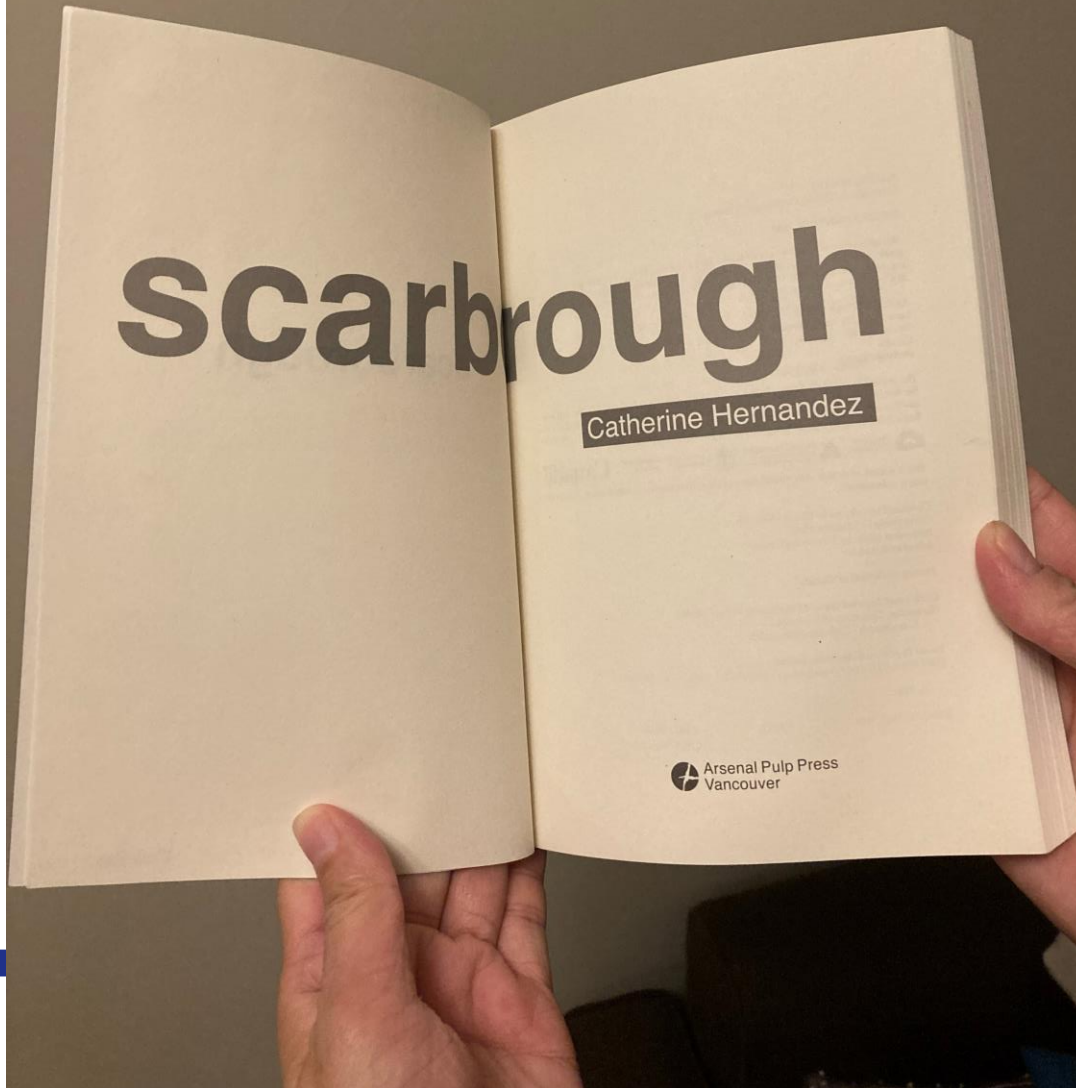
RDA Implementation Scenario C



Front cover.

Make a mental note of:

- The title of the book: *Scarborough*
- The name of the author: *Catherine Hernandez*



Title page (spread across two pages).

Make a mental note of the types of metadata present:

- “Title proper”: *Scarborough*
- “Statement of responsibility”: *Catherine Hernandez*
- “Publication statement”: *Arsenal Pulp Press, in Vancouver*

Verso of title page.

Make a mental note of:

- Copyright statement: **@2017**
- Note about the printing: **Second printing, 2017**
- Additional details about the publisher: **Vancouver, BC**
- General note: **"This is a work of fiction."**
- Cataloguing-in-Publication record

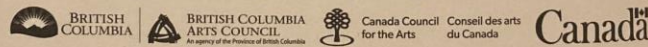
SCARBOROUGH
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SECOND PRINTING: 2017

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This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance of characters to persons either living or deceased is purely coincidental.

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Back cover photo by WanderingToronto
Edited by Robyn So

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Scarborough / Catherine Hernandez.

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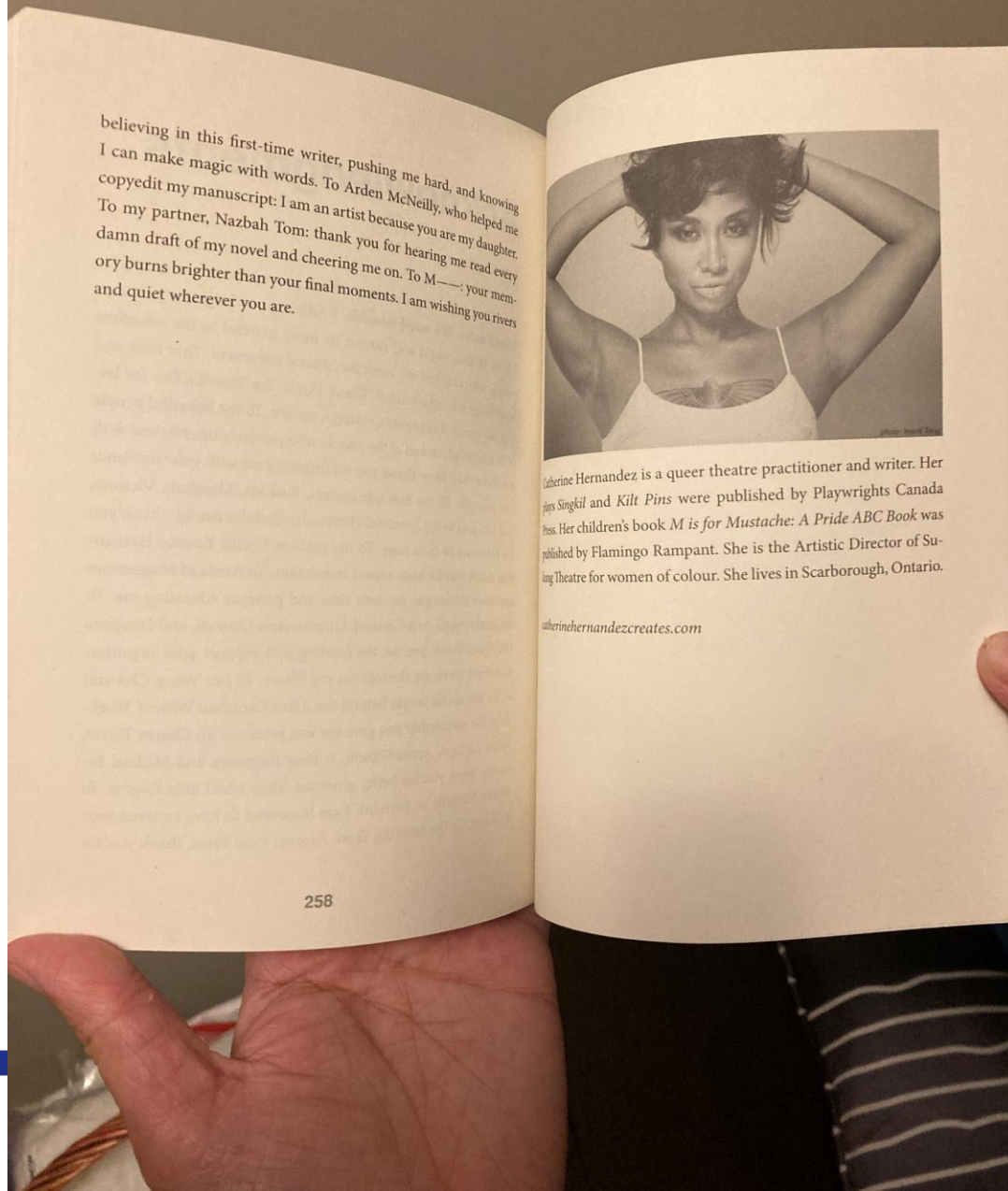
I. Title.

PS8615.E75S23 2017

C813'6

C2017-901407-2

C2017-901408-0



Last numbered page and the page that follows it.

Make a mental note of:

- Page number of the last numbered page: **258**
- Biographical information and portrait of the author

Scarborough is a low-income, culturally diverse neighbourhood east of Toronto; like many inner-city communities, it suffers under the weight of poverty, drugs, crime, and urban blight. *Scarborough* the novel employs a multitude of voices to tell the story of a tight-knit neighbourhood under fire, offering a raw yet empathetic glimpse into a troubled community that locates its dignity in unexpected places: a neighbourhood that refuses to be undone.

"*Scarborough* marks the arrival of a fierce new voice in Canadian fiction. Hernandez has rendered one of the most vibrant portraits of contemporary suburbia I've yet encountered."

—Jordan Tannahill, Governor General's Award-winning playwright

"It's said that sometimes an author needs to write fiction in order to tell the most searing truth, and *Scarborough* is perfect proof of that axiom. This is a beautifully rendered, intimately populated landscape that honours and cherishes characters we usually only see relegated to background scenery and pat, two-dimensional representations. It feels at once foreign and familiar, soothing and challenging—the kind of storytelling that touches our tenderest places; the best kind of storytelling I know."

—S. Bear Bergman, author of *Butch Is a Noun*
and *The Nearest Exit May Be Behind You*

"*Scarborough* showcases a necessary shift from the singular voice novel to create space for many voices to be heard—especially ones that are often forgotten. In her dexterous debut, Catherine Hernandez powerfully centres the margins by interlacing narratives that spotlight the beauty that thrives beyond the big city."

—Vivek Shraya, author of *even this page is white*
and *She of the Mountains*



Fiction
ISBN 978-1-55152-677-5
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ARSENAL PULP PRESS
arsenalpulp.com



Back cover.

Make a mental note of:

- ISBN: **9781551526775**
- The summary of the book
- Physical height of the book: **21 cm**

R | D | A
Resource Description & Access

Know what we are going to catalogue

The resource is:

- A piece of Canadian literature → element of work
- Communicated through written text, in the English language → element of expression
- A published print book that contains a textual work written in English.*

*Because we are cataloguing a publication, consider the production plan. Describe the resource as a manifestation, but capture relevant aspects of work, expression, and agent.

Minimum description requirements

- Minimum description requirements for a **manifestation**:

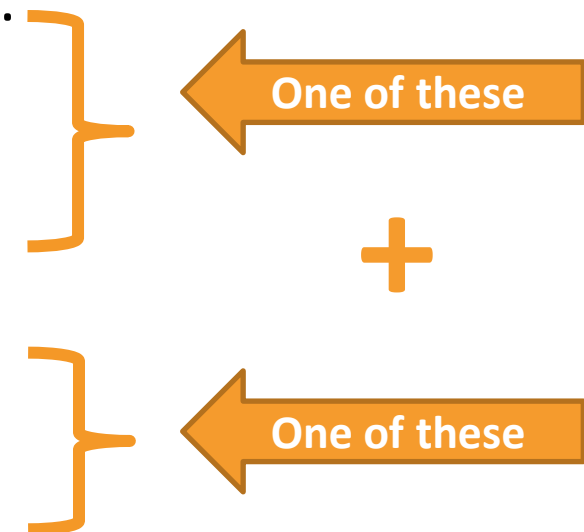
- **Manifestation: appellation of manifestation**

- Which can be fulfilled by recording **one** of its subtypes:

- **Manifestation: title of manifestation**
- **Manifestation: access point for manifestation**
- **Manifestation: identifier for manifestation**

- **AND** at least **one** of the following elements

- **Manifestation: expression manifested OR**
- **Manifestation: work manifested**



See Entity page
"Manifestation"

Application profile

In addition to the minimum description requirements, we will:

- Apply normalized transcription rules
- Aim for effective description, **to facilitate a range of user tasks**
- Describe the resource using elements describing a mix of entities
- Follow controlled vocabulary provided within RDA
- Consult LCNAF when constructing access points for names and titles
- Consult LC-PCC policy statements for additional guidance
- Assume we are following RDA Implementation Scenario C (bibliographic/authority data)
- See next slide for the suggested elements that we will try to capture

Elements in our application profile

- Manifestation: mode of issuance
- Manifestation: identifier for the manifestation
- Manifestation: title proper
- Manifestation: statement of responsibility relating to title proper
- Manifestation: edition statement
- Manifestation: place of publication
- Manifestation: name of publisher
- Manifestation: date of publication
- Manifestation: media type
- Manifestation: carrier type
- Manifestation: extent of manifestation
- Manifestation: colour content
- Manifestation: illustrative content
- Manifestation: dimensions
- Manifestation: title of series
- Manifestation: numbering within sequence
- Manifestation: note on manifestation (repeatable)
- Manifestation: work manifested
- Manifestation: expression manifested
- Work: extension plan
- Work: author person
- Work: preferred title of work
- Expression: language of expression
- Expression: content type

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- Manifestation: work manifested
- Manifestation: expression manifested
- Work: extension plan
- Work: author person
- Work: preferred title of work
- Expression: language of expression
- Expression: content type

Element (for lookup in RDA Toolkit)	Recording method (for local agency)	Source of controlled vocabulary	Transcription method	Value of the element
Work: extension plan	structured	RDA	not applicable	static plan
Manifestation: mode of issuance	structured	RDA	not applicable	single unit
Manifestation: identifier for the manifestation	identifier	not applicable	not applicable	9781551526775
Manifestation: title proper	unstructured	not applicable	normalized	Scarborough
Manifestation: statement of responsibility relating to title proper	unstructured	not applicable	normalized	Catherine Hernandez
Manifestation: edition statement	unstructured	not applicable	normalized	
Manifestation: place of publication	unstructured	not applicable	normalized	Vancouver, BC
Manifestation: name of publisher	unstructured	not applicable	normalized	Arsenal Pulp Press
Manifestation: date of publication	unstructured	not applicable	normalized	[2017]
Manifestation: media type	structured	RDA	not applicable	unmediated
Manifestation: carrier type	structured	RDA	not applicable	volume
Manifestation: extent of manifestation	structured	RDA	not applicable	258 pages
Manifestation: colour content	unstructured	not applicable	not applicable	
Manifestation: illustrative content	structured	RDA	not applicable	portrait
Manifestation: dimensions	unstructured	not applicable	not applicable	21 cm
Manifestation: title of series	unstructured	not applicable	normalized	
Manifestation: numbering within sequence	unstructured	not applicable	normalized	
Manifestation: note on manifestation	unstructured	not applicable	not applicable	"A novel"--Front cover
Manifestation: note on manifestation	unstructured	not applicable	not applicable	"Second printing, 2017"--Verso of title page
Work: author person	structured	LCNAF	not applicable	Hernandez, Catherine, 1977-
Work: preferred title of work	unstructured	not applicable	normalized	Scarborough
Expression: language of expression	structured	MARC Code List for	not applicable	eng
Expression: content type	structured	RDA	not applicable	text
Manifestation: work manifested	structured	not applicable	not applicable	Hernandez, Catherine, 1977-. Scarborough.
Manifestation: expression manifested	structured	not applicable	not applicable	Hernandez, Catherine, 1977-. Scarborough.

Work: extension plan	static plan
Manifestation: mode of issuance	single unit
Manifestation: identifier for the manifestation	9781551526775
Manifestation: title proper	Scarborough
Manifestation: statement of responsibility relating to title proper	Catherine Hernandez
Manifestation: edition statement	
Manifestation: place of publication	Vancouver, BC
Manifestation: name of publisher	Arsenal Pulp Press
Manifestation: date of publication	[2017]

Manifestation: media type	unmediated
Manifestation: carrier type	volume
Manifestation: extent of manifestation	258 pages
Manifestation: colour content	
Manifestation: illustrative content	portrait
Manifestation: dimensions	21 cm
Manifestation: title of series	
Manifestation: numbering within sequence	
Manifestation: note on manifestation	"A novel"--Front cover
Manifestation: note on manifestation	"Second printing, 2017"--Verso of title page

Work: author person	Hernandez, Catherine, 1977-
Work: preferred title of work	Scarborough
Expression: language of expression	eng
Expression: content type	text
Manifestation: work manifested	Hernandez, Catherine, 1977-. Scarborough.
Manifestation: expression manifested	Hernandez, Catherine, 1977-. Scarborough.

Sample MARC, based on data elements recorded

=LDR 00000nam 2200000li 4500
=008 211220s2017\\bccc\\000\f\eng\d
=020 \\\$a9781551526775
=100 1\\\$aHernandez, Catherine,\$d1977-,\$eauthor.
=245 10\$aScarborough /\$cCatherine Hernandez.
=264 \1\$aVancouver :\$bArsenal Pulp Press, \$c[2017]
=300 \\\$a258 pages :\$bportrait, \$c21 cm
=336 \\\$atext\$btxt\$2rdacontent
=337 \\\$aunmediated\$bnc\$2rdamedia
=338 \\\$avolume\$bnc\$2rdacarrier
=500 \\\$a"A novel"--Front cover.
=500 \\\$a"Second printing, 2017"--Verso of title page.

Learn more about RDA

- Chris Oliver, *Introducing RDA: a guide to the basics after 3R*. Chicago: ALA Editions, 2021.
- RDA Toolkit Youtube channel,
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd5pa3AoQlr17wESE9YHcnw>
 - “RDA Concepts” playlist, by Kate James
 - “RDA application profiles” webinar, by Melissa Parent
 - “Entity boundaries: fixed or fluid?” webinar, by Honor Moody
- Explore *RDA Toolkit* (<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/>) and the *RDA Registry* (<https://www.rdaregistry.info/>)

Thank you!