JSC Final Update on the US RDA Test

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The 2010 test of RDA conducted in the United States resulted in several recommendations for the JSC, some of which had already been in place prior to the test report. This document provides the recommendations and a final summary of JSC actions. The US RDA Test Committee's final update (January 2013) is at: http://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/pdf/RDA_updates_04jan13.pdf.

The quoted statements below are the US RDA Test recommendations.

"Rewrite the RDA instructions in clear, unambiguous, plain English"

– Following drafts from editor, Chris Oliver, the JSC and the US RDA Test Coordinating Committee reviewed the reworded initial chapters and approved the direction Chris was taking the activity. The initial chapters were published in the RDA Toolkit in 2012 and the remaining text was completed in 2013.   The May 2013 Update to the RDA Toolkit includes all the reworded chapters.

"Define process for updating RDA in the online environment"

- Prior to the US Test report, the JSC had already implemented new processes for making "Fast Track" changes (minor changes to correct typos, minor wording adjustments, etc.) and alerted the cataloging community of the process for submitting proposals. Additionally, the RDA Toolkit itself has from the start included a mechanism for users to submit suggestions for improvements to the content and functionality of the RDA Toolkit.

"Improve functionality of the RDA Toolkit"

- This was an action for ALA Publishing. They include a support button in the RDA Toolkit for users to submit problems or to suggest improvements to the RDA Toolkit. Many changes were made during the first two years in response to such suggestions.

"Develop full RDA record examples in MARC and other encoding schema"

- Prior to the US Test report, the JSC had enlisted the help of constituents to provide full record examples and posted them on the JSC Web site. Additional examples were added and access to those examples was enabled in the RDA Toolkit.

"Announce completion of the Registered RDA Element Sets and Vocabularies. Ensure the registry is well described and in synchronization with RDA rules."

- Development and maintenance of the Open Metadata Registry (OMR) is an ongoing activity that will not be "completed." The initial RDA Element Set and Vocabularies continue to evolve and will be maintained by the JSC. ALA Publishing will assure the synchronization between the RDA Toolkit, the Glossary, and the OMR.

"Demonstrate credible progress towards a replacement for MARC"

- This was not a recommendation for the JSC or the co-publishers.

"Ensure and facilitate community involvement"

- This recommendation also was not directed to the JSC per se, but the JSC is actively involved in outreach and continues its efforts to involve the broader information community worldwide. This includes JSC members initiating or otherwise participating in
    o meetings with the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative and Semantic Web communities (2012 follow-on meeting from the 2007 London meeting);
    o collaborations with the publishing community (2013 meetings on the RDA/ONIX Framework);
    o active participation in EURIG (European RDA Interest Group);
    o creation of a JSC Working Group on music proposals (during 2012) in collaboration with MLA, CAML, LC, and European partners;
    o presentations worldwide to encourage international collaborations and involvement in improving RDA;
    o etc.

"Lead and coordinate RDA training"

- This recommendation was not directed to the JSC per se, but the JSC members have been very active in providing RDA training worldwide.

"Solicit demonstrations of prototype input and discovery systems that use the RDA element set (including relationships)"

- This was not a recommendation for the JSC or the co-publishers, but some JSC members have had discussions with system vendors and bibliographic utilities (OCLC, SkyRiver, VTLS, ExLibris, Innovative Interfaces, etc.), as well as software developers during the development of RDA training systems, such as RIMMF (RDA in Many Metadata Formats) to encourage developments to take best advantage of RDA's online access and changes to cataloging practices.