

RDA Toolkit Workshop: A Crash Course

A half-day Preconference Workshop
ALA Midwinter, Philadelphia
January 24, 2020

R | D | A
Resource Description & Access

Welcome!

Kathy Glennan

Chair, RDA Steering Committee

Head, Original & Special Collections Cataloging,
University of Maryland Libraries

R | D | A

Resource Description & Access

Presenters and Helpers

- NARDAC members
 - Dominique Bourassa (ALA): NARDAC Chair
 - Thomas Brenndorfer (CCC): RSC Representative
 - Stephen Hearn (ALA): backup RSC Representative
 - Melanie Polutta (LC): NARDAC member
- RSC members, past and present
 - Linda Barnhart: RSC Secretary
 - Kathy Glennan: RSC Chair
 - James Hennelly: Director, ALA Digital Reference
 - Kate James: former RDA Examples Editor
 - Honor Moody: RDA Examples Editor

Overall Plan for the Workshop

- Welcome/housekeeping/background
- Presentations followed by related exercises
 - Exercise worksheets are in your handout packet
 - We will review the answers before going to the next presentation
 - Ask for help at any time
- Coffee/tea break halfway through
- Time for general questions and answers at the end

Topics

- Background
- RDA Beta Toolkit basics
 - Exercise #1
- A quickstart guide to RDA terminology: Elements, SES, and VES
 - Exercise #2
- Everything old is new again
- Whatever happened to...
 - Exercise #3
- New concepts in the Beta Toolkit
 - Exercise #4
- Wrap-up & general questions/answers

Background

R | D | A
Resource Description & Access

What is RDA?

- The standard itself:
 - A package of data elements, guidelines, and instructions for creating library and cultural heritage metadata that are well-formed according to international models. These metadata are intended to support the discovery and identification of resources in library and other cultural heritage collections.
- The Toolkit
 - An integrated, browser-based, online product
 - Includes RDA, and other cataloging-related documents and resources
- The RDA Registry
 - Provides documentation about the RDA entities, elements, and vocabulary encoding schemes for application developers and linked data communities

Scope of RDA

In scope

- “Things” of bibliographic interest
- Data and functionality required by end-users to meet their information needs

Out of scope

- Administrative metadata
- Resource management metadata (e.g., acquisitions, preservation, circulation)
- Rights management metadata
- Subject access beyond RDA entities

Workshop Disclaimers

- This workshop focuses on the current version of the beta RDA Toolkit
 - It is not ready for use in production environments
 - Still need application profiles, policy statements, etc., which are under development by various communities
 - MARC 21 and BIBFRAME need further development to accommodate new RDA elements
 - New MARC/RDA Working Group prepared two discussion papers for this conference
 - Expect more changes!
 - The beta RDA Toolkit is an integrating work, with at least quarterly updates expected each year
- We will do our best to avoid using MARC 21 terminology today

The 3R Project – Why?

- IFLA consolidated and updated RDA's underlying functional requirements models (FRBR, FRAD, and FRSAD) and created the new IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM)
 - Introduced new entities
 - Greater emphasis on relationships rather than attributes
 - Settled on a model for aggregates
- A chance to improve the functionality both within and behind the original RDA Toolkit
- An opportunity to better align RDA with linked data principles and to expand its reach internationally

3R Project Decisions

- Retain current RDA elements unless they conflict with LRM
 - Redundant elements will be removed sometime after 3R Project ends
 - Unstructured description of an element (e.g., *type of recording*) preferred over old “details of” approach (e.g., *details of type of recording*)
- Generalize the instructions
- Move away from organizing instructions and guidelines in the form of a cataloging manual
- Recast “relationship designators” as *relationship elements*
- Offer more flexibility in choosing how to record a piece of information

Beta Toolkit: Current Status

- In the “stabilization” phase
 - Reliable enough for policy statement writers and translators to use for their work
 - Permitted changes
 - Those that do not have an impact on the outcome of applying the instructions
 - Correction of errors, improving consistency, and other modifications that will not have a significant impact on the p.s. writers and translators
 - Addition/revision of examples
- Expect to add some samples of policy statements by April 2020

Stabilization ≠ Official

- Stabilization ***does not*** mean starting the countdown clock on the original Toolkit



Becoming Official

- The official “switch over” date for the beta Toolkit is planned for 15 Dec. 2020
 - beta.rdatoolkit.org → access.rdatoolkit.org
 - Original Toolkit will become available at: original.rdatoolkit.org
 - The countdown clock ***will not*** start on this date either

Countdown Clock Questions

- Why delay starting the clock?
 - Need to offer flexibility to communities/agencies completing translations, policy statements, and application profiles
 - Allows for cataloging agencies to pace their transition from the original Toolkit to the official Toolkit
 - Develop and conduct cataloger training
- When will it start?
 - Only after the RDA Board and the RSC agree on a date
- How long will the clock run?
 - One year: Time left will display prominently on original.rdatoolkit.org site

Making Bigger Changes?

- By this fall, major changes to the English RDA text may again be considered (for implementation in 2021)
 - Based on formal proposals from
 - RDA regions
 - RSC working groups
 - Other RDA users
- Stay tuned!