

Do-It-Yourself: Direct Links to RDA Instructions

by James Hennelly, Managing Editor, ALA Digital Reference

Last week, we introduced our [MARC linking service](#), which described how to build links from a location in MARC (e.g. 245: 00 \$b) to relevant instructions in RDA. We think this service will prove very useful to vendors and users, however, there may also be times when users want to simply link to an RDA instruction without any tie to MARC mapping.

Whether you are creating or revising workflow or procedure documentation, writing a paper for LIS class, or blogging on a specific cataloging issue, direct links to RDA rules will be valuable in communicating your ideas and intentions.

Here's how to build those links (and it's pretty simple).

1. Begin with the root URL of <http://access.rdatoolkit.org/>
2. Then add the RDA number of the section you want to link to. For example, if I wanted to link to RDA 3.1.4, I'd simply add the number to the root—<http://access.rdatoolkit.org/3.1.4>
3. Finally, add ".html" to the end, and you're done.

The completed URL looks like this—

<http://access.rdatoolkit.org/3.1.4.html>

Go ahead and click it. It will work, but of course you must have a subscription to RDA Toolkit and be logged in to view the content.

This link works with any existing RDA number, . . .

no matter how short . . .

<http://access.rdatoolkit.org/2.0.html>

or how long

<http://access.rdatoolkit.org/17.10.1.3.html>

For now this linking works for RDA instruction numbers. We may in the future expand this type of deep linking to other RDA Toolkit documents like Element Set, LCPS, Workflows, etc.

Happy linking.