

# Finding your way with RDA

## session 1

an ORDAC community presentation – 7 June 2023  
presented by Charlotte Christensen

**R | D | A**  
Resource Description & Access

# overview

Overview topics from the RDA Guidance

Familiar vs new

RDA entities & elements

Some key terminology

RDA conformance

Navigating element pages

# What's familiar

## Objectives

Responsiveness to user needs  
Cost efficiency  
Flexibility  
Continuity  
Internationalisation

## Principles

Differentiation  
Sufficiency  
Relationships  
Representation  
Accuracy  
Common usage or practice  
Uniformity

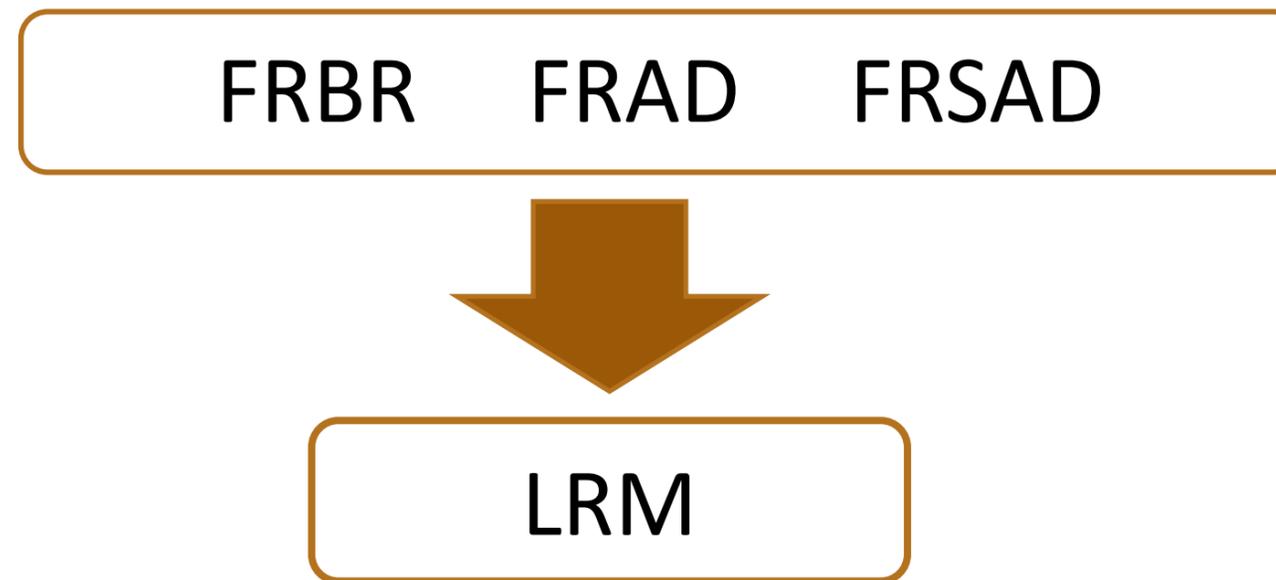
## User tasks (*fisoe*)

Find  
Identify  
Select  
Obtain  
Explore

Taken from the IFLA Statement of International Cataloguing Principles (ICP)

Taken from IFLA LRM

# Why does it look different?



"The metadata standards used in archives, museums, publishing, and other communities related to libraries were taken into consideration in the design of RDA. The goal is to attain an effective level of interoperability between those standards and RDA."

# RDA entities

## LRM Entities

Res

Work  
Expression  
Manifestation  
Item  
Agent  
    Person  
    Collective Agent  
Nomen  
Place  
Time-span

## RDA Entities

RDA Entity

Work  
Expression  
Manifestation  
Item  
Agent  
    Person  
    Collective Agent  
        Corporate Body  
        Family  
Nomen  
Place  
Timespan

# RDA elements

**Relationship elements:** An RDA relationship element **records a value** that is an instance of an RDA entity

**Attribute elements:** An RDA attribute element **does not record a value** that is an instance of an RDA entity

"a value that is an instance of an RDA entity" means I can make a statement relating one element to another

**Original RDA** - attribute, it stops here

Date of publication: 1998

**Official RDA** - relationship, it can be looked at both ways

<Manifestation> *has date of publication* <Timespan> e.g. "Once were warriors" *has date of publication* "1990"

<Timespan> *is date of publication of* <Manifestation> e.g. "1990" *is date of publication of* "Once were warriors"

No more "RDA core" elements - community decision

# Application profiles

## Key points

- An application profile guides you on mandatory/mandatory if applicable/optional, how many, when, etc.
- Specific to a given context/community
- Most are still in development
- You can write your own or use someone else's

APPLICATION PROFILES: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED  
MELISSA PARENT

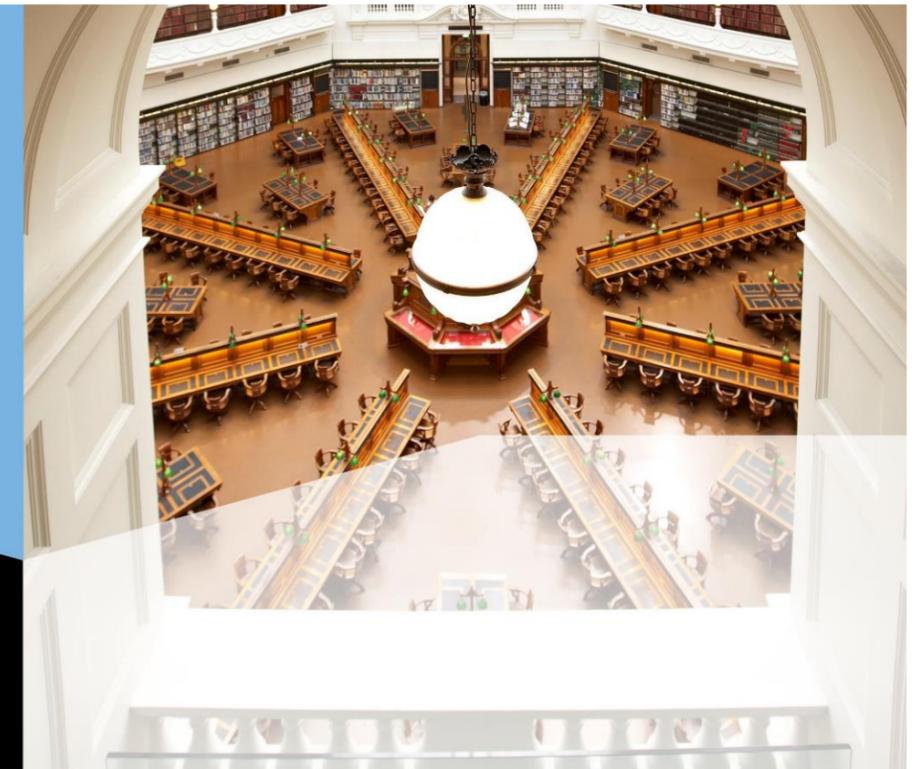


29/10/2021

## ALA Webinar

Application profiles: a deeper dive (and how not to drown)

Melissa Parent  
3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

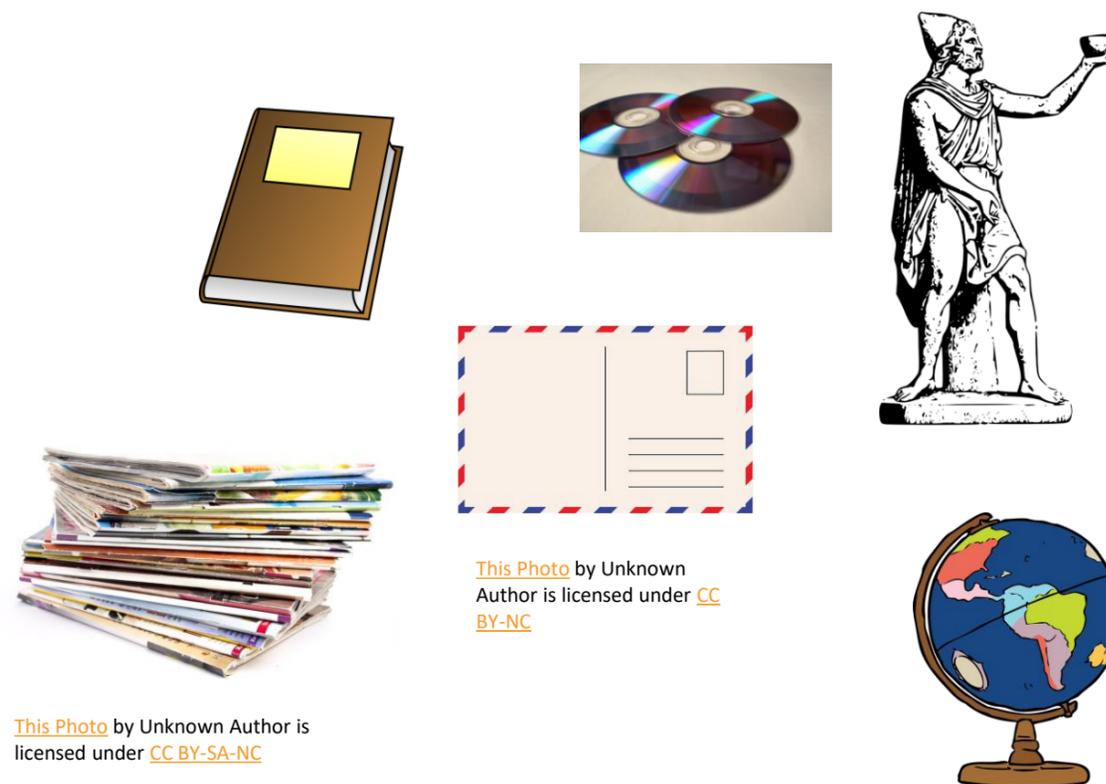


**A**  
Resource Description & Access

# Metadata description sets, information resources and resource entities

Record no.: 12345  
Title proper: A great book  
Date of publication: 2024  
Place of publication: Hobart  
*etc.*

A **Metadata Description Set** is one or more metadata statements put together according to some kind of plan.



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## Resource entities:

- Work
- Expression
- Manifestation
- Item

## Information resource examples

A metadata description set can be partially conformant with RDA  
"if some, but not all, of its metadata statements are conformant with RDA"

# Conformant RDA

Description must include resource entities

*e.g. a manifestation must be exemplified by at least one item*

Description must meet coherent and minimum requirements.

"Add other elements to descriptions of one or more resource entities that are deemed useful for identification or access."

Coherent description

+

Minimum description

+

Effective description

=

Conformant RDA description

Minimum for Manifestation: must include an *appellation of manifestation* and an *appellation of work or expression*

Appellation = A combination of signs that is used to label an entity for identification and reference.

## Key takeaways

- Conformant RDA relates to description of **information resources** and description of **resource entities**
- Focus on RDA elements and ignore the other parts - if the values of the RDA elements you are including in your metadata description set are conformant, then you have an RDA conformant description

R | D | A  
Resource Description & Access

# Element pages

contributor person of text →

contributor person to aggregate →

copyright date →

creator agent of manifestation →

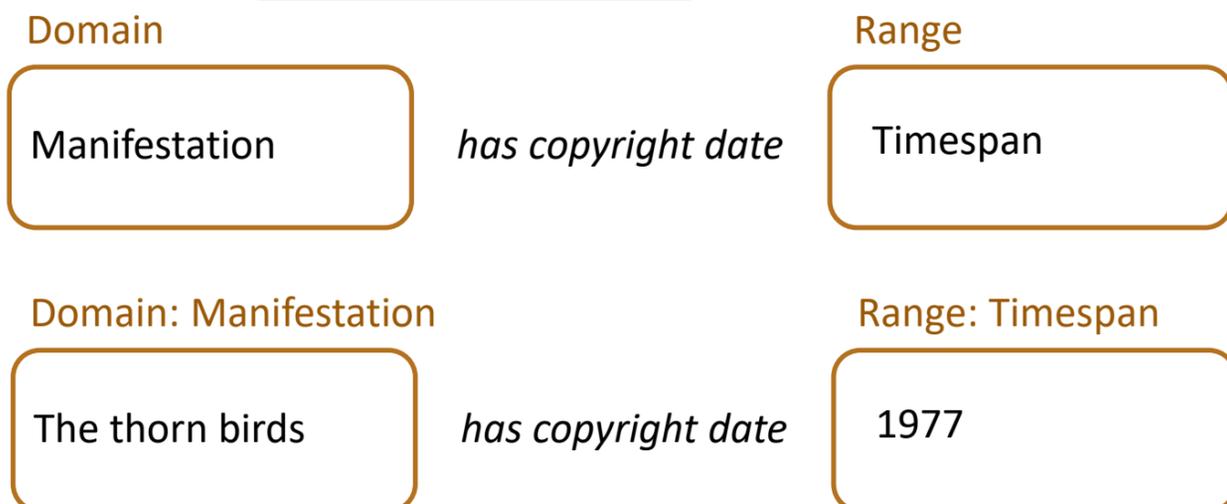
creator collective agent of manifestation →

creator corporate body of manifestation →

# Domain and Range

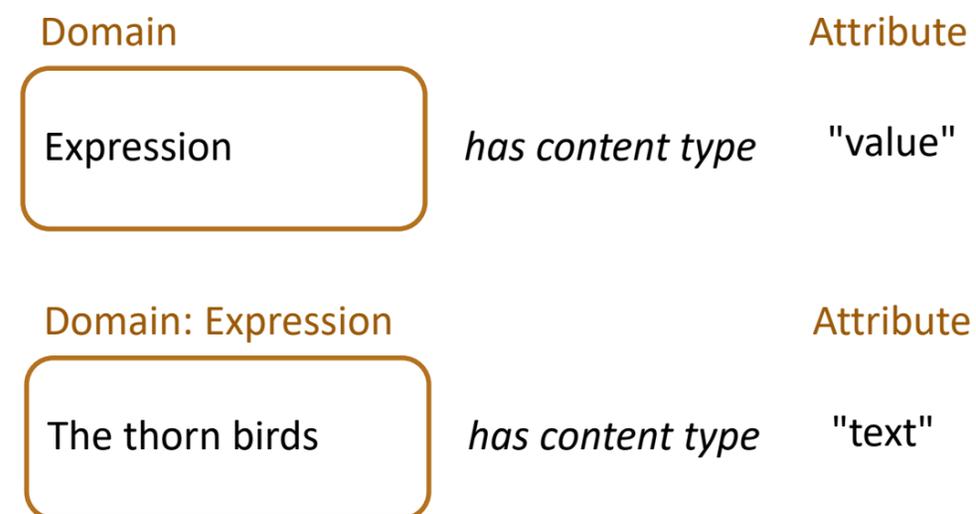
## Manifestation: copyright date

- Domain
- Manifestation →
- Range
- Timespan →
- Alternate labels



## Expression: content type

- Domain
- Expression →
- Alternate labels



# Soft-deprecated elements

## parallel title proper

### Definition and Scope

A nomen that is a title proper in another language or script.

 Element Reference

### Prerecording

The following option is recommended.

#### OPTION

Do not use this element; use Manifestation: [title proper](#)  instead to record a value.

This wording and option in the Prerecording indicates a soft-deprecated element in Official RDA

You can choose to use the element for now, but it will be deleted at some point in the future

# Recording methods

## Unstructured description

A recording method that is a human-readable string that is an uncontrolled full or partial description of an entity or an uncontrolled term describing an aspect of an entity. Includes a note, a transcription, a name or title as it appears in a source of information, and an uncontrolled term.

## Structured description

A recording method that is a human-readable string that is a full or partial description of an entity that is based on a string encoding scheme, or is a controlled term that describes an aspect of an entity. Includes an access point or a controlled term taken from a vocabulary encoding scheme.

## Identifier

A recording method that is a machine-readable string that is assigned to an entity in order to differentiate the entity from other entities within a local domain, or a notation for a term from a controlled vocabulary that is assigned to an aspect of the entity. Includes an identifier or notation taken from a vocabulary encoding scheme.

## IRI

A recording method that is a machine-readable string that is assigned to an entity in order to differentiate the entity from other entities, or to an aspect of an entity, within the global domain of the semantic web and open linked data.

# Vocabulary encoding schemes, String encoding schemes

## Vocabulary encoding scheme (VES)

A named structured list of representations of controlled values for elements.

A vocabulary encoding scheme includes an RDA list of terms or their corresponding value vocabularies in the RDA Registry, an ISO code list, a standard terminology, an authority control system, etc. Simple keyword indexes are excluded.

*Examples: Library of Congress Name Authorities, Library of Congress Subject Headings, VIAF, Wikidata as well as term lists (Content type, Carrier type, Media type)*

## String encoding scheme (SES)

A recording method that is a machine-readable string that is assigned to an entity in order to differentiate the entity from other entities, or to an aspect of an entity, within the global domain of the semantic web and open linked data.

*Example 1: put surname first followed by a comma and space then the first name...*

*Example 2: semi-colon between name of series and series numbering*

# Reading condition statements

## Interpret as:

Local place name is present

*AND*

Larger place name is not present

*AND*

Larger place name is needed

## CONDITION

A value

place

A name

manif

A name

identif

## CONDITION OPTION

Record a value of both a local place name and a name of a larger place taken from another *source of information*.

### Example

Dublin [Ireland]

Recording method: unstructured description

Dublin [Ohio]

Recording method: unstructured description

# Summing up

ENTITIES

GUIDANCE

POLICIES

RESOURCES

## Today's highlights:

- LRM – IFLA's Library Reference Model
- LRM vs RDA entities
- Application profiles
- Metadata Description Sets
- Resource entities (Work, Expression, Manifestation, Item)
- Understanding what's in an element page
- Domain and Range of elements
- Soft-deprecated elements
- Recording methods (unstructured description, structured description, identifier, IRI)
- Condition statement "and"

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