**To:** RDA Steering Committee (RSC)

**From:** Gordon Dunsire, Chair

**Subject:** Outcomes of the RDA Toolkit Restructure and Redesign Project

This document gives an overview of the changes to RDA content that are the result of the RDA Toolkit Restructure and Redesign (3R) Project up to the release of a beta version of RDA Toolkit on June 13, 2018.

The content of the beta release should be considered a draft until the RSC and RDA Board approve the completed version of RDA and agree that the 3R Project is complete.

Work that remains in progress following the beta release is described at the end of the document.

This is not intended to be a complete list. RSC will provide details of all changes to RDA Reference in due course, covering RDA entities, elements, and vocabulary encoding schemes. It is not practical to track or list changes to the wording and layout of instructions; these are extensive, for the reasons given in the document.

The RSC has already indicated areas where a change in the application of RDA may be required. These include the treatment of aggregates, serials, and non-human personages. The impact on policies and practices is dependent on local conditions such as the data encoding format or functional requirements of the service.

The 3R Project has not revealed any other significant areas of impact on current practices.

The main influences on the development of RDA content during the project were:

- The publication of the IFLA Library Reference Model (IFLA LRM) that consolidates and supersedes the bibliographic data models on which RDA is based.
- The strategic drivers set by the RDA Board to expand use of RDA by international, cultural heritage, and linked data communities.
- Consultation with users and translators of RDA.

**Implementation of the LRM**

New entities for Agent, Collective Agent, Nomen, and Timespan have been added with attribute and relationship elements that are common to every entity. Example: *Timespan: note on timespan*.

A new super-entity, RDA Entity, has been added to specify the general scope of RDA with the wider scope of the LRM. *RDA Entity* is a sub-type of the LRM *Res* entity.

The new entities have been integrated with existing entities. Example: *Family* and *Corporate Body* are sub-types of *Collective Agent*.

Common attribute and relationship elements have been added to existing entities. Example: *Work: note on work*.

Existing attribute elements have been recast as relationship elements, as appropriate for incorporating the new entities. Example: *Person: date of birth* is now a relationship between *Person* and *Timespan*.

The treatment of serial works in the LRM has been generalized to cover diachronic works that are intended to change over time. Example: *Work: extension plan*.

Existing elements for serials have been moved or amended to comply with the LRM. Example: *Manifestation: ISSN of series* is now *Work: ISSN*.

New elements that implement the LRM attribute for "manifestation statement" have been added. Example: *Manifestation: manifestation title and responsibility statement*.

New elements that implement the LRM concept of "representative expression" have been added. Example: *Work: content type of representative expression*.

Elements for Item have been amended to improve conformance with the FRBR ontology now incorporated in the LRM. Example: *Item: electronic reproduction of item* is now a relationship between *Item* and *Manifestation*.

Relationship element hierarchies have been amended to improve consistency with the broader relationships in the LRM. Example: *Work: derivative work* is now a narrower relationship of *Work: transformation by genre*.

**Transcription and recording**

Data that are transcribed from a manifestation may now be stored in elements that are distinct from elements that record other data. This is supported by the implementation of the LRM's "manifestation statement" attribute. Example: *Manifestation: manifestation publication statement* is one of several new elements used for transcribing statements found in a manifestation, while *Manifestation: publication statement* and its sub-elements remain available for recording data that have been normalized.

**Appellation elements and recording methods**

The string data values for the identification of an entity that is the target of a relationship element may now be assigned using the three kinds of "name" or appellation. Example: a related person may be identified any of the values of *Person: name of person*, *Person: access point for person*, and *Person: identifier for person*.

New elements for access point, authorized access point, and variant access point for each entity (except Nomen) have been added. Example: *Corporate Body: authorized access for corporate body*.

Instructions for existing elements for name or title of an entity have been amended to clarify the distinction from the new access point elements.

Elements and instructions for elements for identifier of an entity have been added or amended to clarify the distinction from name and title and access point elements. Example: *Place: identifier for place*.

The "4-fold path" for recording different kinds of data has been fully implemented as recording method instructions. The four recording methods are an unstructured description, structured description, identifier, and Internationalized Resource Identifier (IRI).

A specific recording method is assigned to each appellation element. Example: *Work: title of work* is recorded as an *unstructured description*, *Work: access point for work* is recorded as a *structured description*, and *Work: identifier for work* is recorded as an *identifier*.

All four methods are available for most elements. Example: *Expression: content type* may be recorded as an unstructured description that is an uncontrolled term, or as a structured description that is a controlled term from the *RDA Content Type* vocabulary or other named vocabulary encoding scheme (VES), or as an identifier that is a notation from a VES, or as an IRI from a VES.

A numeric code or "notation" has been added to every term in the RDA controlled vocabularies, to be used as a value for the identifier recording method for elements associated with a vocabulary encoding scheme. The notations are based on the IRI of the term. Example: *1007* is the notation for the RDA Carrier Type *audiocassette*, and may be recorded as an identifier value for *Manifestation: carrier type*.

**Changes to elements**

New elements proposed by special materials communities have been added to RDA. Example: *Expression: relief type* is a new element for cartographic materials.

Additions and amendments have made some existing elements redundant or inconsistent with RDA.

Many redundant elements have been retained in RDA to provide continuity and a transition path. Each of these elements is "soft deprecated" in the instructions, which indicate that the element is a non-preferred option to another element or to a specific recording method. Example: An *unstructured description* of *Manifestation: track configuration* is preferred to *Manifestation: details of track configuration*.

Some elements that have similar definitions to new or amended elements have been removed from RDA. The names of deleted element have been added as alternative names of the preferred element and appear as "see from" entries in the RDA Glossary. The RSC policy on deprecation is applied to these elements, so they remain in the RDA Registry with a status of "Deprecated". Example: *Corporate Body: associated institution* has been removed because it essentially duplicates a new high-level relationship element; "associated institution" is now an alternative name for *Corporate Body; related corporate body of corporate body*.

Parentheses and apostrophes have been removed from element names to improve searching and listing. Where this results in a significant difference in filing order in the RDA

Glossary, the old name has been added as an alternative name. Example: *Manifestation: publisher's name* is now *Manifestation: name of publisher* with alternative name "publisher's name", and *Work: review of (work)* is now *Work: review of work*.

Names of some existing elements have been amended for consistency and clarity. Example: *Corporate Body: predecessor* is now *Corporate Body: predecessor of corporate body*, for consistency with other collective agent entities, and *Expression: contributor* is now *Expression: creator of expression*, for consistency with the LRM and to distinguish agents related to aggregated expressions.

Existing element definitions have been amended for consistency, clarity, and ease of translation.

The assignment of "core" status within the RDA content is no longer feasible because of the availability of multiple recording methods for an element and the provision of specific elements for access points. The RSC now expects the assignment of core status to be made in an application profile or policy statement.

**Toolkit structure**

The structure of the Toolkit content has been completely revised.

Each element has its own page. Pages are gathered into "chapters" for each entity, but this is not a fixed arrangement and several methods are available for navigation. An element page can be accessed by searching, browsing a list of elements associated with an entity, browsing a full set of relationship hierarchies, and navigating from related elements.

An element page has a standard layout providing information about the element, the recording methods for the element and their instructions, and navigation to related elements.

Each element page provides reference information for the element, including the RDA Registry URI, alternative names, relevant user tasks, and mappings to MARC 21 tags and subfields.

General guidance and instructions are provided in a separate set of "guidance" pages.

The relationship designator appendices have been replaced with a browsable hierarchy of all relationship elements for all RDA entities. Other appendices have been integrated into guidance text or re-framed as supplemental Resources.

There is no numbering of instructions. Every instruction has a unique machine-readable identifier.

**Optional and conditional instructions**

Many instructions have been made optional. The choice of recording method is optional for most elements, and internationalization of RDA requires instructions based on Anglo-American practice to become options.

Alternatives, exceptions, omissions, and additions have been generalized as optional instructions. An existing basic instruction and its alternative are now mutual options.

Policy statements or application profiles will provide guidance to specific communities for their option choices.

A standard layout has been developed for conditional instructions. This separates one or more conditions from the action that is to be taken, and provides a more consistent presentation of instructions that currently begin with "If" and "For" followed by the conditions that apply.

**Examples**

The examples have been redesigned to reflect changes to the instructions and provide more context for cataloguers to understand how elements identify and record entities.

Some examples show the application of multiple recording methods for a single element.

"View in Context" examples are given for multiple elements of an entity that show a set of values in the context of a specific instance of an entity.

"View as Relationship" examples show a visualization of an element value as linked data.

**Aggregates and serials**

The basic elements for the treatment of aggregate manifestations and diachronic works have been added to RDA. Example: *Work: transformation by policy* is a relationship between two diachronic works with content that is intended to change over time.

Guidance and instructions for aggregates have been structured separately from those for diachronic works. This provides a flexible approach for the identification and description of serial works that combine aspects of aggregating and diachronic works; these may be recorded separately, sequentially, or simultaneously.

This work has been carried out in liaison with members of the ISSN Network to maintain harmonization between RDA and ISSN.

**Data provenance**

A basic treatment of data provenance has been developed. One or more metadata statements may be treated as a metadata work that can be described using general work elements and new elements. Example: [metadata] *Work: scope of validity* may be used to record the range of issues of a serial work for which a value of [serial] *Work: frequency* is valid.

**Controlled vocabularies**

New vocabulary encoding schemes have been added for *RDA Extension Plan*, *RDA Interactivity Mode*, and *RDA Type of Binding*, with corresponding elements. Example: *Manifestation: type of binding*.

The vocabulary for *RDA Conventional Collective Title* has been deprecated. The terms are now available within the instructions and from Toolkit resources.

A complete set of the RDA vocabulary encoding schemes has been added as a new Toolkit reference resource. The instructions for an element associated with a VES retain a list of the controlled terms.

**MARC 21**

A process of review and amendment of the RDA Toolkit mappings from RDA elements to MARC 21 content designators was begun. Work undertaken prior to the release of the beta version has focussed on ensuring that mappings which applied to the pre-LRM element set were preserved. This work will continue in the months following the release and further effort will focus on the provision of mappings for new elements which have been incorporated into RDA as part of its alignment with the LRM.

As noted above, the MARC 21 tags and subfields associated with an RDA element are now listed in the reference section of the element.

**On-going 3R Work**

The following activities are on-going. The target for completion within the 3R Project is the end of 2018, following the next meeting of the RSC in October 2018.

***Separation of instructions for name/title and access point elements***

The distinction and separation of instructions for appellation elements for existing entities is a complex task that is partially complete.

***Examples***

Examples will continue to be added and edited as instructions are updated and added.

***Aggregates, diachronic works, and serial works***

The instructions for existing and new elements for aggregates, diachronic works, and serial works are incomplete, although background documentation and analysis have been developed.

***Treatment of non-human personages***

The treatment of non-human personages is waiting for further development of instructions for assigning agent relationships to the resource entities Work, Expression, Manifestation, and Item.

***Instructions for new elements***

Basic generic instructions have been added for all new elements, but the development of specific instructions for some elements is incomplete. Feedback from specialized RDA communities will be incorporated into the development of relevant elements.

*Guidance*

The development of guidance and general instructions on cataloguing decisions and sources of information is incomplete. Other areas of guidance will be expanded in due course.

*Feedback*

The RSC appreciates the input of individuals and communities to the development of RDA, and encourages feedback from the beta release of RDA Toolkit to support the successful completion of the project.