To: Victoria Owen, Chair of the IFLA Committee on Standards
CC: Pat Riva, Secretary of the IFLA Committee on Standards
                Christine Oliver, Expert Advisor, IFLA Committee on Standards
                RDA Steering Committee

From: Renate Behrens, RSC Chair

Subject: Protocol between the RSC and the IFLA Committee on Standards (CoS)

Background

"RDA is a package of data elements, guidelines, and instructions for creating library and cultural heritage resource metadata that are well-formed according to international models for user-focussed linked data applications" (RDA Steering Committee website).

"The Advisory Committee on Standards (CoS) coordinates IFLA's work to develop and maintain professional standards and guidelines for information professionals across the globe, and provides advice to the Governing Board" (IFLA Advisory Committee on Standards website).

The RSC has long-standing protocols in place with several groups within the CoS. Although several members of the RDA Board (which has governance over the RSC) are members of the CoS and the current RSC Chair is an expert advisor to the CoS, there has been no formal protocol between the CoS and the RSC.

It was decided to create a protocol between the RSC and the CoS which encompasses the existing representation between the RSC and the CoS review groups and will allow for future working. The new protocol operates at the strategic level, between the RSC as the managing body for RDA and the CoS as the managing body for IFLA Standards. Individual review groups reporting to CoS can form relationships and agreements as needed at more technical levels, and the current protocol does not preclude this. (See related documents for a list of existing materials).

One clear principle established is that liaisons between IFLA CoS groups and the RSC are through the position of the Chairs. This position may be delegated at the Chairs' discretion to another suitable person, but the liaisonship remains with the Chairs' position, not with any specific human being.

RSC/Chair/2023/3 provided a draft protocol for discussion at the CoS meeting on 15 June 2023; RSC/Chair/2023/3/rev incorporates amendments and additions discussed by the CoS at that meeting. RSC/Chair/2023/3/rev will be discussed by CoS in its August meeting at WLIC; an invitation will be extended from Renate Behrens as RSC Chair to Victoria Owen (CoS Chair),

Pat Riva (CoS Secretary) and Chris Oliver (as CoS Expert Advisor) to speak at the RSC Public Meeting on 2 August to update the wider RDA community of the progress of this protocol.

Duties of the RSC

The RSC Chair will be the liaison to the CoS and will provide the Chair of the CoS with their contact information. In the unlikely event that the RSC Chair is unable to be the liaison to the CoS they will delegate liaison to another member of the RSC and will provide the Chair of the CoS with their contact information.

The RSC will:

- consider proposals to develop RDA to improve the semantic interoperability of RDA and IFLA models managed by the BCM Review Group at its annual meeting and according to its policy and procedures
- inform the BCM Review Group of potential or impending changes to RDA which may impact on shared documentation.
- consider proposals for developing RDA to improve the functional interoperability of RDA and ISBD.
- inform the ISBD Review Group of potential or impending changes to RDA which may impact on shared RDA and ISBD documentation
- inform the UNIMARC Committee at the earliest opportunity of impending changes to RDA that may impact on UNIMARC
- liaise with the UNIMARC Committee on the development and maintenance of linked data mappings between RDA and UNIMARC value vocabularies
- liaise with the UNIMARC Committee on the development and maintenance of linked data mappings between RDA and UNIMARC element sets

Duties of the CoS

CoS recognizes the RSC liaison as a channel of communication between the RSC and CoS, informing IFLA of relevant RSC information or activities that RSC judges important for IFLA to know, and informing RSC of relevant IFLA activities and information that may impact RDA and RSC activities.

The CoS will:

- recognize the RSC liaison as one of the CoS's official liaisons.
- recognize the RSC liaison as one of the official liaisons to other IFLA groups over which the CoS has oversight, including:

- o the BCM Review Group
- o the ISBD Review Group
- o the UNIMARC Committee
- inform the RSC of potential or impending changes to the IFLA models managed by the BCM Review Group that may impact on shared and RDA documentation
- inform the RSC of potential or impending changes to ISBD that may impact on shared and RDA documentation
- inform the RSC of impending changes to UNIMARC vocabularies that may impact on RDA
- Liaise with the RSC on the development and maintenance of linked data mappings between RDA and UNIMARC value vocabularies
- Liaise with the RSC on the development and maintenance of linked data mappings between RDA and UNIMARC element sets

Related documents:

RSC/Chair/5 - Protocol between the RSC and the ISBD Review Group (superseded by this document)
RSC/Chair/5/Shared - Documents shared between the RSC and the ISBD Review Group
RSC/Chair/12 - Protocol between the RSC and the FRBR Review Group (superseded by this document)
RSC/Chair/12/Shared - Documents shared between the RSC and the FRBR Review Group
RSC/Chair/22 - Protocol between the RSC and the Permanent UNIMARC Committee (superseded by this document)