

RDA – a standard on the way to more internationality and partnership

Renate Behrens
Chair RDA Steering Committee

October 2025

RDA as a Cataloguing standard

- RDA was always intended as a cataloguing standard. It comes from the Anglo-American tradition and the Original Toolkit has largely continued this tradition.
- But cataloguing was already in a phase of upheaval at this time.
- This process has been intensified in the following years and all standards, not just RDA, must face up to the new challenges.

RDA since 2015

- The committees responsible for RDA took up this challenge back in 2015, and the 3R project marked the start of a paradigm shift for cataloguing with RDA, some of which is still ongoing.
- The circle of user communities has thus been significantly expanded and numerous applications in the field of cultural institutions have been created since then.

International and Regional

Where are the needs of local communities, and what can they themselves do to ensure that the development of such a global standard does not bypass them?

RDA Steering Committee

<http://rda-rsc.org/rsc-members>

Chair
Chair Elect
Secretary
Chair RDA Board
Director of RDA Toolkit

Examples Editor
Wider Community Engagement Officer
Education and Orientation Officer

Technical Team Liaison Officer
Translation Team Officer

Regional Representatives

Extent/SES WG

Religions in RDA WG

Archives WG

Joint WG AI

Music WG

Places/Jurisdiction WG

Official Languages WG

Examples WG

Technical WG

Translation WG

Africa

Asia

Europe

Latin America and the
Caribbean

North America

Oceania

Member from all
around the world in all
WGs

R | D | A
Resource Description & Access

RDA Steering Committee

<http://rda-rsc.org/rsc-members>

Chair

Renate Behrens (GER)

Chair Elect

Robert Maxwell (US)

Secretary

Anne Welsh (GB)

Chair RDA Board

Colleen Barbus (US)

Director of RDA Toolkit

James Hennelly (US)

Examples Editor

Jessica Grzegorski (US)

Wider Community Engagement Officer

Charlene Chou (US)/Getaneh Alemu (GB)

Education and Orientation Officer

Elisa Sze (CAN)

Technical Team Liaison Officer

Christopher Holden (US)

Translation Team Officer

Szabolcs Dancs (CAN)

Regional Representatives

Charlotte Christensen
(ORDAC/New Zealand)

Ahava Cohen (EURIG/ Israel)

Robert Maxwell (NARDAC/US)

Filiberto Felipe Arellano (RDA-
ALyC/Mexico)

R | D | A
Resource Description & Access

Raise your voice and work with us!



- But how?
- What are the pillars of such a cooperation?

Organisation

- A stable organisation is essential for a region to be able to work together on a long-term basis in the RDA Committees.
- It is just as important for the region itself to have a permanent contact institution.



Translation

- Translations are essential for acceptance in a non-English-speaking user community.
- Furthermore, translations make the RDA standard international.



GRUPO **RDA** ALyC
AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

R | D | A
Resource Description & Access

Local Working groups

Even in an international context, it is important to first discuss the requirements and needs of local communities in local working groups and then to bring them to the attention of regional representatives.



Participation in international Working Groups

Join the RSCs international working groups and represent the interests of your region.



[Working Groups | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)

R | D | A
Resource Description & Access

Proposals and Discussion Papers

- Proposals for the further development of RDA are submitted via proposals and discussion papers.
- These are submitted via the regional representatives and further processed in the RSC.
- This takes place at the quarterly meetings of the RSC, each of which includes a virtual public session.

Conclusion

The bodies responsible for RDA (RSC and RDA Board) are constantly working to further develop RDA, to take a forward-looking approach and shape the future of cataloguing with RDA together with the user communities.



Thank you for your attention and grateful
for your input!

Renate Behrens
Chair RSC Steering Committee
rscchair@rdatoolkit.org