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.

Resource Description & Access

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.



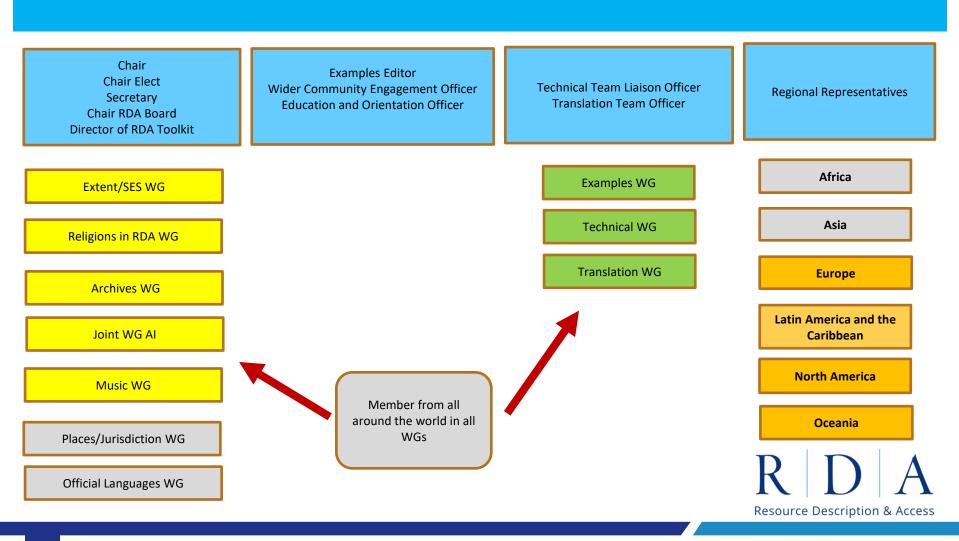
International and Regional

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



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 Chistopher 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)



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.





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



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

