RDA, a World-wide Standard

Renate Behrens Chair RDA Steering Committee September 2024



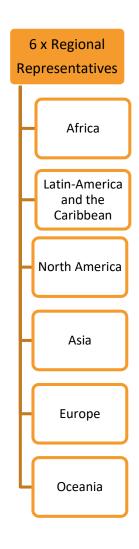
Organisational Structure

- The RDA Board and the RDA Steering Committee (RSC) are responsible for the RDA standard.
- Until 2015, there were members from North America, Australia, the UK and Germany.
- At the end of 2015, the RDA Board and the RSC decided to fundamentally change their organisational structure.
- Continents should now organise themselves and send only one representative (Regional Representative) to the RDA committees.



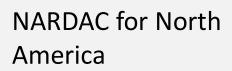
Regions

- All regions are now represented on the RDA Board.
- In contrast, there are still no members from Asia, Africa and Latin America on the RSC.





The Region Representatives





ORDAC for Oceania



EURIG for Europe



Charlotte Christensen - ORDAC Robert Maxwell - NARDAC Ahava Cohen - EURIG



RDA Steering Committee

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

Chair Secretary Chair RDA Board ALA Rep Examples Editor
Wider Community Engagement
Officer
Education and Orientation
Officer

Technical Team Liaison Officer Translation Team Officer

Regional Representatives

Africa

Asia

Extent WG

Religions in RDA WG

Archives WG

Joint WG AI

Places/Jurisdiction WG

Official Languages WG

Examples WG

All WGs are

internationally staffed

Technical WG

Translation WG

Europe

Latin America and the Caribbean

North America

Oceania

RDA Steering Committee http://rda-rsc.org/rsc-members

Chair

Renate Behrens (GER)

Secretary

Anne Welsh (GB)

Chair RDA Board

Colleen Barbus (US)

ALA Representative

James Hennelly (US)

Examples Editor

Jessica Grzegorski (US)

Wider Community Engagement Officer

Charlene Chou (US)

Education and Orientation Officer

Elisa Sze (CAN)

Technical Team Liaison Officer

Damian Iseminger (US)

Translation Team Officer

Szabolcs Dancs (HUN)

Regional Representatives

Charlotte Christensen (ORDAC/New Zealand)

Ahava Cohen (EURIG/ Israel)

Robert Maxwell (NARDAC/US)

RSC Meetings

- In-person Meetings
- Web Conferences
- Asynchronous Meetings



Virtual Meetings

- The RSC organises regular web conferences. This is not so easy due to the different time zones in which the members live.
 Therefore, the bigger part of the meetings now take place in quarterly asynchronous meetings.
- These meetings are held in wiki areas (Basecamp) and usually last four days so that all participants can work in their time zones.
- In the asynchronous meetings, there is always a virtual online part that is also open to observers.
- Current schedule: January, April, July for the asynchronous meetings and October/November for the face-to-face meeting



The 3R Project 2015 until 2020 and its impact





The 3R Project

- Aligned with the new requirements for modern data management
- Clear focus on linked data applications
- Better design, more efficient web tool
- Barrier-free access
- More internationality
- More community participation
- Application Profiles



Many Options, many possibilities

- RDA offers many possibilities for different user communities.
- If a standard wants to be truly international and versatile, it must offer options.
- In the past, the user communities, e. g. for special materials or from museums and archives, have urgently requested this and are now very satisfied with it.
- For traditional cataloguing in libraries, however, this means that they can no longer apply the standard 1:1.



Switchover to the Official RDA Toolkit

- On 15 December 2020, the Beta Toolkit became the official RDA Toolkit, the 'old' Toolkit is now called the 'Original Toolkit'.
- The expiry date for the Original Toolkit was set in May 2023 by agreement between the RDA Board and the RSC.
- The countdown clock for the Original Toolkit begins in May 2026 and runs for one year.



Internationalisation

- The RSC is aware that the standard in its current form is not completely international and needs to be revised at some points.
- Many steps have been taken to remove the Anglo-American focus from RDA and the topic is a priority in the committee's ongoing work. Worldwide communities expressly support this approach and are heavily involved here.



International Working Groups

 After the conclusion of the 3R project, the RSC set up international working groups on the first topics, which require revision as they were too strongly Anglo-American in character in the Original Toolkit.



Translation Working Group – Standing WG

- One of the standing Working Groups is for RDA translators worldwide.
- This group provides support for ongoing work and serves as a forum for dialogue between translators.
- A meeting of this working group takes place as part of the annual EURIG meeting.
- The current chair is Szabolcs Dancs from the Hungarian National Library.



Technical Working Group – Standing WG

This working group has existed for many years. It holds a key position as it is responsible for the entire technical implementation in the Toolkit and in the Registry.

The current chair is Damian Iseminger from the Library of Congress.



Examples Working Group – Standing WG

- The WG was set up in January 2024
- Assist the RDA Examples Editor in developing RDA examples
- Support RDA communities in creating RDA examples for local practices
- Support interchange and reuse of examples in different RDA translations and across different communities of RDA users
- Chair is Jessica Grzegorski, RDA Examples Editor, Northwestern University, Chicago.



Task-and-finish RSC Working Groups

These Working Groups are usually set up for a period of two years. The term can be extended if necessary.

- Extent (term extended until end 2024)
- Religious in RDA (term extended until end 2024)
- Place/Jurisdiction (work completed by the end of 2023)
- Official Languages (work completed by the end of 2023)
- Joint WG Artificial Intelligence of the RDA Board and the RSC since Spring 2024
- New Archives WG expected in Autumn 2024



Revision Process

- During the 3R project, the Toolkit text was frozen and only minor changes were made to the Beta Toolkit.
- Since 2020, Discussion Papers, Proposals and Fast Tracks can once again be submitted via the regional representatives, which are brought to the RSC meetings on a quarterly basis.
- The process for submitting Proposals or Discussion Papers to revise RDA is described here

https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/submitting-proposals.



Releases RDA Toolkit

- All changes to the RDA Toolkit are incorporated into the regular releases and are visible to all users.
- Quarterly releases are currently taking place, from 2025 there will only be three.
- Policy statements (e.g. British Library and LC/PCC) and other translations (e.g. Finnish) will be added regularly.



Community Resources - Content

- Content that conforms to RDA but is specific to particular user communities
- No official RDA texts approved by the RSC
- Access model divided into 'partner organisations' and 'contributing organisations'
- Also includes the legacy instructions from the Original Toolkit



Community Resources - Overview

- 2022 ff: Establishment of Community Resources as an independent part of the RDA, initially containing legacy data from the Original Toolkit
- 2023: Development of a participation model
- 2024: Technical implementation
- 2025: Expected launch for the user communities



International Cooperation

- Like all other standards, RDA must ensure that it is compatible and follows basic models such as the IFLA Library Reference Model.
- The RSC has official protocols for this (see next slide).
- It also works together with other cataloguing bodies worldwide.
- The RSC also regularly exchanges information with committees and interest groups on application standards such as BIBFRAME.



Official Protocols

- The RSC and the IFLA Committee on Standards signed an official protocol in August 2024 that regulates their cooperation.
- The RSC has further protocols, e.g. with the ISSN International Centre and the MARC Advisory Committee.
- All protocols must be updated regularly.



Wider Community Engagement Officer

- The RDA Steering Committee wants to be as international as possible. Unfortunately, not all regions of the world are yet represented in the RSC.
- However, there is also a contact person for these communities. This is the position of the Wider Community Engagement Officer.
- Charlene Chou, US currently fulfils this role and is happy to support all communities that do not yet have their own Regional Representative.



Library managment in the future

- Libraries worldwide are under great economic pressure. Financial resources are becoming scarcer and at the same time the demands on cultural institutions are increasing. Library management is under great pressure here.
- Standards must also take account of this situation. RDA tries to respond to this by offering the possibility to choose between different options and cataloguing levels and to mark them clearly e.g. with the "recording method" or a cataloguing level.



Focal points for the near future

- Internationalisation
- More cooperation with other standardising bodies for compatibility
- Community based application profiles
- Broadening the focus on cultural heritage



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