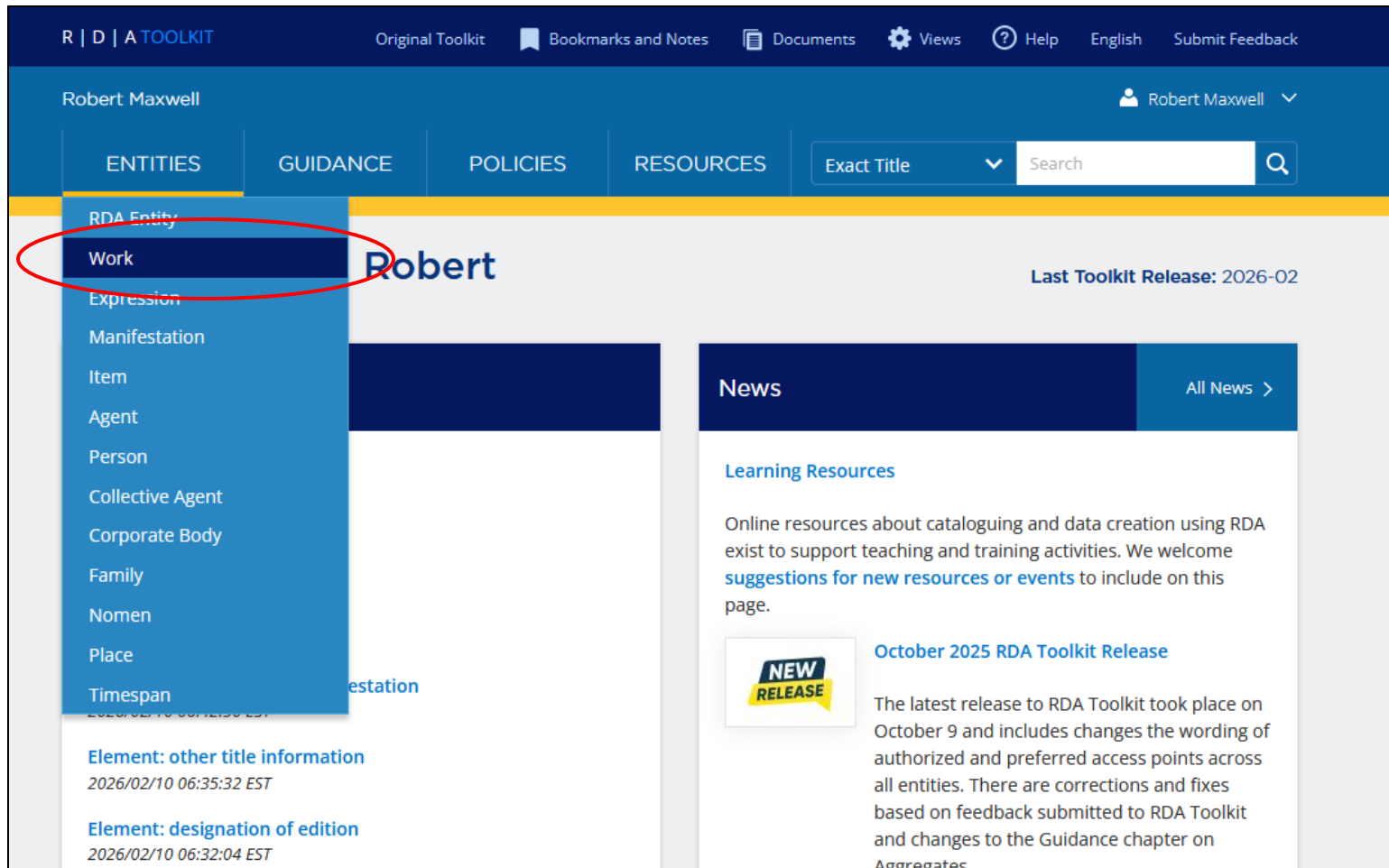


Adventures in counterpoint
Linking Music and Dance in Libraries and Data

RDA and Choreographic Works

Robert L. Maxwell
Music Library Association
Salt Lake City, Utah
26 February 2026

Official RDA (access.rdatoolkit.org)



The screenshot displays the RDA Toolkit interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes 'R | D | A TOOLKIT', 'Original Toolkit', 'Bookmarks and Notes', 'Documents', 'Views', 'Help', 'English', and 'Submit Feedback'. Below this, the user 'Robert Maxwell' is logged in. The main navigation tabs are 'ENTITIES', 'GUIDANCE', 'POLICIES', and 'RESOURCES'. A search bar is present with a dropdown menu set to 'Exact Title'. The 'ENTITIES' dropdown menu is open, listing various RDA entities: 'RDA Entity', 'Work', 'Expression', 'Manifestation', 'Item', 'Agent', 'Person', 'Collective Agent', 'Corporate Body', 'Family', 'Nomen', 'Place', and 'Timespan'. The 'Work' option is highlighted with a red oval. The main content area shows a partial view of a record for 'Robert', with the text 'Last Toolkit Release: 2026-02' visible. On the right, there is a 'News' section with a 'Learning Resources' link and a 'NEW RELEASE' badge for the 'October 2025 RDA Toolkit Release'.

R | D | A TOOLKIT Original Toolkit Bookmarks and Notes Documents Views Help English Submit Feedback

Robert Maxwell Robert Maxwell

ENTITIES GUIDANCE POLICIES RESOURCES Exact Title Search

RDA Entity
Work
Expression
Manifestation
Item
Agent
Person
Collective Agent
Corporate Body
Family
Nomen
Place
Timespan

Robert

Last Toolkit Release: 2026-02

News All News >

Learning Resources

Online resources about cataloguing and data creation using RDA exist to support teaching and training activities. We welcome [suggestions for new resources or events](#) to include on this page.

NEW RELEASE October 2025 RDA Toolkit Release

The latest release to RDA Toolkit took place on October 9 and includes changes the wording of authorized and preferred access points across all entities. There are corrections and fixes based on feedback submitted to RDA Toolkit and changes to the Guidance chapter on [Aggregates](#).

Element: other title information
2026/02/10 06:35:32 EST

Element: designation of edition
2026/02/10 06:32:04 EST

RDA Descriptions for Works and Expressions

R | D | A TOOLKIT Original Toolkit Bookmarks and Notes Doc

Robert Maxwell

ENTITIES GUIDANCE POLICIES RESOURCES

Download PDF

Entities > Work

Work

Definition and Scope

A distinct intellectual or artistic creation, that is, the intellectual or artistic content.

Prerecording

The term *work* may refer to:

- an individual work
- a part of a work
- an *aggregating work*
- an *augmented work*
- an *augmenting work*
- a *diachronic work*
- an *integrating work*
- a *metadata work*
- a *serial work*
- a *single work*
- a *static work*
- a *successive work*

Entities > Expression

Expression

Definition and Scope

An intellectual or artistic realization of a work in the form of alpha-numeric, musical or choreographic notation, sound, image, object, movement, etc., or any combination of such forms.

A work that is categorized by its intended content or context may be referred to as:

- a *cartographic work*
- a *choreographic work*
- a *legal work*
- a *moving image work*
- a *musical work*
- an *object work*
- an *official communication*
- a *photographic work*
- a *religious work*

Elements of an RDA description of a work

- Preferred title of work (LC/PCC core)
- Identifier for work (LC/PCC core)
- Category of work (original RDA Form of work)
- Date of work
- Place of origin of work
- Distinguishing characteristic of work (from original RDA)
- Two non-RDA elements we can also record:
 - Audience Characteristics – MARC 385
 - Creator/Contributor Characteristics – MARC 386

Preferred title of work

Entities > Work > preferred title of work

preferred title of work

Definition and Scope

A nomen that is a title of work that is selected for preference in a specific application or context.

Different titles or forms of title for the same work

CONDITION

A work is embodied by two or more manifestations that have different values of Manifestation: [title proper](#).

CONDITION OPTION

Record a value of Manifestation: [title proper](#) that appears most frequently in manifestations that embody a work.

Preferred title of work



In 1920 Leonide Massine created a choreography for Stravinsky's *Весна священная* = *Vesna sviāshchennaia* (The rite of spring) that was originally titled—in French—*Le sacre du printemps*. Which of three (four?) possible titles do we chose?

Preferred title = *Sacre du printemps*

Preferred title of work

046 ## \$k 1920 \$2 edtf

100 1# \$a Massine, Leonide, \$d 1896-1979. \$t **Sacre du printemps**

370 ## \$g Paris (France) \$2 naf

380 ## \$a Choreographic work

380 ## \$a Concert dances \$2 lcgft

380 ## \$a Ballets (Dance) \$2 lcgft

400 1# \$a Massine, Leonide, \$d 1896-1979. \$t Rite of spring

430 #0 \$w nne \$a Rite of spring (Choreographic work : Massine)

Variant title of work

Entities > Work > variant title of work

variant title of work

Definition and Scope

A nomen that is a title of work that is not selected for preference in a specific application or context.

Massine's choreography is known in English-speaking countries as The rite of spring



Variant title =
The rite of
spring

Variant title of work

046 ## \$k 1920 \$2 edtf

100 1# \$a Massine, Leonide, \$d 1896-1979. \$t Sacre du printemps

370 ## \$g Paris (France) \$2 naf

380 ## \$a Choreographic work

380 ## \$a Concert dances \$2 lcgft

380 ## \$a Ballets (Dance) \$2 lcgft

400 1# \$a Massine, Leonide, \$d 1896-1979. \$t **Rite of spring**

430 #0 \$w nne \$a **Rite of spring** (Choreographic work : Massine)

Category of work (formerly Form of work)

Entities > Work > category of work

category of work

Definition and Scope

A type to which a work belongs.

Includes a class or genre.

PCC policy prefers controlled vocabulary (e.g. LCGFT, LCSH, AAT, etc.)

Choreographic work forms:

- *Choreographic work* (uncontrolled term recommended by the Project)

Some LCGFT possibilities

Concert dances

Ballets (Dance)

Ballroom dances

Court dances

Dances without music

Court dances

Folk dances

Tangos (Dance)

Ceremonial dances

Horse ballets (Dance)



Comparia del Ser. Principe di Toscana Figuran' Ercole Accompa' dai Cati del Sole e della Luna, seguito de' Cavalieri d'Europa, America, Asia ed Africa. Nella Festa a Canale Rappre' per le Reali Nozze dell' A. J. 1774. Nel Teatro Olimpico di Palazzo Pitti. Del Ser. G.D.

Category of work



Choreographic work: Nijinsky, Vaslav, 1890-1950. Triptyk

Related musical work: Stravinsky, Igor, 1882-1971. Vesna sviãshchennaïã

LESACRE DU PRINTEMPS musique de Stravinsky
Danse sacrée de l'élue chorégraphie de Nijinsky

Dessins de la Danse du sacrifice et extraits de la partition du Sacre
parus dans le magazine Montjoie ! (juin 1913), © Valentine Gross-Hugo, collaboratrice de Nijinsky.

Category of work

046 ## \$k 1920 \$2 edtf

100 1# \$a Massine, Leonide, \$d 1896-1979. \$t Sacre du printemps

370 ## \$g Paris (France) \$2 naf

380 ## \$a **Choreographic work**

380 ## \$a **Concert dances** \$2 lcgft

380 ## \$a **Ballets (Dance)** \$2 lcgft

400 1# \$a Massine, Leonide, \$d 1896-1979. \$t Rite of spring

430 #0 \$w nne \$a Rite of spring (Choreographic work : Massine)

Date of work

Entities > Work > date of work

date of work

Definition and Scope

A timespan that is the earliest associated with a work.

Entities > Timespan

Timespan

Definition and Scope

A finite period of time.

The Project is generally recording the year of the first performance, unless an earlier date is known

Massine's *Sacre du printemps* was first performed December 15, **1920**, in Paris at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, by Les Ballets Russes.

Date of work

046 ## \$k **1920** \$2 edtf

100 1# \$a Massine, Leonide, \$d 1896-1979. \$t Sacre du printemps

370 ## \$g Paris (France) \$2 naf

380 ## \$a Choreographic work

380 ## \$a Concert dances \$2 lcgft

380 ## \$a Ballets (Dance) \$2 lcgft

400 1# \$a Massine, Leonide, \$d 1896-1979. \$t Rite of spring

430 #0 \$w nne \$a Rite of spring (Choreographic work : Massine)

Place of origin of work

Entities > Work > place of origin of work

place of origin of work

Definition and Scope

A place from which a work originated.

- PCC practice: record authorized access point of the place from the NAF
- The Project generally records the place of the first performance

Entities > Place

Place

Definition and Scope

A given extent of space.

Massine's *Sacre du printemps* was first performed in **Paris**, December 15, 1920, at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, by Les Ballets Russes.

Place of origin of work

046 ## \$k 1920 \$2 edtf

100 1# \$a Massine, Leonide, \$d 1896-1979. \$t Sacre du printemps

370 ## \$g **Paris (France)** \$2 naf

380 ## \$a Choreographic work

380 ## \$a Concert dances \$2 lcgft

380 ## \$a Ballets (Dance) \$2 lcgft

400 1# \$a Massine, Leonide, \$d 1896-1979. \$t Rite of spring

430 #0 \$w nne \$a Rite of spring (Choreographic work : Massine)

Other relationships

- Common relationships between choreographic works and other entities:
- Work to agent:
 - Choreographer
 - Commissioning body
 - Subject (person)
- Work to work:
 - Choreography for (work)
 - Choreographic adaptation of (work)

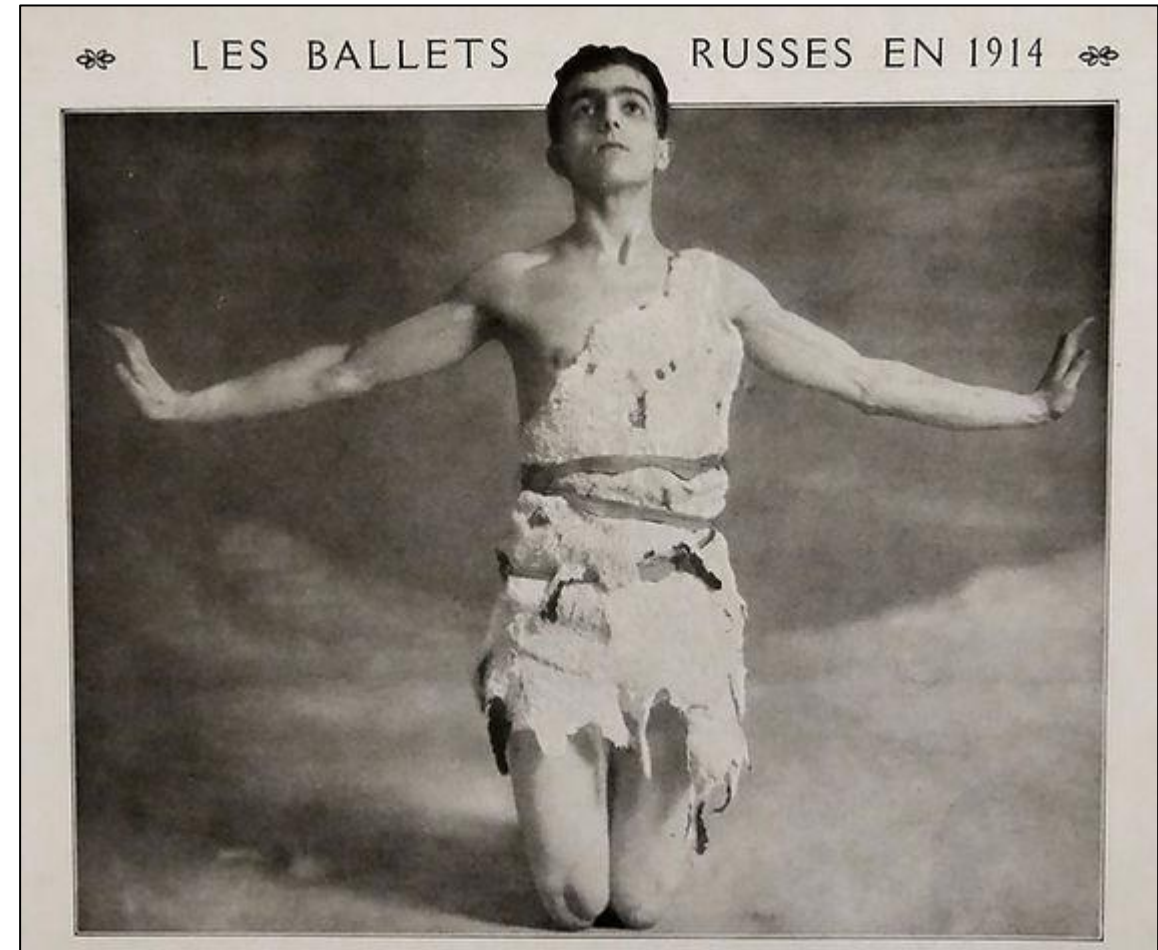
Relationships – Creator – Single agent

046 ## \$k 1920 \$2 edtf

100 1# \$a **Massine, Leonide**, \$d
1896-1979. \$t Sacre du printemps

...

500 1# \$w r \$i Choreographer: \$a
Massine, Leonide, \$d **1896-1979**



Relationships – Creator – Collaborative work

046 ## \$k 1842 \$2 edtf

100 1# \$a **Perrot, Jules**, \$d **1810-1892**. \$t Alma

370 ## \$g London (England) \$2 naf

380 ## \$a Choreographic work

380 ## \$a Concert dances \$2 lcgft

380 ## \$a Ballets (Dance) \$2 lcgft

400 1# \$a **Cerrito, Fanny**. \$t Alma

400 1# \$a Perrot, Jules, \$d 1810-1892. \$t Fille de feu

400 1# \$a Cerrito, Fanny. \$t Fille de feu

430 #0 \$w nne \$a Alma, ou, La fille de feu (Choreographic work : Cerrito and Perrot)

430 #0 \$Fille de feu (Choreographic work : Cerrito and Perrot)

500 1# \$w r \$i Choreographer: \$a **Perrot, Jules**, \$d **1810-1892**

500 1# \$w r \$i Choreographer: \$a **Cerrito, Fanny**



Relationships – Related work

046 ## \$k 1920 \$2 edtf

100 1# \$a Massine, Leonide, \$d 1896-1979. \$t Sacre du printemps

...

500 1# \$w r \$i **Choreography for:** \$a Stravinsky, Igor, \$d 1882-1971. \$t Vesna sviashchennaia

The image shows a page of handwritten musical notation for Igor Stravinsky's 'Le Sacre du Printemps'. The title is written in cursive at the top right. Below it, the publisher information is printed in German: 'Russischer Musikverlag, Berlin S.W., Dessauerstr. 17, nahe Potsdamer Platz.' The score includes parts for Flauto piccolo in A, Clarinetto 1 and 2 in D, Clarinetto basso in Bb, Fagotto 1, and Corno 2 in Fa. The tempo is marked 'Lento (♩ = 50) - tempo rubato'. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score is annotated with performance instructions such as 'Colla parte', 'Solo al 66.', and 'poco accelerando Solo (con pau. cadenz.)'. The composer's name 'Igor Stravinsky' is written in cursive on the right side of the page.

Relationships – Subject ; Non-musical work

046 ## \$k 1869 \$2 edtf

100 1# \$a Petipa, Marius, \$d 1818-1910.
\$t Don Kikhot

370 ## \$g Moscow (Russia) \$2 naf

...

500 1 \$w r \$i **Subject (person):** \$a
Quixote, \$c Don (Fictitious
character)

500 1# \$a \$w r \$i **Choreographic
adaptation of (work):** \$a
Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de, \$d
1547-1616. \$t Don Quixote



RDA and Choreographic Works

Robert L. Maxwell

Brigham Young University

robert_maxwell@byu.edu