

State of RDA in Europe and the World

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Chair RDA Steering Committee
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Where do we come from?

- RDA as a standard was first published in 2010.
- It was the successor of AACR2.
- The Anglo-American focus and tradition was inconceivable.

What happened afterwards?

- The user communities around the world that had already been working with AACR2 were the first to adopt the new RDA standard.
- However, new communities, such as the German-speaking community, also began to use RDA for cataloguing.
- This was usually done with policy statements that were implemented directly into the RDA Toolkit.
- The first translations were completed and the RDA Toolkit became multilingual.

3R Project

- Soon after its initial publication, the standard underwent a fundamental revision.
- The 3R project was carried out from 2016 to 2020 with the aim of making RDA linked data-compatible and more international.
- The results were published in 2020 as the new Official RDA.
- The Original RDA online tool were made available in parallel.

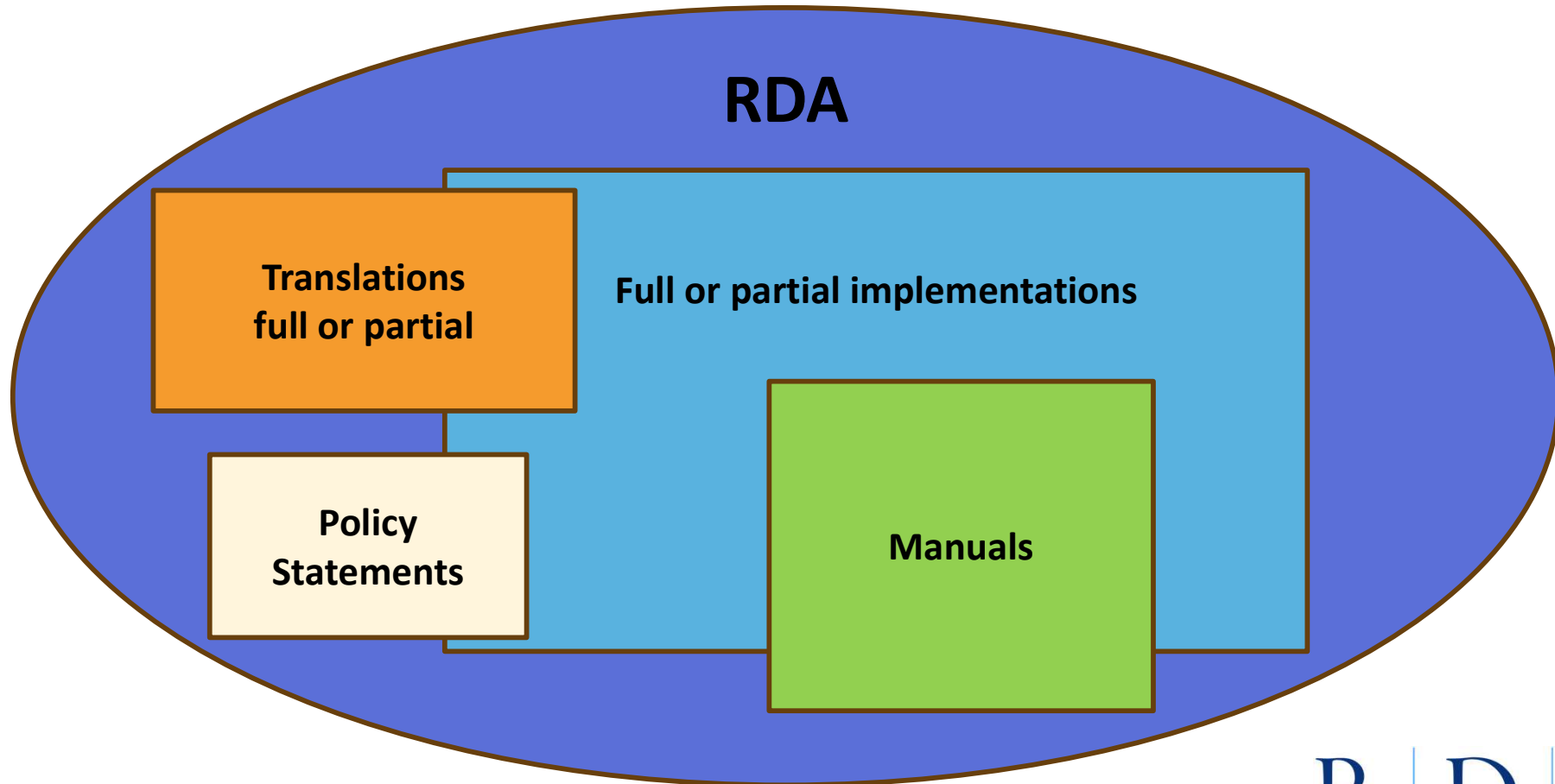
What happened afterwards?

- Following the 3R project, RDA became significantly more international and now offers numerous options designed to meet the requirements of different traditions and cultural backgrounds.
- However, this flexibility also requires greater involvement on the part of user communities, who now have to evaluate the many options available to meet their needs.

What happened in Europe?

- Europe is characterised by many different languages, scripts, traditions and local conditions.
- Against this backdrop, many user communities found it very difficult to find the right path for them.
- EURIG took on an important role here as a forum for exchange and support.

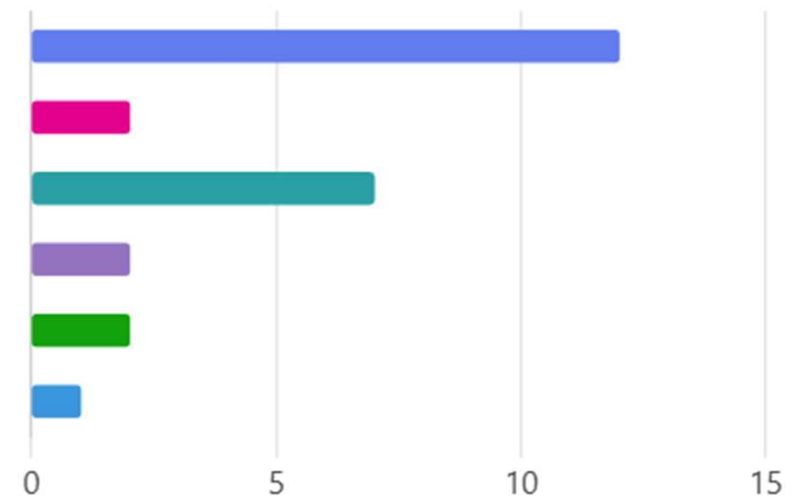
Broad picture of implementations



RDA in Europe

5. Does your institution currently use RDA?

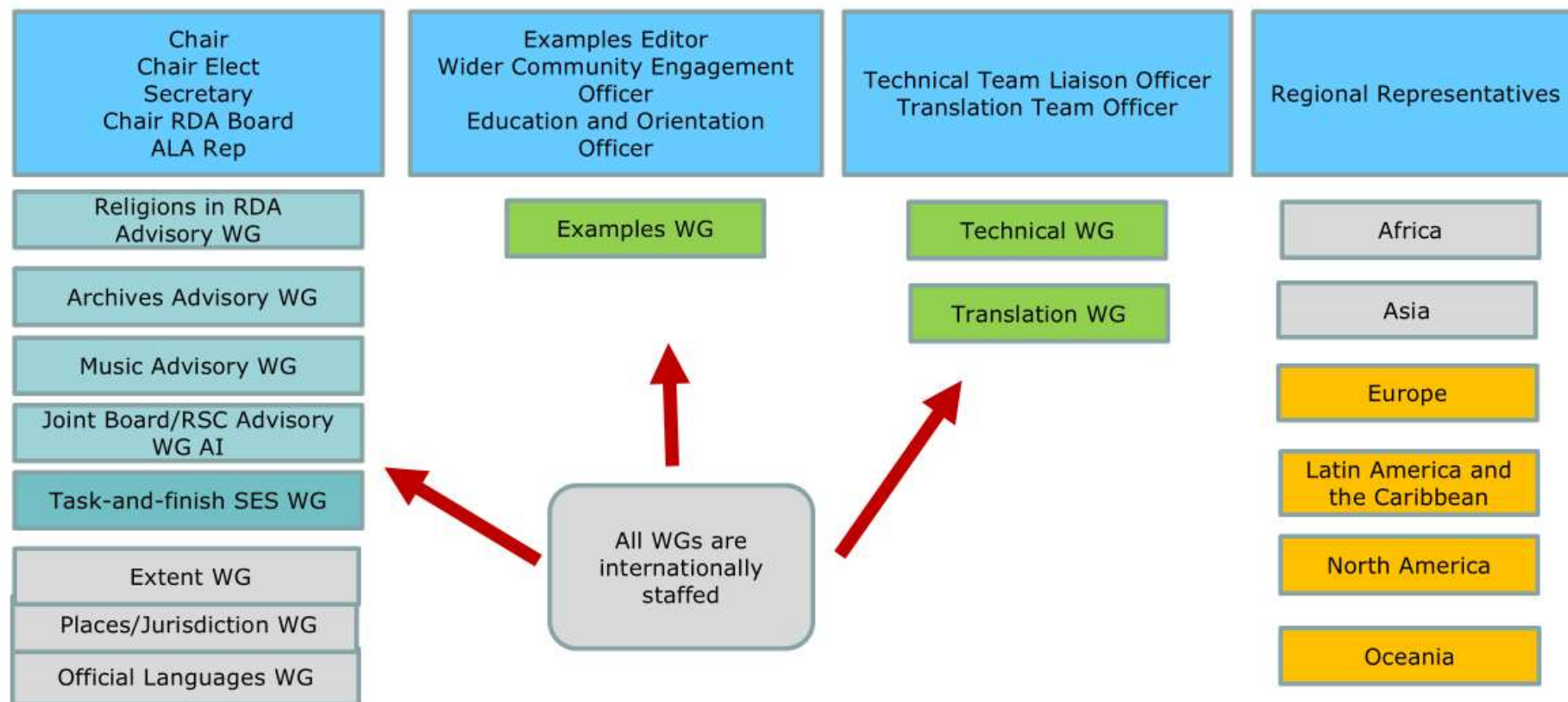
● Yes, Original RDA (pre-3R Project)	12
● Yes, Official RDA	2
● Yes, both (legacy data + new toolkit)	7
● Partially / pilot phase	2
● No, but planned	2
● No, and no plans at present	1



RSC Organisation

RDA Steering Committee

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



R | D | A
Resource Description & Access

RSC Working Groups

<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/workinggroups>

Standing Working Groups

Examples Working Group
Chair: Jessica Grzegorski

Technical Working Group
Chair: Christopher Holden

Translations Working Group
Chair: Szabolcs Dancs

Advisory Working Groups

Archives Working Group
2025-
Chair: Martin Lüpold

Religions in RDA Working Group
2022-
Chair: David Roth

Joint RDA Board and RSC Working
Group on Artificial Intelligence
2024-
Chair: Ahava Cohen

Musik Working Group
2026-
Chair:

Task and finish Working Groups

SES Working Group
2026-2028
Chair: Thomas Brenndorfer

Only virtual meetings

What about new Topics?

- The RSC continually takes up new topics that are brought up by its own members as well as by communities.
- A particular example of this is the working group that deals with the topic of development and artificial intelligence.
- This takes place in separate RSC working groups, but in close cooperation with other international groups that deal with the same topic.

Revision Process

- 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>.

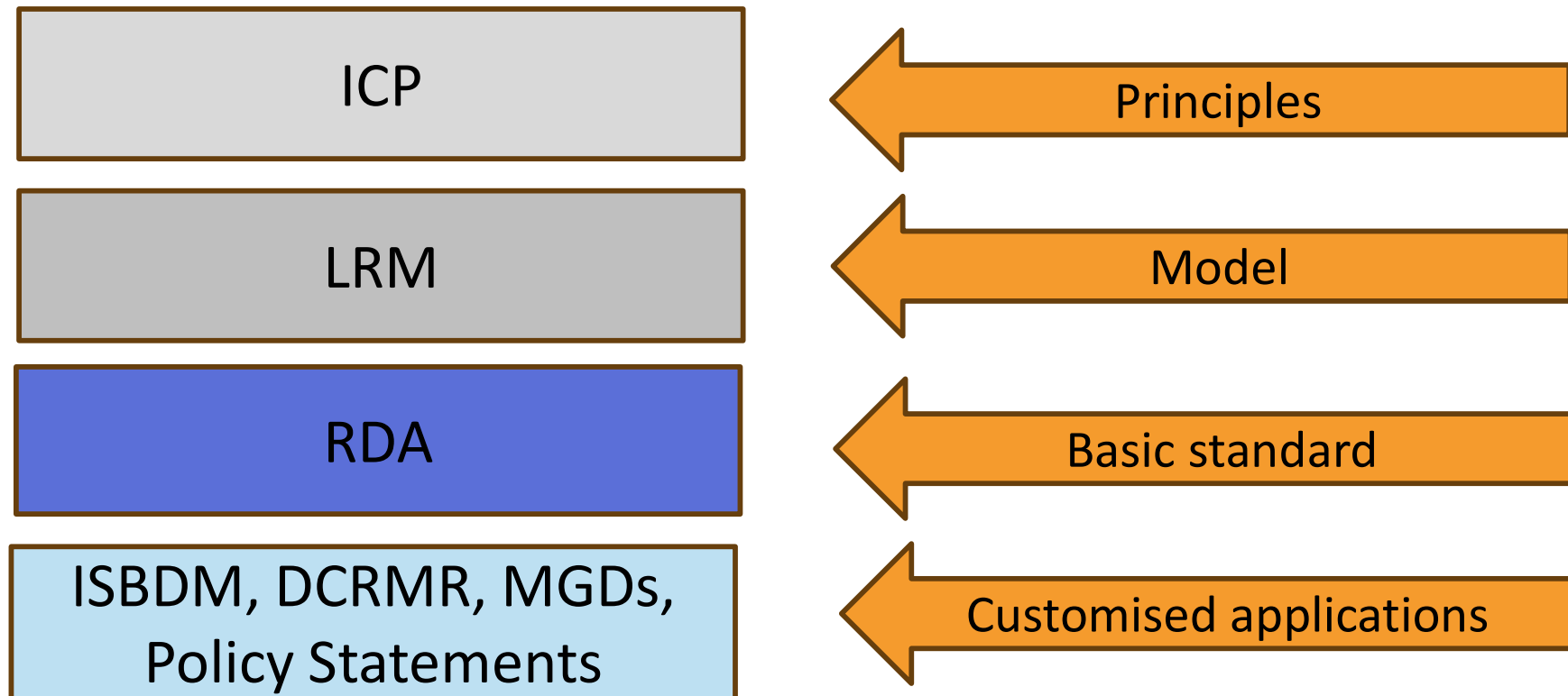
Releases RDA Toolkit

- All changes to the RDA Toolkit are incorporated into the regular releases and are visible to all users.
- Releases are taking place three times a year.
- Policy statements (e.g. British Library and LC/PCC) and other translations (e.g. Finnish) will be added regularly.

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.
- An official protocol with the BIBFRAME community has been approved in 2025.
- A cooperation with the PCC (the North-American Committee for Cataloguing has started in the last year.

Principles, Models, Standards – a Hierarchy



Switchover to the Official RDA Toolkit



The countdown clock for the Original Toolkit begins on 11 May 2026 and runs for one year until 11 May 2027.



Thank you for your attention and grateful
for your input!

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