MINUTES
APRIL 2025 JOINT MEETING
RDA Board and RDA Steering Committee
Online via Google Meet
7 April 2025

Attending: Colleen Barbus, American Library Association (RDA copyright holder), RDA Board Chair
Christine Oliver, Canadian Federation of Library Associations (RDA copyright holder)
Jenny Wright, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (RDA copyright holder)
Christian Aliverti, Europe Representative to the RDA Board
Judith Cannan, North America Representative to the RDA Board
Julia Hickie, Oceania Representative to the RDA Board
Rania Osman, Africa Representative to the RDA Board
Ángela Quiroz Ubierna, Latin America and the Caribbean Representative to the RDA Board
James Hennelly, Director, ALA Digital Reference (RDA publisher)
Renate Behrens, RSC Chair
Charlene Chou, RSC Wider Community Engagement Officer
Charlotte Christensen, RSC Oceania representative
Ahava Cohen, RSC Europe representative
Szabolcs Dancs, RSC Translations Team Liaison Officer
Jessica Grzegorski, RDA Examples Editor
Chris Holden, RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer
Damian Iseminger, Past Chair of the Technical Working Group
Robert Maxwell, RSC North America representative
Elisa Sze, RSC Education and Orientation Officer
Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary

Absent: Haliza Jailani, Asia Representative to the RDA Board.

Agenda numbering continues from the previous meeting.

Executive Session

010   Welcome. Colleen Barbus (RDA Board Chair) and Renate Behrens (RSC Chair) welcomed everyone and explained that Colleen was going to chair the meeting. She expressed her thanks to the RSC Chair and Secretary for their work preparing the agenda and setting up the meeting.

011   Introductions. As there were new members since the last Joint Meeting in 2023, Colleen asked each member to introduce themselves and their responsibilities. As Haliza Jailani was not present, Colleen explained the work she does as the Asia Representative to the RDA Board.

012   Update from the Copyright Holders. Colleen spoke on behalf of all three copyright holders. They wanted to start the conversation with the Board and RSC about the Strategic Plan 2026-2028, and asked if there were any new priorities that we could see from our different positions of responsibility.

012.1   Internationalization. Renate Behrens stated that this continues to be vital within the work of the RSC and she would like to see it highlighted in the new Strategic Plan. There was agreement from everyone present.

012.2   Communication. Renate Behrens said it would be helpful to describe this in broad terms in the new Strategic Plan. As well as being of general importance, it will be crucial when the countdown clock starts in May 2026. The RSC Secretary drew attention to the new webpage for implementations of Official RDA.

012.3   Work of the Business Model Group. Ahava Cohen raised issues that fall under the purview of the Business Model Group. James Hennelly provided a brief overview of their work to date and likely next steps. Colleen Barbus made a note to ensure that the results of the Business Model Group's work are included in the new Strategic Plan.

012.4   ACTION: RSC Chair and Secretary to add a Strategic Plan Update from the Chair of the RDA Board to the agenda of each RSC Meeting until it is published.

013   Update from the RDA Board Chair.

013.1   Recruitment. Progress has been made in recruiting new representatives for Asia, Europe and Oceania. The Oceania representative is likely to be in place for May. The Europe representative is likely to be in place just after the next Board Meeting, and it is hoped that Asia will have their representative in place around the same time. Work is also starting to replace the representatives who are due to rotate from the committee in 2025.

013.2 Business Model Group. Colleen took the opportunity to thank James Hennelly and the ALA lawyers for their work. There was a lengthy discussion about possible implications. It is, of course, business confidential until all work is finalised and has been announced. It is important to stress that any changes made to the business model are focused on community and relationship-building. As publisher, ALA Digital Reference is accustomed to working across different markets and legal systems and James Hennelly stressed that there is an element of flexibility that he has as publisher to ensure that the RDA Toolkit is operating well across the world. He is aware that different territories may have different needs and he is always working with Toolkit subscribers and potential subscribers to meet their needs. If anyone has concerns when the new business model is announced, please ask them to speak to him in the first instance. The copyright holders and the publisher are very clear that the key message of subscriptions is that they gain participation.

014   Update from the RSC Chair.

014.1 RSC Annual Report for 2024. Renate Behrens shared a final draft of the Annual Report, which was subsequently published as RSC/AnnualReport/2024. She said it demonstrated how much we have done in 2024 and, in particular, she highlighted the way that internationalization is reflected in the proposals approved. She said the importance of training and examples really shone through in the report.

014.2 Protocol between the RSC and the BIBFRAME community represented by the Share Family / Share-VDE Advisory Council. A final draft of this protocol was shared. It has been a major piece of work between both communities and both Renate and Colleen expressed their happiness to see it approaching fruition. Renate shared that after further discussion by the RSC (RSC/Minutes/508-520 Item 513 (forthcoming)), it would go back to the Share-VDE Advisory Council for their final approval ahead of publication. RSC/Chair/2025/9 - Protocol between the RSC and the Share Family / Share-VDE Advisory Council was published on 15 April with an accompanying news item.

014.3 Implementations of Official RDA. As well as the new webpage for implementations of Official RDA (See Item 012.2), Renate highlighted the popularity of the presentations on Official RDA implementations during the RSC Public Sessions. Ebe Kartus was presenting the NLNZ experience this time, and Renate is issuing invitations to two more implementers – one for the July RSC Meeting and one for the November one. Several Board members expressed their own interest in these presentations and their belief that these outreach activities within the Public Sessions of the RSC Meetings were beneficial as well as well-received.

This wide-ranging discussion covered topics including the importance of interoperability; non-Roman scripts; multilingual communities; the fact that "international" doesn't just mean embracing different countries but different cultures and, often, being open to different communities within the same country.

015   Update from ALA Digital Reference. James Hennelly provided an overview of his latest activities. Obviously some of his actions remain business confidential until they are completed and can be shared more widely. In terms of the no-longer confidential or non-confidential work, he shared that the [Catalan translation of RDA is up](#) and there are several sets of Policy Statements (PS) he is very happy to see almost ready to go live, including PS from RBMS (for DCRMR), OLAC and the American Association of Law Librarians. Registry Updates at the next release will allow Library Management Systems developers some facilities they had requested. He also has a new fix for the Drupal site issue that has led to false links creeping into some parts of rdatoolkit.org. He thanked RSC members and Board members who pointed out broken links to him, and intended to thank members of the wider RDA community in the Public Session for doing so.

016   Joint RDA Board / RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence. Ahava Cohen led a discussion on the new Terms of Reference which was subsequently agreed and published as [RSC/Chair/2025/10](#). Judith Cannan suggested that there is a delicate balance in AI about where human intervention is needed. Ahava Cohen agreed and suggested that moving forward it may be necessary to re-charge the group further, either as one group or, perhaps, as one strategic group at Board level and one addressing practical issues at RSC level. Renate Behrens requested that Ahava Cohen report back to the RSC in its July meeting regarding the future of the group. Ahava will, of course, continue to report to both the RSC and the Board meetings.

016.1   ACTION: RSC Chair and Secretary to add future of AI Working Group to agenda for the July RSC Meeting.

017   Updates from the RSC Task and Finish and Advisory Working Groups.

017.1   Extent. Renate Behrens shared that Extent Working Group Chair Thomas Brenndorfer has informed her he will meet the Mid-May deadline for some proposals from the extent discussion paper to be presented for the July RSC Meeting. RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer confirmed that he had agreed with Thomas that the Technical Working Group would take on the proposals for duration of expression and duration of representative expression, with the intention of presenting proposals for the November RSC Meeting.

017.2   Religions in RDA. Working Group Chair David Roth has agreed to look for places where some of the instructions they presented in November (RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/2) could be broadened to cover non-religious corporate bodies too ([RSC/Minutes/483-499](#) Item 487.1). This work will begin after the Passover celebrations.

017.3   Archives. This new Advisory Working Group has met twice and Martin Lüpold (Switzerland) has agreed to chair. An updated charge document was before the RSC Meeting

this week (RSC/Minutes/508-520 Item 519.1.3 (forthcoming); the document was subsequently published as RSC/Chair/2025/11).

018   Updates from the RSC Standing Working Groups

018.1   Examples. RDA Examples Editor Jessica Grzegorski gave a brief overview, highlighting the current work on the creation of full examples (exchange format agnostic). For more detail, she referred the Board and RSC members to her upcoming report in the RSC Meeting (RSC/Minutes/508-520 Item 519.2 (forthcoming)). An update to the RDA Examples Editorial Guide was approved in the RSC Meeting and subsequently published as RSC/ExamplesEditor/2025/1.

018.2   Technical. Technical Team Liaison Officer Chris Holden mentioned the March Registry Update and the Technical Working Group's ongoing review of LRMoo. The Past Chair of the Technical Working Group has been in touch with respondents to the soft-deprecated elements survey and he expected there to be some discussion of this in the upcoming Public Session of the RSC Meeting (RSC/Minutes/508-520 Item 519.3 (forthcoming)). As the new Chair of the Technical Working Group, Chris was enjoying the collaborative nature of the role. As well as discussions with the Chair of the Extent Working Group (See Item 017.1), he had discussed the preparation of Fast Track proposals for the July RSC Meeting with the Translations Team Liaison Officer and RSC Secretary. Chris also shared some of the active discussions within the Technical Working Group, which include joint pseudonyms, works created by AI and ongoing discussions on nomens.

018.3   Translations. Translations Team Liaison Officer Szabolcs Dancs reported that the Turkish translation of the reference file and the Spanish translation have been submitted and, like the Director of ALA Digital Reference (see Item 015), he is happy to see the Catalan translation published. He highlighted the Spanish translation of *RDA Teaching & Training Tips* (***RDA Consejos de Enseñanza y Capacitación***) and thanked Ángela Quiroz Ubierna for her work. Szabolcs is keen to recruit translators for other languages. He has also been reaching out more generally to several national libraries in Eastern Europe, and has been able to put some in touch with the Director of ALA Digital Reference. Finally, he drew the Board's attention to the Fast Track proposals that were going before the RSC Meeting (RSC/Minutes/508-520 Item 517 (forthcoming); FT2025-1 was subsequently approved with amendments and FT2025-2 was approved – RSC/FT2025-1/Decisions and FT2025-2/Decisions will be published and implemented as soon as is practicable).

019 Updates from the Regions

019.1 Africa. Rania Osman shared the training activities in Cairo University and Bibliotheca Alexandrina, where it is now policy that all students be trained in RDA even when their home institution is not using it yet.

019.2 Asia. After the meeting, Haliza Jailani sent the RSC Secretary her regret at being unable to attend and provided an update as follows. A proposal for a Southeast Asian cataloguing community of interest was submitted for the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) Executive Board to review at their meeting from 16-19 June 2025 to be held as part of CONSAL XIX in Kuala Lumpur. This meeting will be hosted by the National Library of Malaysia and will include the 10 Southeast Asian member countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam). This is part of the plan to reach out to Asian libraries and kickstart interest groups to support RDA adoption and establish networks that the RDA Board can tap on for resources & updates. Secondly, a discovery tools session focusing on RDA training is being planned in May for Asian libraries. This programme is being jointly organised by NLB with the IFLA Asia-Oceania Regional Division Committee, and is planned to be conducted by RSC's Education and Orientation Officer, Elisa Sze.

019.3 Europe. In the interests of time, Ahava Cohen highlighted the upcoming EURIG Meeting and said that the experience in Europe continues to be that implementation scenarios are very varied across Europe. She referred those interested to her update at the RSC Public Session (RSC/Minutes/508-520 Item 511.3.1 (forthcoming)).

019.4 Latin America and the Caribbean. Ángela Quiroz Ubierna reported that the Latin American RDA Group has been established. She drew attention to the next Colloquium, which will take place at the National Library of Chile in Santiago on 18-19 November 2025. The conference website is in preparation; its full title will be the VII Colloquium on RDA in Latin American and the Caribbean. Ángela echoed the Translations Team Liaison Officer's news about the progress of the Spanish translation (See Item 018.3).

019.5 North America. Judith Cannan shared news from the Library of Congress and highlighted the move by the main directorate of cataloguers from MARC to MARVA (See https://www.loc.gov/bibframe/implementation/index.html for the latest publicly-available news about and tools for BIBFRAME implementation). She had also heard that Canada is progressing well with the move to Official RDA. Robert Maxwell highlighted the next NARDAC Forum (14 April), at which RSC Oceania representative Charlotte Christensen would be one of the speakers. The Forum was recorded and shared on the RDA Toolkit YouTube Channel as usual (Charlotte's presentation begins at 10:58 in the recording). In the interests of time, he referred those present to his report to the RSC Meeting (RSC/Minutes/508-520 Item 511.3.2 (forthcoming)).

019.6   Oceania. Julia Hickie reported on the latest progress in Australia towards Official RDA implementation. The Application Profile Working Group and Policy Statement Working Group are underway. Julia stressed that it is a national effort over the next two years. (It is possible to sign up for project updates at https://www.nsla.org.au/our-work/rda/). Charlotte Christensen reported that ORDAC is discussing doing more webinars and she provided a brief update on progress in New Zealand. She referred everyone to her colleague Ebe Kartus's upcoming presentation at the Public Session of the RSC Meeting (RSC/Minutes/508-520 Item 510 (forthcoming); recording available on the RDA Toolkit YouTube Channel).

020   Update from the Wider Community Engagement Officer. In the interests of time, Charlene Chou highlighted only her work with those writing in Japanese, Korean and Chinese Simplified Script. She also shared how much she is enjoying her work as a member of the Joint Working Group on Artificial Intelligence and as liaison from that to the PCC.

021   Update from the Education and Orientation Officer. In the interests of time, Elisa Sze referred everyone to her update to the RSC Meeting (RSC/Minutes/508-520 Item 511.2 (forthcoming)). She echoed Szabolcs Dancs's thanks to Ángela Quiroz Ubierna for her translation work (see Item 018.3) and reported that she gave a presentation the previous week at a conference of Latin American educators. Her slides were uploaded to the RSC website in English and Spanish on 17 April. She ended with a reminder that she is always happy to hear from trainers and educators all over the world, and asked any Board or RSC members with appropriate contacts to send them her way.

022   Thanks from the Chair. Colleen Barbus ended by thanking the RSC on behalf of the RDA Board and thanking everyone present on behalf of herself and RSC Chair Renate Behrens.

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