

**MINUTES**

**APRIL 2026 JOINT MEETING**

**RDA Board and RDA Steering Committee**

**Online via Google Meet**

**27 April 2026**

**Attending:** Colleen Barbus, American Library Association (RDA copyright holder)  
Christine Oliver, Canadian Federation of Library Associations (RDA copyright holder), RDA Board Chair  
Laura Jamieson, Oceania Representative to the RDA Board  
Hannes Lowagie, Europe 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  
Robert Maxwell, RSC Chair Elect  
Getaneh Alemu, RSC Wider Community Engagement Officer  
Ahava Cohen, RSC Europe representative  
Szabolcs Dancs, RSC Translations Team Liaison Officer  
Jack Ennis Butler, RSC Oceania representative  
Jessica Grzegorski, RDA Examples Editor  
Chris Holden, RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer  
Felipe Martinez, RSC Latin America and the Caribbean representative  
Trina Soderquist, RSC North America representative  
Elisa Sze, RSC Education and Orientation Officer  
Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary

**Apologies:** Jenny Wright, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (RDA copyright holder)  
Hui Ling Ng, Asia Representative to the RDA Board  
Thi Bao Tran Phan, North America Representative to the RDA Board

Numbering continues from the previous meeting.

Note: By agreement of the RDA Chair, this meeting will be minuted by the RSC Secretary, and minutes circulated to the Board and RSC for approval.

**023 Welcome**

Renate Behrens and Christine Oliver welcomed everyone to the meeting, which would be a great opportunity to share experience.

**024 Introductions**

RDA Board and RSC members introduced themselves for the benefit of new members since the last joint meeting in April 2025 ([RSC-RDABoard/Minutes/010-022](#)).

**025 Thanks to Charlene Chou (former WCEO) and Charlotte Christensen (former ORDAC Representative)**

Ahead of this meeting, the Board has expressed its wish to be present for the official thanks to these two former members of the RSC, both of whom had collaborated with their respective National Institution Representatives (Haliza Jailani and Julia Hickie). It is good news that Charlene is continuing to serve on the RDA Board / RSC Joint Working Group on Artificial Intelligence ([RSC/Chair/2026/4](#) includes the current membership roster for the Working Group).

**026 Update from the Copyright Holders**

Chris Oliver shared that the last annual meeting of the Copyright Holders took place in September 2025, with other business conducted as part of the regular calendar of RDA Board meeting. One important piece of work is the creation of a statement on legacy data, which is under discussion and will be issued as soon as it is completed and agreed.

**027 Update from the RDA Board Chair**

Chris Oliver continued her updates by highlighting the ongoing work of the Working Group on Business Models, chaired by James Hennelly. Christian Aliverti has agreed to stay on (after concluding his term as National Institution Representative for Europe on the RDA Board), and the other members are Robert L. Maxwell, Laura Jamieson and Ángela Quiroz Ubierna. Another significant piece of work the Board is undertaking is a review of the wording of the principles of internationalization, which is a normal part of the review cycle of the Strategic Plan. Next year as part of the review cycle there will be a governance review. It is important to be aware that reviews may result in significant changes or they may result in no changes at all – the significant thing is to be aware that the Board does operate a review cycle to ensure that processes and procedures are kept up-to-date and at the forefront of the corporate mind of the Board.

**028 Update from the RSC Chair and Chair Elect**

Renate Behrens and Robert Maxwell shared that their current focus is on the Countdown Clock which runs from 11 May 2026 – 11 May 2027. A series of webinars is planned to support communities. Notice of each of these will be posted to <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news> and <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/news> as soon as the registration links are live. Renate and Robert also shared the business confidential matters on which they are working just now. Finally,

Robert wished to thank Renate formally for her support as he learns the Chair role in time to assume it on 1 January 2027.

### **029 Update from ALA Digital Reference**

James Hennelly shared his current activities, elaborating on the plans for the Countdown Clock webinars ([Item 028](#)) and the details of the systems and archive work for the Countdown year. As is often the case, much of James's work is business confidential, and will be shared publicly at the appropriate times at <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news>, in the RDA Toolkit newsletter and in the Minutes of the RSC Meetings when they are at a stage to be published.

### **030 Updates from the Regions**

#### **030.1 Africa**

Rania Osman shared her current teaching activities and expressed an interest in the White Paper on Artificial Intelligence ([RSC/Papers/2025/1](#)). The Biblioteca Alexandrina is currently carrying out some tests with materials in the Arabic language.

#### **030.2 Asia**

Hui Ling Ng was absent but supplied the following written update: The NLB (National Library and Archives Board, Singapore) cataloguing team completed an initial review of NLNZ's RDA implementation approach and presented recommendations against full adoption to their internal steering committee in February 2026. The team is now reviewing its current treatment of various collections to determine the appropriate level of treatment and options NLB would likely adopt for each. The Southeast Asia Community of Practice for Cataloguers (COP) held its second meeting in February 2026, which, alongside regular agenda items, featured an introductory session on RDA cataloguing by Elisa Sze that addressed key questions including the use of local controlled vocabularies<sup>1</sup>. Notable regional updates include the National Library of Malaysia having updated their policy statements based on the official RDA Toolkit and exploring how these resources might be shared online — a development that could benefit other Southeast Asian countries — while Indonesia has also expressed interest in developing their own localised translations. Looking ahead, the COP is forming a working group to map members' RDA adoption status and develop a regional roadmap, and has begun planning a bimonthly webinar series covering topics such as RDA, AI in cataloguing, BIBFRAME, and special formats, with plans to open these sessions to a wider library audience across Southeast Asia in future.

#### **030.3 Europe**

Hannes Lowagie provided an overview of the initial results of the EURIG survey on RDA. His slides were later published on the RSC website ([https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/uploads/SurveyResultsRSC\\_Board.pdf](https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/uploads/SurveyResultsRSC_Board.pdf)) and he will present a fuller analysis at the EURIG Meeting (<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/europe/eurig->

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<sup>1</sup> Available from the [Presentations and Outreach 2026 page](#):  
[https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/uploads/EOO\\_RDA\\_SEA\\_CoP\\_40\\_minutes.pdf](https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/uploads/EOO_RDA_SEA_CoP_40_minutes.pdf)

[annual-meeting-28-29-may-2026](#)). Ahava shared her news about European activities in the RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/585-598](#) Item 588.1).

#### **030.4 Latin America and the Caribbean**

Ángela Quiroz Ubierna and Felipe Martinez shared that their recent meeting highlighted the same issues that Hannes' survey ([Item 030.3](#)) had surfaced. Ángela shared that the Association of National Libraries of Ibero-America (ABINIA) is running a series of training sessions on Official RDA, which began in March and will run until November. Each session is attended by an average of 300 people working in national libraries (not all of them are cataloguers – the sessions are raising awareness with all national libraries' staff). The RDA Latin America and the Caribbean Group is reviewing its terms of reference with the aim of increasing participation in the regional group. The regional group is organising a number of webinars related to Official RDA and training sessions. We are also organising the eighth Colloquium on RDA in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place in the first week of November at the University of Costa Rica. Felipe shared further news, which is available in the Minutes of the RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/585-598](#) Item 588.2).

#### **030.5 North America**

Trina Soderquist shared news about the NARDAC Spring Forum, proposals that NARDAC is preparing and its activities planned for the ALA Annual Conference. Full details can be read in the Minutes of the RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/585-598](#) Item 588.3).

#### **030.6 Oceania**

Laura Jamieson shared that the National Library of New Zealand is finessing its Policy Statements based on cataloguers' practical experience and feedback. Jack Ennis Butler shared the general progress of the National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) Official RDA project. Fuller details can be read in the Minutes of the RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/585-598](#) Item 588.4).

#### **031 Update from the RSC Wider Community Engagement Officer**

Getaneh Alemu shared the findings from his survey on awareness of and engagement with RDA in Africa. It was clear that there is a demand for awareness-raising and training, and Getaneh is working with Education and Orientation Officer and with colleagues in the Region to develop online training. It is likely that this will be delivered over two days. Both Renate Behrens as RSC Chair and Christine Oliver as Chair of the RDA Board thanked Getaneh for his work to engage with colleagues in Sub-Saharan Africa and Elisa for her willingness to provide training which will assist Getaneh in his work there.

#### **032 Update from the RSC Education and Orientation Officer**

As well as her work with Getaneh ([Item 031](#)), Elisa Sze shared the highlights of her work since the last meeting. As well as her presentation at the [RDA in Europe and the World webinar](#), she drew attention to [her session at the webinar for the Southeast Asia RDA Community of Practice](#).

She also shared training materials from the Ontario Library Association Super Conference pre-conference workshop [Cataloguing with Official RDA from Toolkit to Record: Breaking Down the Workflow](#). Elisa was part of the team that wrote and delivered these materials.

### **033 Updates from the RSC Standing Working Groups**

Jessica Grzegorski, Chris Holden and Szabolcs Dancs provided brief overviews of their work. Fuller reports can be read in the Minutes of the RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/585-598](#) Items 587.2 – 587.4).

### **034 Joint RDA Board / RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence**

Ahava Cohen provided a brief overview of activities. After a summary of their work to date as outlined on [the Group's webpage](#), she shared that their next steps are to work on an Application Profile.

### **035 Updates from the RSC Task and Finish and Advisory Working Groups**

Renate Behrens provided brief updates, which were also shared in the RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/585-598](#) Item 587.1).

### **036 AOB (Any Other Business) and thanks from the Chairs**

There was no other business and both Chairs thanked everyone for attending and contributing to the meeting.

Approved by the RDA Board and RDA Steering Committee 10 June 2026