To: Renate Behrens, RSC Chair and Chris Oliver, Chair of the RDA Board
CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
From: Ahava Cohen, Chair of the Joint RDA Board and RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Subject: Annual Report 2026

Introduction
The Terms of Reference for the Music Working Group are set out in RSC/Chair/2026/13, which includes amongst its deliverables (Section5) "an interim written report each year summarising findings, recommendations, and next steps." At the request of the Chair and Secretary, we are submitting this year's report in time for the RSC's November 2026 Meeting in the expectation that this will provide time for fruitful discussion of our work so far. Ahava Cohen and Christian Aliverti are also making presentations at the Executive Session of the RSC Meeting on Monday 16 November 2026.

Use of AI in Cataloguing
Most of the Working Group's efforts this year have been focused on practical use of AI. Our terms of reference speak of two tracks: AI in the creation of metadata sets and AIfor navigation of the Toolkit.

At the start of the year ALA decided against adopting AI navigation in the Toolkit, so that track has been set aside until further developments.

Most of the rest of the year was devoted to creating a list of elements which seem of most potential to aid in the creation of a machine generated correct and clear metadata set. The Working Group thanks members Renate Behrens and Christian Aliverti for proposing the initial list. We also thank Technical Team Liaison Officer Christopher Holden for his help in solidifying the list.

In August a call for volunteers was issued and 14 libraries across North America, Europe, Oceania and the Middle East answered the call. Later this month the Working Group will meet to discuss anything arising from the November RSC meeting and to finalize plans for starting the pilot testing.

Other News
Volume 215 of Catalogue & Index includes an article about the working group.

On June 29 a session was given at ALA Annual about AI and cataloging and about the Working Group.

Charlene Chou was appointed the Joint Working Group's representative on the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) Advisory Committee on AI and Machine Learning (AML), serving as a liaison for ongoing communication between the two groups.

In October the Working Group's fourth Terms of Reference document was published, bringing the Group's charge up-to-date with its work and permitting the testing of the proposed element set.