AGENDA
NOVEMBER 2026 MEETING of the RDA Steering Committee
Asynchronous, via Basecamp, Google Meet and Zoom
16-19 November 2026

To be held on 16-19 November, asynchronously with synchronous Executive session on Monday 16 November at 7pm and synchronous Public Session on Tuesday 17 November at 7pm (There is a handy time converter here).

Attending: Getaneh Alemu, RSC Wider Community Engagement Officer
Renate Behrens, RSC Chair
Ahava Cohen, RSC Europe Representative
Szabolcs Dancs, RSC Translations Team Liaison Officer
Jack Ennis Butler, RSC Oceania Representative
Jessica Grzegorski, RDA Examples Editor
James Hennelly, Director, ALA Digital Reference (RDA publisher)
Christopher Holden, RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer
Felipe Martinez, RSC Latin America and the Caribbean Representative
Robert Maxwell, RSC Chair Elect
Christine Oliver, Canadian Federation of Library Associations (RDA copyright holder), RDA Board Chair
Marcell Ottó Ormándy, Translations Team Liaison Officer Elect (observing)
Trina Soderquist, RSC North America Representative
Elisa Sze, RSC Education and Orientation Officer
Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary

Invited speaker (attending only the first part of the synchronous Executive Session)
Christian Aliverti, Joint RDA Board / RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Observers are welcome to attend online on Tuesday 17 November. Please email Anne Welsh, RSCsecretary@rdatoolkit.org to be added to the list to receive the Zoom meeting details.

Agenda item numbering continues from the previous meeting.

Executive Session

Asynchronous Meeting

616 Welcome, Housekeeping and review of previous action items -- Renate Behrens

617 What does “compatibility” mean? -- Chris Holden

618 Regional Communication -- Renate Behrens and the Regional Representatives

619 Operations Documents -- Anne Welsh

620 RSC/FT2026-1 -- Anne Welsh

621 Updates from Working Groups -- Renate Behrens and Ahava Cohen

622 Updates from Regional Representatives -- Ahava Cohen, Jack Ennis Butler, Felipe Martinez, Trina Soderquist

623 Update from the Wider Community Engagement Officer -- Getaneh Alemu

624 Update from the Education and Orientation Officer -- Elisa Sze

Synchronous Meeting
online via Zoom
7:00-9:00pm UTC, 16 November 2026

625 AI Working Group – Introduction to the Test of AI Use in Cataloguing -- Ahava Cohen

626 Creating a Set of Fields for the AI Working Group Tests -- Christian Aliverti (invited speaker)

627 Discussion of the Name for the Set of Fields for the AI Working Group Tests -- Renate Behrens and Chris Oliver

628 Setting the dates for RSC Meetings 2027 -- Robert L. Maxwell and Renate Behrens

629 Updates / Any Other Business

Public Session

Synchronous Meeting
online via Zoom
7:00-9:00pm UTC, 17 November 2026

[Items 616 – 629 will take place in the Executive Session. The agenda will be published closer to the Meeting start to allow RSC Members maximum time to submit their annual reports]

630 Welcome to the Public Session -- Renate Behrens

631 RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/2 -- Jessica Grzegorski

632 RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/3 -- Jessica Grzegorski

633 RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/3 -- Szabolcs Dancs

634 RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/5 -- Chris Holden

635 RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6 -- Chris Holden

636 Formal presentation of annual reports of members of the RSC – Renate Behrens

636.1 Report of the RSC Chair
636.2 Report of the RSC Chair Elect
636.3 Report of the RDA Board
636.4 Report of the Director of ALA Digital Reference
636.5 Report of the RSC Secretary
636.6 Report of the Technical Team Liaison Officer
636.7 Report of the RDA Examples Editor
636.8 Report of the Translations Team Liaison Officer
636.9 Report of the Education and Orientation Officer
636.10 Report of the Wider Community Engagement Officer
636.11 Report of the RSC Representative for Europe
636.12 Report of the RSC Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean
636.13 Report of the RSC Representative for North America
636.14 Report of the RSC Representative for Oceania

637 Formal presentation of annual reports of RSC and Joint RDA Board / RSC Working Groups -- Renate Behrens

637.1 Report of the Joint RDA Board / RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI)
637.2 Report of the RSC Archives Advisory Working Group
637.3 Report of the RSC Music Advisory Working Group

637.4 Report of the RSC Religions in RDA Advisory Working Group
637.5 Report of the RSC String Encoding Schemes (SES) Task and Finish Working Group

638 AOB (Any Other Business) and thanks from the Chair -- Renate Behrens

Note: Education Officer Elisa Sze and RDA Examples Editor Jessica Grzegorski have convened an outreach and training event on Thursday 19 November. Details and registration: https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news/rsc/register-now-rda-implementation-workshop-19-november

APPENDIX

636.1 Report of the RSC Chair

Prepared by Renate Behrens, RSC Chair, covering the period November 2025-October 2026

The RSC Chair works continuously with all members of the RSC and in particular with the RSC Secretary Anne Welsh, and the Director of ALA Digital Reference James Hennelly.

Meetings

- Asynchronous meeting in November 2025, with a public session
- Asynchronous meeting in January 2026, with a public session
- Asynchronous meeting in April 2026, with a public session
- Joint Meeting of the RDA Board and RSC in April 2026, online via Google Meet
- In-person EURIG Meeting in May 2026 in Bruxelles, Belgium
- Asynchronous meeting in July 2026, with a public session
- Participation in the monthly meetings of the Executive Committee as well as numerous other meetings with RSC colleagues as required.

RSC Membership

- Appointment of Translation Team Liaison Officer, to start in January 2027
- Re-appointment of Technical Team Liaison Officer for a second term

Working groups

- Continuous monitoring of the working groups. Discussions with all chairs of the working groups about the goals and tasks.
- Member of the Joint RDA Board and RSC Working Group for AI
- Member of the upcoming Working Group for Official RDA Certification

Other activities

- Working on the RSC Action Plan according to the RDA Board's Strategic Plan
- Working on the update of the RSC Operation Documents
- Active member in IFLA sections and Review Groups (Bibliography Section and BCM Review Group)
- Member of the IFLA Advisory Committee on Standards as liaison from RSC
- Starting Countdown Clock Webinars

Outreach and communication

- Since 2025 we have had webpages for each member of the RSC website, linked from the Members webpage. My webpage includes my outreach activities.
- State of RDA in Europe and the World, RDA Toolkit YouTube Channel, 2 February
- RDA in an Hour: the Countdown Clock, CILIP Metadata and Discovery Group Conference. RDA Day, 13 March

- What to know about the Countdown Clock, first part of the Countdown Clock webinars, 19 May and 27 May, 19 June in Spanish
- News from the RSC, EURIG Meeting, 29 May
- RDA and the RDA Toolkit, with James Hennelly, *Catalogue & Index* 215:3-5, 23 June
- Making Resource Description and Access (RDA) Global, *Catalogue & Index* 215:63-69, 23 June
- The RDA DACH Manual and the DACH Documentation Platform, OCLC Cataloging Community Meeting. Metadata Panel, 22 September

636.2 Report of the RSC Chair Elect

Prepared by Robert L. Maxwell, RSC Chair Elect, covering the period January 2026-November 2026

I spent the year "shadowing" Renate Behrens, RSC Chair, in the meetings she attends in order to learn the role of RSC Chair which I will be assuming next January.

I particularly appreciate Renate's good example and the extensive help I have received both from her as well as Anne Welsh, the RSC Secretary. I am also grateful for the support and help I received from many other RSC members, including Jamie Hennelly, Director of ALA Digital Reference; Jessica Grzegorski, RSC Examples Editor; Chris Holden, RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer; Szabolcs Dancs, RSC Translations Team Liaison Officer; Getaneh Alemu, Wider Community Engagement Officer; Elisa Sze, Education and Orientation Officer; and the three regional representatives, Ahava Cohen, Felipe Martinez Arellano, Trina Soderquist, and Jack Ennis Butler.

Activities

Aside from attending, observing, and actively participating in RSC-related meetings, I engaged in the following RDA-related activities:

- 6 November 2026. 'Evaluating Non-Latin Script Variants: Families,' training presentation to participants in the PCC Non-Latin Script Variants in Name Authority Records Pilot Test.
- 23 October 2026. 'Official RDA and You: What to Expect After the Countdown Clock Ends,' keynote address to NOTSL Virtual Fall Meeting: *It's Official: Implementing RDA … Again*
- 22 October 2026. 'Evaluating Non-Latin Script Variants: Works and Expressions,' training presentation to participants in the PCC Non-Latin Script Variants in Name Authority Records Pilot Test.

- 13 August 2026. 'Evaluating Non-Latin Script Variants: Qualifiers and additions to Non-Latin Script Variants,' training presentation to participants in the PCC Non-Latin Script Variants in Name Authority Records Pilot Test.
- 26 June 2026. 'Practice Cataloging Using Official RDA,' workshop presented at ALA 2026 Annual Conference. I presented a section on using unstructured descriptions as well as helping audience members during the exercises.
- June 2026. 'RDA Future Directions and How to Keep Up,' article jointly written with Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary, in *Catalogue & Index* 215 (June 2026), pages 70-76 https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/uploads/candi_215_0.pdf
- 19 and 27 May 2026. 'What to Know About the Countdown Clock,' RSC webinar. Observed 19 May 2026; presented 27 May 2026 (version tailored for Oceania)
- 26 February 2026. 'Adventures in Counterpoint Linking Music and Dance in Libraries and Data RDA and Choreographic Works,' presentation to Music Library Association, Salt Lake City, Utah
- 24 February 2026. 'Official RDA: What's New? What's Different?,' webinar presentation to RAILS (Reaching Across Illinois Library System)

636.3 Report of the RDA Board

Report for the November 2026 RSC Meeting
RDA Board activities November 2025 – October 2026
Prepared by Chris Oliver, RDA Board Chair

Strategic plan
The 2026-2028 Strategic Plan was completed and published on the RDA Board website in early January 2026. The new version of the strategic plan builds on past plans and continues in a similar direction, with minor changes to keep the document in line with current events and activities.

National Institution Representatives
National Institution Representatives are the backbone of the RDA Board. There is one representative for each of the six regions, and they usually serve 4-year terms. It is rare for a year to pass without a change in representatives.

At the end of 2025, Judith Canaan from the Library of Congress ended her term as the National Institution Representative for North America, at the same time as her retirement from the Library of Congress. In January 2026, the RDA Board welcomed Thi Bao Tran Phan from Library and Archives Canada as the new representative for North America, 2026 to 2029.

At the end of December 2025, the term of the National Institution Representative for Africa was supposed to end. The recruitment process is more complex in Africa, and it was not going to be as quick as it had been for North America. Rania Osman, the incumbent, agreed to extend her term for another year. The Board was very grateful for her willingness to serve an additional year. The Board benefitted from the advice received from Rania as well as from the RSC's Wider Community Engagement Officer, Getaneh Alemu. This has led to the nomination and approval of a new National Institution Representative for Africa, 2027 to 2030. The new representative is Zwelethemba Ngcaba from the National Library of South Africa. He will begin his term officially in January 2027, and he has been invited to attend the December 2026 meeting as part of onboarding.

The term of the National Institution Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Angela Quiroz, ends in December 2026. A new candidate has been nominated, and the approval process is underway. The Board hopes to announce the new representative for 2027 to 2030 before the end of the year.

Start of the Countdown Clock
The countdown clock began, as expected, on Monday, 11th May 2026. The decision on the date was made several years ago by the RDA Board, and it was good to see the countdown move from idea to action. The Board thanks ALA Digital and RSC for excellent preparations and for making it become a reality.

Review of the Internationalization Principles
The original version of the Internationalization Principles was developed and approved in 2020. As part of a regular review of Board documents, the principles were reviewed this year. Board members affirmed that the principles themselves needed no changes and still expressed the main tenets of the vision to support and increase the internationalization of RDA. The introduction had become a little dated and so the only changes were slight modifications to the introductory paragraphs.

Updating the Governance Model
The RDA Board reviews and approves changes in governance, changes proposed by the Board and changes proposed by the RDA Steering Committee. There were no major changes in governance this year, but some of the changes approved before 2026 had not been incorporated into this document. The document has now been updated with the latest changes, mainly reflecting the current state of the RSC.

The RDA Board does a formal review of governance once during each strategic plan cycle. The next formal review is planned for 2027.

Joint RSC/RDA Board Advisory Working Group on AI
At the December 2025 RDA Board meeting, members approved the transition of the Working Group from a "task and finish" group to a longer standing Advisory Working Group. Two new Board members joined the WG to replace outgoing members.

RSC has already documented the activities and decisions in detail in their minutes and news. RDA Board members are very interested to know the results of testing the AI/ Computational Description application profile and assess the viability of AI in this context. The development of a small subset of RDA elements offers interesting opportunities for this test and may also have other uses.

Working Group on Sustainable Business Models
The Working Group has been wrestling with challenges in an important area of the RDA Board's mandate: a sustainable business model for a leading international metadata standard. The maintenance and development of RDA relies on steady and dependable streams of revenue in order to deliver the high-quality online instructions and guidance that everyone expects, and at the same time, there is recognition that the current business model needs to be evaluated.

As terms for National Institution Representatives came to an end, this also impacted the membership of the Working Group. With the addition of new members this year, the Working Group has been actively re-engaged in discussions and explorations. It will be preparing ideas and options for the RDA Board to consider.

Copyright Issues

Legacy data
As the content of RDA evolves, usually RDA content is expanded. But in some instances, content is removed, for example, instructions that were carried over from the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules that are no longer considered as appropriate for an internationalized RDA. The RDA Board is in the process of discussing with ALA Digital and RSC how to clarify the copyright status of content that no longer forms part of Official RDA.

Companion Subscription
The new companion subscription is an important avenue for countries, networks, or regions to consider. ALA Digital, the RDA Board and the RSC have been promoting the use of this subscription for those communities that want to create and use derivative products. RDA's Copyright and Permissions Policy is quite clear – "RDA Content may not be altered, transformed, or built upon without written permission from the Copyright Holders. … Derivative products, including works clearly based on RDA require the permission of the RDA Copyright Holders, and licensing fees may apply." The issue of transforming and building upon

RDA is one area of concern, as is also the creation of derivative products that may result in bypassing legitimate access to RDA content. The RDA Board is keeping a close watch on activities in this area.

Introduction to the RDA Board (PowerPoint)
Many people are unsure of the role and the operations of the RDA Board. Board members decided that it might be useful to develop a set of PowerPoint slides that can provide a brief overview. The collective work was completed and uploaded in September and is part of the landing page for the RDA Board website.

Approval of NARDAC's revised TOR
One of the responsibilities of the RDA Board is to approve regional representative bodies and this is usually carried out by reviewing and approving the body's terms of reference, to ensure that the terms comply with the overarching requirements outlined in the RDA Agreement 2018. When a body revises their terms of reference, the procedure is for the Board to review and approve the revisions, to ensure that the TOR remain compliant with the RDA Agreement. NARDAC, the North American RDA Committee, presented revised terms of reference to the RDA Board and they were quickly approved.

636.4 Report of the Director of ALA Digital Reference
To follow.

636.5 Report of the RSC Secretary
Prepared by Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary

The RSC Secretary works continuously with all members of the RSC and reports to the RSC Chair, Renate Behrens, and the Director of ALA Digital Reference, James Hennelly. As such, this report is divided into two areas: RSC Support and *RDA Toolkit* Updates. The RSC website falls between both areas, as it is maintained by ALA Digital Reference on behalf of the RSC. This report covers the period November 2024 – October 2025.

RSC SUPPORT

Supporting the RSC Chair in (Re)Negotiating Protocols
A major activity of the RSC Chair in 2025 was renegotiating the RSC Protocol with the ISSN International Centre. This was published as RSC/Chair/2026/3 on 14 January 2026. NB "DRAFT" in first line has been left in error - this is the agreed and signed protocol.

Supporting the RSC Chair in Keeping the RDA Board Updated with RSC Actions
As well as drafting the Annual Report and Action Plan each year, the Secretary also drafts regular written reports for the Chair to present to the RDA Board. She then publishes these as Chair documents once all business confidential activities have been concluded. Since November 2025, the following reports have been published:

- RSC/Chair/2025/20 -- Board Report, December 2025
- RSC/Chair/2026/11 -- Board Report, May 2026

RSC/Chair/2026/12 – Board Report, September 2026 will be published once its business confidential actions have been concluded.

Supporting Working Groups
The Secretary provides support to Working Groups as and when requested by the Working Group Chair and / or the RSC Chair. She also keeps the Working Groups' webpages up-to-date and provides Basecamp administration support as and when needed. She prompts Working Group Chairs for informal and formal reports and ensures that their Terms of Reference documents (including member rosters) are updated as and when needed. Since November 2025, the following updates have been made to Terms of Reference documents and approved by the RSC (and where necessary the RDA Board):

- RSC/Chair/2026/4 -- Working Group on Artificial Intelligence, 2026
- RSC/Chair/2026/5 -- Examples Working Group, 2026
- RSC/Chair/2026/6 -- Technical Working Group, 2026
- RSC/Chair/2026/7 -- Translations Working Group, 2026
- RSC/Chair/2026/9 -- String Encoding Scheme Working Group, May 2026-2028
- RSC/Chair/2026/10 -- Music Working Group, 2026
- RSC/Chair/2026/13 -- Working Group on Artificial Intelligence, October 2026

In 2026 we discharged the Extent Working Group, following discussion of its proposals at the January RSC Meeting (RSC/Minutes/556-584 Items 573-581). The Secretary drafted the discharge document and published it following RSC approval:

- RSC/Chair/2026/8 -- Discharge of Extent Working Group

The interim report of the Archives Working Group was published as a Chair document:

- RSC/Chair/2026/1 -- Interim report of the Archives Working Group

RSC Meetings
Supported the Chair in organising, participated in, drafted and published agenda, minutes and papers for:

- 17-20 November 2025, asynchronous, with synchronous online meetings for the Public Session and part of the Executive Session (RSC/Minutes/538-555)

  Proposals and Fast Track Proposals Discussed

  - **RSC/NARDAC/2025/3 – Inconsistency in the transcribed manifestation elements related to source of information**
    - RSC/NARDAC/2025/3/Summary
    - RSC/NARDAC/2025/3/Decisions
  - **RSC/NARDAC/2025/4 – Scope note for Corporate Body**
    - RSC/NARDAC/2025/4/Summary
    - RSC/NARDAC/2025/4/Decisions
  - **RSC/ReligionsWG/2025/1 – Proposal to Revise Name of Corporate Body**
    - RSC/ReligionsWG/2025/1/Summary
    - RSC/ReligionsWG/2025/1/Decisions
  - **RSC/FT2025-6 – Fast Track Proposal –** ***base access point / base of access point***
    - RSC/FT2025-6/Decisions
- 19-22 January 2026, asynchronous, with synchronous online meetings for the Public Session and part of the Executive Session (RSC/Minutes/556-584)

Annual Report
The Secretary writes the first draft of the RSC Annual Report, based on the annual reports submitted by RSC members and Working Groups in the November meeting of each year and other significant actions by the RSC as a whole. She then submits this to the RSC Chair, who makes whatever changes are needed and returns the final draft to the Secretary, who then includes it in the papers for the first RSC Meeting of the year for discussion by the full committee. The Secretary then publishes the final, approved text.

- **RSC/Annual Report/2025** was published on 9 February 2026.

Action Plan
The Secretary writes the first draft of the RSC Action Plan, based on the Board's latest Strategic Plan, the annual reports submitted by RSC members and Working Groups in the November meeting of each year, other significant actions by the RSC as a whole and contributions from the Executive Committee of the RSC. She then submits this to the RSC Chair, who makes whatever changes are needed and returns the final draft to the Secretary, who then includes it in the papers for the first RSC Meeting of the year for discussion by the full committee. The Secretary then publishes the final, approved text.

- The **RSC Action Plan 2026-2028** was published as RSC/Chair/2026/2 on 9 February 2026. It superseded RSC/Chair/2025/1 which covered the period 2025-2027.

Proposals Discussed

- **RSC/ExtentWG/2025/1 -- Proposal for Manifestation: extent of manifestation and Manifestation: manifestation extent statement**
  - RSC/ExtentWG/2025/1/Summary

        - RSC/ExtentWG/2025/1/Decisions
    - **RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2 -- Proposal for Manifestation: extent of unitary structure**
        - Decisions recorded at RSC/Minutes/556-584 Item 575
        - Outstanding action: RSC/Minutes/556-584 Item 575.1
    - **RSC/ExtentWG/2025/3 -- Proposal for Manifestation: extent of unit and its subtype elements**
        - Decisions recorded at RSC/Minutes/556-584 Item 576
        - Outstanding action: RSC/Minutes/556-584 Item 576.1
    - **RSC/ExtentWG/2025/4 -- Proposal for Manifestation: extent of aggregated content**
        - Decisions recorded at RSC/Minutes/556-584 Item 577
        - Outstanding action: RSC/Minutes/556-584 Item 577.1
    - **RSC/ExtentWG/2025/5 -- Proposal for Manifestation: extent of embodied content and its subtype elements**
        - Decisions recorded at RSC/Minutes/556-584 Item 578
        - Outstanding action: RSC/Minutes/556-584 Item 578.1
    - **RSC/ExtentWG/2025/6 -- Proposal for Manifestation: duration of embodied content**
        - Decisions recorded at RSC/Minutes/556-584 Item 579
        - Outstanding action: RSC/Minutes/556-584 Item 579.1
    - **RSC/ExtentWG/2025/7 -- Proposal for container and storage subelements of Manifestation: extent of manifestation**
        - Decisions recorded at RSC/Minutes/556-584 Item 580
        - Outstanding action: RSC/Minutes/556-584 Item 580.1
    - **RSC/ExtentWG/2025/8 -- Proposal for Manifestation: sequence of units of extent**
        - Decisions recorded at RSC/Minutes/556-584 Item 581
        - Outstanding action: RSC/Minutes/556-584 Item 581.1

  Discussion Paper Discussed
    - **RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1 -- Discussion Paper on soft-deprecated parallel elements**

- 27-30 April 2026, asynchronous with synchronous online meeting for the Public Session (RSC/Minutes/585-598)

  Proposals Discussed
    - **RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1 -- Proposal on adding new elements, applicable to rare and old materials, to the RDA Toolkit, the corresponding new definitions to the Glossary, and the corresponding new properties to RDA Registry**

        - RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1/Decisions
    - **RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1 -- Soft-deprecated elements related to Manifestation: material**
        - RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1/Decisions
    - **RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2 -- Soft-deprecated elements: "Details" elements**
        - RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2/Decisions

- 27 April 2026, Joint Meeting of the RDA Board and the RSC, synchronous online meeting (RSC-RDABoard/Minutes/023-036)

- 27-30 July 2026, asynchronous, with synchronous online meetings for the Public Session and part of the Executive Session (RSC/Minutes/599-615)

  Operations Documents
  The Secretary reviews and revises the Operations Documents each year to ensure that they reflect the day-to-day processes of the RSC. In 2026 she was asked by the Chair to revise the structure of the documents because multiple RSC members had reported difficulty in navigating the original structure established by the former Past Chair. This proved to be an immensely time-consuming task, resulting in the presentation of drafts of half the Operations Documents in the July 2026 RSC Meeting. The other half will be presented at the November 2026 RSC Meeting.
    - **RSC/Operations/1/2026 -- Structure of the RSC and Guide to its Operations** was published on 16 September 2026. It superseded RSC/Operations/1/2025, RSC/Operations/2 and RSC/Operations/3/2025 and includes a change in subject from Policies and Procedures for RSC Operations to Structure of the RSC and Guide to Its Operations.
    - **RSC/Operations/2/2026 -- Operations for Changing the Text of RDA** was published on 18 September 2026. It superseded RSC/Operations/4/2025 – Policies and Procedures for Updating RDA Content and RSC/Operations/5/2025 – Guidelines for Discussion Papers, Proposals, and Responses to Them and reuses the title RSC/Operations/2, which previously covered RSC Positions and Responsibilities and was subsumed by RSC/Operations/1/2026 – Structure of the RSC and Guide to its Operations.
    - **RSC/Operations/3/2026 -- Operations for Voting Members Discussing Changes to the Text of RDA** was published on 18 September 2026. It consists of information formerly in RSC/Operations/6 and from a best practices document that was privately circulated (not published) and reuses the title RSC/Operations/3, which previously covered General Terms of Reference for RSC Working Groups and was subsumed by RSC/Operations/1/2026 – Structure of the RSC and Guide to its Operations.
    - **RSC/Operations/4/2026 -- Operations for the Secretary, Technical Team Liaison Officer and RDA Examples Editor in Implementing RSC Decisions**

was published on 18 September 2026. It consists of information spread across the pre-2026 Operations Documents. It reuses the numbering of RSC/Operations/4, which was previously used for Guidelines for Discussion Papers, Proposals, and Responses to Them. This is now covered by RSC/Operations/2/2026.

Proposals Discussed

- **RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1 -- Proposal to revise the preferred order of recording sources for early printed resources in Data provenance: Recording a source of metadata that is a manifestation that is being described**
  - RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/Summary
  - RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/Decisions
- **RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2 -- Proposal on adding ""scribe agent / etc.", "scribe agent / etc. of", "wood engraver agent / etc." and "wood engraver agent / etc. of" as new elements to the RDA Toolkit, the corresponding new definitions to the Glossary, and the corresponding new properties to RDA Registry**
  - RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/Summary
  - RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/Summary2
  - RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/Decisions
- **RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/3 -- Resource-to-resource digest, review, and critique elements**
  - RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/3/Summary
  - Outstanding action: RSC/Minutes/599-615 Item 612.4.1
- **RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/4 -- Soft-deprecated elements specific to content and carrier type**
  - RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/4/Summary
  - Outstanding action: RSC/Minutes/599-615 Item 613.1

Organised and prepared agenda and papers for the current meeting (November 2026, RSC/Agenda/616-638)

Other Meetings

- Executive Committee (monthly), including supporting the Chair in drafting the agenda. (Thanks to James Hennelly for setting the meeting up on MS Teams and recording the meetings).
- 1:1 with the RSC Chair (at least once a month), as required
- *Ad hoc* meetings to support the Chair in her work (re-)negotiating the protocols with other bodies (occasional), as required.
- 1:1 with the Director of ALA Digital Reference (occasional), as required

- *Ad hoc* meetings with Chairs of Working Groups and RSC members to support them in their work (occasional), as required

RSC Website
As Secretary, I update the website with content several times most months. All changes and additions to the website are listed in the 'Additions and Changes to Website' page. News is posted regularly to the 'RSC News' page, posted to RDA-L and circulated via the Regional representatives and WCEO.

Other Outreach Activities
News and links to outreach activities are shared on my RSC page. In the period covered by this report (November 2025-October 2026), I worked with the RSC Chair to edit the articles for the issue of open access journal *Catalogue & Index* on the Countdown Clock (*Catalogue & Index* Issue 215). Thanks to the editors of the journal, Dr Karen Pierce and Fran Frenzel, for accepting our proposal and for their hard work on the issue.

I also wrote or co-wrote the following articles:

- Robert L. Maxwell and Anne Welsh (2026) 'RDA Future Directions and How to Keep Up', *Catalogue & Index* 215: 70-76, https://journals.cilip.org.uk/catalogue-and-index/article/view/961
- Anne Welsh (2025) 'Xenoglossophobia: Taming the Fear of All the Jargon', *Catalogue & Index* 213: 10-17, https://journals.cilip.org.uk/catalogue-and-index/article/view/845
- Anne Welsh (2026) 'News from the RDA Steering Committee (RSC)', *IFLA Metadata Newsletter* 11(2): 28-34, https://repository.ifla.org/handle/20.500.14598/6984

In March 2026 I presented at the CILIP Metadata and Discovery Group Conference RDA Day, on 'Removing the Barrier: The Language of RDA'.

Archiving

All public papers are posted to the website and then to the web repository provided by ALAIR. Papers containing information that is confidential for business reasons are released as soon as their confidential period is over. (This category applies to resources that are in the very early stages of development). From 2023 onwards, we no longer publish private minutes – anything business confidential is available to RSC and / or RDA Board members and Working Group members via the project management software and the shared drives we use. Our aim is to be transparent in our operations, and information is shared publicly as soon as possible.

RDA TOOLKIT UPDATES

Once decisions are made in RSC Meetings, the Director of ALA Digital Reference convenes a meeting of the three officers who make edits to the RDA Toolkit – the RSC Secretary, Technical Team Liaison Officer and the RDA Examples Editor to discuss the timings of implementations

and ensure that changes are made in a coordinated and efficient manner, in time with the programme of RDA Toolkit Release Schedule. The RSC Chair is and important member of these meetings, to ensure that there is continuity between RSC decision-making and implementations. Since 2026, these meetings have been formally entitled the Editorial Group (RSC/Minutes/599-615 Item 607).

In the period covered by this report, there were three Toolkit releases in February, June and October 2026. I made the following changes, coordinating my changes with those of the Technical Team Liaison Officer as and when required:

Proposals

- RSC/ReligionsWG/2025/1/Decisions was published on 26 December 2025, and implemented in the February 2026 Toolkit release.
- RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/Decisions was published on 31 July and implemented in the October 2026 Toolkit release.
- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1/Decisions was published on 6 May and implemented in the October 2026 Toolkit release.
- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2/Decisions was published on 6 May and implemented in the October 2026 Toolkit release.

Fast Track Proposals

- RSC/FT2025-6/Decisions was published on 28 December 2025, and implemented in the February 2026 Toolkit release.

RDA Toolkit Feedback

The wider RDA community submits some change requests via the feedback form in the Toolkit. Sometimes these lead to proposals or fast tracks, but where they are reporting a typo or other similarly small editorial issue, changes are made by the RSC Secretary. Each Toolkit release included a batch of these, and we would like to thank community members for their diligence in reporting them to us.

636.6 Report of the Technical Team Liaison Officer

Prepared by Chris Holden, Technical Team Liaison Officer

In the past year, the Technical Team Liaison Officer attended the monthly meetings of the Executive Committee, where he shared updates on the technical issues related to RDA and provided advice to colleagues. He also worked to give technical advice and support to RSC

members, members of the RDA/MARC21 Alignment Task Force, members of RSC working groups, and to external members of the cataloging community.

A major part of the year has been spent on a project to deal with the soft-deprecated elements in RDA, and the Technical Working Group has submitted one discussion paper and a series of six proposals on this topic. The last two proposals in this series are due to be discussed at the November 2026 RSC Meeting.

Presentations

In the past year, the Officer gave the following presentation:

- *Mapping RDA to BIBFRAME: Logistical and Technical Issues*, presented virtually at the BIBFRAME Workshop in Europe, September 2026.

Articles

In the past year, the Officer published the following article:

- 'The Role of the RDA Registry in RDA Implementation', *Catalogue & Index*, vol. 215, 2026.

Proposals, Discussion Papers, and Responses

The Technical Team Team Liaison Officer prepared the following proposals and responses to proposals made by members of the RSC:

January 2026 meeting:

- RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1 (Discussion Paper)
- RSC/ExtentWG/2025/1/TTLO (Response)
- RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2/TTLO (Response)
- RSC/ExtentWG/2025/3/TTLO (Response)
- RSC/ExtentWG/2025/4/TTLO (Response)
- RSC/ExtentWG/2025/5/TTLO (Response)
- RSC/ExtentWG/2025/6/TTLO (Response)
- RSC/ExtentWG/2025/7/TTLO (Response)
- RSC/ExtentWG/2025/8/TTLO (Response)

April 2026 meeting:

- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1 (Proposal)
- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2 (Proposal)
- RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1/TTLO (Response)

July 2026 meeting:

- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/3 (Proposal)
- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/4 (Proposal)
- RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1/TechnicalWG (Response)
- RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/TTLO (Response)

November 2026 meeting (papers prepared for upcoming meeting)

- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/5 (Proposal)
- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6 (Proposal)
- RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/2/TTLO (Response)
- RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/3/TTLO (Response)
- RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/3/TTLO (Response)

Outreach and Collaboration

The Technical Team Liaison Officer participated in the following activities this year:

- Worked with the Wider Community Engagement Officer to provide feedback on MARC 21 proposals, and attended the February and July 2026 MARC Advisory Committee meetings in which proposals were discussed.
- Met with the RDA/MARC 21 Alignment Task Force in October 2026 to discuss mapping issues related to IRIs in RDA.
- Met with the Joint RDA Board and RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence to provide technical advice on the group's projects.
- Met with members of SHARE-VDE, and began initial correspondence to plan a joint RDA-to-BIBFRAME mapping project with members of the RSC Technical Working Group and SHARE-VDE.
- Met with the RSC Secretary Elect to discuss technical issues related to facsimiles and reproductions in RDA. These issues were raised in conversations regarding RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2/. The Technical Team Liaison and the RSC Secretary Elect agreed on a path forward to provide guidance for facsimiles and reproductions in RDA while maintaining the technical integrity of the standard, and additional work on this will be forthcoming in 2027.
- With the RSC Chair, met with the IFLA Bibliographic Conceptual Models Review Group in January and February 2026, to discuss issues related to collective agents and corporate bodies in RDA and the IFLA LRM. Based on these conversations, worked with the Technical Working Group to begin preparations on a discussion paper on collective agents in RDA, with the intent to publish and discuss the paper in the first half of 2027.
- Answered questions from RSC constituents and the wider RDA cataloging community.

Other Duties

- Provided regular updates to the RDA Registry and Staff Registry, including updating translations in the RDA Registry. Began work on fixing an issue in the RDA Registry in which modern browsers do not want to load some of the Registry pages.
- Worked with the RSC Secretary and ALA Digital Reference Director to coordinate the full deprecation of elements in the RDA Toolkit and Registry according to Decisions Documents RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1/Decisions and RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2/Decisions
- Served as an *ex officio* member of the String Encoding Schemes Working Group and the Music Working Group.

636.7 Report of the RDA Examples Editor

Prepared by Jessica Grzegorski, RDA Examples Editor and Chair of the RDA Examples Working Group

Activities

Administration and management (Examples Editor/Chair)

- Scheduled and led monthly meetings of the RDA Examples Working Group.
- Participated in monthly meetings of the RSC Executive Committee and quarterly RSC meetings.
- Participated in meetings and activities of the RSC's Editorial Group (formerly the Development Team) to plan for the implementation of revisions to the Toolkit following the outcomes of proposals approved at quarterly meetings.
- Welcomed a new member, Tolga Çakmak, and expressed thanks and best wishes to outgoing member Emine Hatun Gür.
- Served as *ex-officio* member of the String Encoding Scheme Working Group.

Working Group tasks and accomplishments

- Began a systematic review of examples in Original RDA with the goal to repurpose useful examples not yet transferred to Official RDA.
- Created new examples for the RDA Toolkit, concentrating on elements with no examples.
    -
        - Prioritized the creation of examples related to proposals.
        - Reformatted examples for relationship elements shared by members of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) with the Examples Working Group for use in the RDA Toolkit.

- Responded to individual requests for specific examples received via email and created new examples in the Toolkit accordingly.
- Created full examples that are neutral regarding encoding standard. Some examples have been reformatted from previously published examples for the Original RDA Toolkit. Complete work is on hold pending the outcome of major changes related to extent elements.
- Authored three proposals:
    - RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1 - Proposal to revise the preferred order of recording sources for early printed resources in Data provenance: Recording a source of metadata that is a manifestation that is being described
    - RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/2 - Proposal to revise guidance chapter section Introduction to RDA: Examples
    - RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/3 - Proposal to add condition options regarding preferred recording source in Data provenance: Recording a source of metadata that is a manifestation that is being described
- Responded to full RSC proposals and fast track proposals.
- Brought greater transparency regarding the use of string encoding schemes in examples by implementing the boilerplate phrase "Value constructed using a string encoding scheme" and proposing clarifications in the Introduction to RDA guidance chapter on how ISBD punctuation and other SESs are used in examples (see RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/2).

Outreach

- Authored article in special issue of *Catalogue & Index* devoted to the transition from Original to Official RDA, 'Official RDA and Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (RDA Edition) : a multifaceted approach to rare materials cataloguing' (v. 215: 46-51).
- Organized outreach event (19 November 2026) with Education and Orientation Officer Elisa Sze focused on examples and training for RDA, held in conjunction with the November RSC quarterly meeting.

Goals

- Continue to create new examples for the RDA Toolkit, especially for new elements and new or revised instructions.
- As new policy documents are added to the Toolkit or made publicly available, develop examples for RDA elements covered in these documents in order to assist those user communities with training.
- Continue to create full examples, incorporating forthcoming changes to extent elements following the work of the String Encoding Scheme Working Group.
- Address any outstanding issues related to examples in the Toolkit Feedback spreadsheet.
- Review *CMS Guide: Examples* and revise as needed.

- Assess CMS and stylesheet functionality for areas of improved display of examples in the RDA Toolkit.

636.8 Report of the Translations Team Liaison Officer

Prepared by Szabolcs Dancs, Translations Team Liaison Officer and Chair of the Translations Working Group

Outreach activities

Note: in several of these, there is an overlap between the role of Translation Team Liaison Officer and the concurrently-served role of Back-up Europe Representative.

- Organized the event "RDA in Europe (and the World) – a webinar on RDA for beginners" (in cooperation with other RSC members). The event was held on 2 February 2026. The recording and the slides have been published. At the time of publication of this report the video (available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PHn3UnUnXQ) had 799 views on the RDA Toolkit YouTube channel.
- Published an article entitled 'RDA in Central (and Eastern) Europe' in the Slovak library journal *Knižnica*. The study is available here: https://casopiskniznica.snk.sk/fileadmin/user_upload/Rocnik_2026/1/Szabolcs_Dancs.pdf.
- Negotiated with staff members of the Slovak National Library on translating RDA into Slovak. (A decision was made on the translation of the RDA Reference).
- Accomplished and published a guidance document entitled *Proposal for the First Phase of RDA Implementation in Hungary* in cooperation with the RDA-HU Working Group. The document is available at: https://ki.oszk.hu/dokumentumtar/javaslat-az-rda-magyarorszagi-bevezetesenek-elso-szakaszara-1-monografikus-forrasok.
- Gave a two-hour presentation on RDA at the invitation of the Parliament Library in Budapest.
- Shared information on the *Catalogue & Index* special issue to user communities via different platforms.

Liaison activities

- Compiled and submitted RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1, a proposal on adding new elements, applicable to rare and old materials, to the RDA Toolkit, the corresponding new definitions to the Glossary, and the corresponding new properties to RDA Registry (with the crucial help of RSC Secretary, Examples Editor, and Technical Team Liaison Officer).

- Compiled and submitted the proposal RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2 which is a follow-up proposal to RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1.
- Contributed to the preparation of the Czech translation that was added to the RDA Registry site in mid-June.
- Finalized the Hungarian translation of RDA Toolkit.
- Checked translations of RDA Reference. Created and sent new templates and diff reports to translator teams.
- Answered or mediated queries, comments and proposals from translators via email.
- Organized the work of the Hungarian Translators Working Group.
- Updated the content of the RDA Translations wiki and the RDA Translation Resources folder (on Google Drive), including the information on RDA translation statuses.
- Adjusted the member list on Basecamp,.
- Attended RSC Executive Meetings. Other meetings were followed via consulting the recordings. Followed the work of other WGs, e.g. Examples WG.
- Organized and chaired the work of the RDA-HU Working Group (responsible for the implementation of RDA in Hungary).

Goals for the rest of the year

- Giving presentations including information on RDA at a conference in memory of the late expert (and RDA translator) Miklós Hubay, and at a conference marking the 25th anniversary of the Hungarian Wikipedia.
- Giving training to the Translations Team Liaison Officer Elect, Marcell Ottó Ormándy.
- Continuing the organizations of translation and implementation activities in Hungary, including the review of the translation of the RDA Toolkit so that it can be published at the end of this year.

636.9 Report of the Education and Orientation Officer

Prepared by Elisa Sze, Education and Orientation Officer

Activities since November 2025

Ongoing activities:

- Continued to communicate with educators and trainers, and respond to their questions about RDA.
- Continued to maintain and update the "Learning Resources" section of the RDA Toolkit website.
- Reviewed and responded to RSC proposals, fast tracks, and discussions related to the development of the RDA standard.

Specific activities:

- February 2, 2026: Presented at *RDA in Europe (and the World)*.
- February 10, 2026: Presented an *Introduction to RDA for cataloguers in the Southeast Asia RDA Community of Practice* organized by the National Library Board of Singapore.
- June 5, 2026: Co-presented on personal experiences with teaching a cataloguing course in an ALA-accredited Masters program, using the official RDA Toolkit. Audience: the Cataloging and Metadata Pedagogy Group (CaMP), largely consisting of library and information science faculty members and instructors in United States and Canada.
- July 13-14, 2026: Ran a two-part webinar series called *Introduction to RDA: A Webinar Series for African Cataloguers*. Webinar series was organized with Getaneh Alemu, WCEO. While the program was offered in English, the materials shared with registrants included references to RDA terminology in French.
- July 15, 2026: Met with cataloguing supervisors and cataloguers from the Hong Kong university library community to share information about the official RDA Toolkit, and answered questions on how to get started with using the official toolkit and RDA Registry.
- Participated in preliminary education/training program planning discussions with Jamie Hennelly and several RSC or RDA Board members.
- Co-organized the November 19, 2026 outreach event, "Teaching and Examples", with Jessica Grzegorski, Examples Editor
- Drafted a proposal to clarify guidance regarding the elements *source consulted* and *related manifestation of work* as found in Guidance: Data provenance. This proposal is tabled for discussion by RSC in 2027.

Ex-Officio on the following RSC working groups:

- Examples Working Group: Contributed to monthly meeting discussions and the creation of examples for the RDA Toolkit.
- Music Working Group: Monitored updates from the group for potential education or orientation-related questions.
- Archives Working Group: Monitored updates from the group for potential education or orientation-related questions. Reviewed working group notes for the potential development of guidance on describing collections with RDA.
- String Encoding Schemes Working Group: Monitored updates from the group for potential education or orientation-related questions. Responded to drafts.

Related committee work:

While external to my RSC role, these opportunities contributed to my promotion of RDA across different practitioner networks:

- Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) Standing Committee on Standards – Metadata Guidance Documentation (MGD) Subgroup
- Canadian Committee on Cataloguing / Comité canadien de catalogage
- Co-organized and co-taught two RDA training programs for the Ontario Library Association, in collaboration with other cataloguing practitioners and trainers in Canada:

    - January 2026: A full-day pre-conference workshop, Cataloguing with Official RDA from Toolkit to Record: Breaking Down the Workflow.
    - September-October 2026: A 3-week online workshop series, Cataloguing with Official RDA from Toolkit to Record: Break Down the Workflow, Online Edition.
- Led the RDA Training in Canada Working Group from a grassroots organization to official status as the RDA Training Task Force under the Canadian Federation of Library Association / Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA / FCAB). Website: https://sites.google.com/view/formation-rda-au-canada/accueil.
    - Liaised with trainers from English and French-speaking cataloguing communities, as well as Library and Archives Canada/Bibliothèque et Archives Canada and Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec.

Goals for 2027:

- Provide follow-up training for cataloguing trainers in Africa, in cooperation with Getaneh Alemu.
- Review and update the Template RDA Teaching Slides (first published in November 2024) as appropriate.
- Continue liaising with educators and trainers around the world to learn about and share approaches to teaching with the official RDA Toolkit.
- Assist with the development of an education/training program spearheaded by Jamie Hennelly.
- As 2027 will be my final year in the EOO role, I will ensure that editable copies of training resources that I have created are saved to RSC workspaces, facilitating transfer to the next EOO.

636.10 Report of the Wider Community Engagement Officer

Prepared by Getaneh Alemu, from 1 September 2025 (as WCEO Elect) to 31 October 2026

Highlights

- RSC Meetings: Attended RSC meetings in the period, as well as Joint Board and RSC 2026 meetings, and the monthly RSC Executive Committee meetings.
- Presentations: 4 presentations and training events: the RDA workshop at the ECA Library, Addis Ababa (February 2026), the survey findings to the RDA Board and RSC (April 2026), the two African webinars (July 2026) and the ECA Library workshop (October 2026).
- Addis Ababa workshops: two visits to the ECA Library, Addis Ababa: an RDA workshop in February 2026 and a three-day workshop on MARC 21 and RDA in October 2026. Both visits were funded by a separate cultural heritage research project, and I used part of each to deliver these two RDA workshops.

- Survey: designed and ran the 2026 African RDA Engagement Survey, 128 responses.
- Training: co-organised and hosted two Introduction to RDA webinars for African cataloguers, about 200 live participants.
- Publication: article in Catalogue & Index 215 (June 2026).

1. Overview

Appointed WCEO Elect on 3 September 2025, I shadowed the outgoing WCEO, Charlene Chou, until 31 December 2025 and took up the role on 1 January 2026. As WCEO I am a voting member of the RSC and its Executive Committee and the first point of contact for communities without a Regional Representative, chiefly Africa and Asia. As the RSC has no Africa Representative, my main focus in the period was Africa.

2. RSC Meetings

I attended all RSC meetings in the period, the Joint Meeting with the RDA Board and the monthly Executive Committee meetings.

Meeting (minutes)	Date and format	WCEO contribution
November 2025 RSC Meeting (RSC/Minutes/538-555)	17 to 20 Nov 2025, online	Observed as WCEO Elect (Item 538).
January 2026 RSC Meeting (RSC/Minutes/556-584)	19 to 22 Jan 2026, online	First meeting as WCEO. Item 564: plans for Sub-Saharan Africa and a training needs survey. Item 582.5: advised on likely new RDA implementations in the Region.
Joint RDA Board and RSC Meeting (RSC-RDABoard/Minutes/023-036)	27 Apr 2026, online	Item 031: presented the African survey findings; thanked by the RSC Chair and the RDA Board Chair.
April 2026 RSC Meeting (RSC/Minutes/585-598)	27 to 30 Apr 2026, online	Item 590: survey findings and plan for two-day online training with the EOO.
July 2026 RSC Meeting (RSC/Minutes/599-615)	27 to 30 Jul 2026, online	Item 603: reported the Catalogue & Index article and the two African webinars.

3. Engagement in Africa

Both visits to Addis Ababa were funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation cultural heritage project "The Way of Hezq'el", on which I am Co-Investigator, and involved no travel cost to the RSC. I used part of each visit to promote RDA and delivered two workshops for librarians in the Region, as reported below.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2026. Delivered an RDA workshop at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Library Capacity Building Workshop (12 to 13 February), presenting Why Metadata Matters: The Role of Standards and Models in Resource Discovery and Access, which included an overview of RDA. Participants came from regional universities, national institutions and UN agencies. Held discussions with librarians on systems, Toolkit access

and training needs, and on my return briefed the RDA Board Chair, Christine Oliver, on the status of RDA in Africa. The presentation was listed in the RSC Report to the Board, May 2026.

African RDA Engagement Survey, January to March 2026. Designed and ran an online survey of cataloguers, LIS lecturers, libraries and associations, which received 128 responses. Analysis of the first 109 responses, from 16 countries, showed that:

- 33.3% of institutions use RDA, but only 11.2% have access to the Official RDA Toolkit;
- about 75% of institutions using RDA (27 of 36) work without Toolkit access;
- almost all respondents plan or are considering a subscription, so cost, not interest, is the barrier;
- 82.6% are willing to act as national or regional contacts for RDA engagement.

I presented the findings at the Joint Meeting of the RDA Board and RSC and at the April RSC Meeting.

Introduction to RDA webinars, 13 and 14 July 2026, online. Co-organised and hosted, with the Education and Orientation Officer, Elisa Sze, a free two-part introduction to RDA for African cataloguers, scheduled for African time zones and using examples by African authors. Around 200 cataloguers attended live. Recordings: Part 1 and Part 2; slides; news item. More advanced training for the Region is now being designed with the EOO.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 20 to 22 October 2026. Co-organised a three-day capacity-building workshop at the ECA Library, with training in MARC 21, RDA and Dublin Core. This will be reported to the RSC in November 2026.

4. Presentations and Outreach

- **12 February 2026, ECA Library, Addis Ababa:** Why Metadata Matters: The Role of Standards and Models in Resource Discovery and Access, RDA workshop, ECA Library Capacity Building Workshop.
- **27 April 2026, online:** Findings of the African RDA Engagement Survey, Joint Meeting of the RDA Board and RSC (Item 031) and April RSC Meeting (Item 590).
- **13 and 14 July 2026, online:** Introduction to RDA, Parts 1 and 2, RSC Webinars for African Cataloguers, hosted with Elisa Sze (trainer).
- **20 to 22 October 2026, ECA Library, Addis Ababa:** three-day capacity-building workshop on MARC 21, RDA and Dublin Core (co-organiser). linkedin.com/company/eca-library/?skipRedirect=true

5. Publication

Alemu, G. (2026). Making RDA truly global: Advancing engagement, adoption and implementation in African library communities. *Catalogue and Index, 215*, 6–14, in the Countdown Clock special issue.

6. Working Groups and Consultation

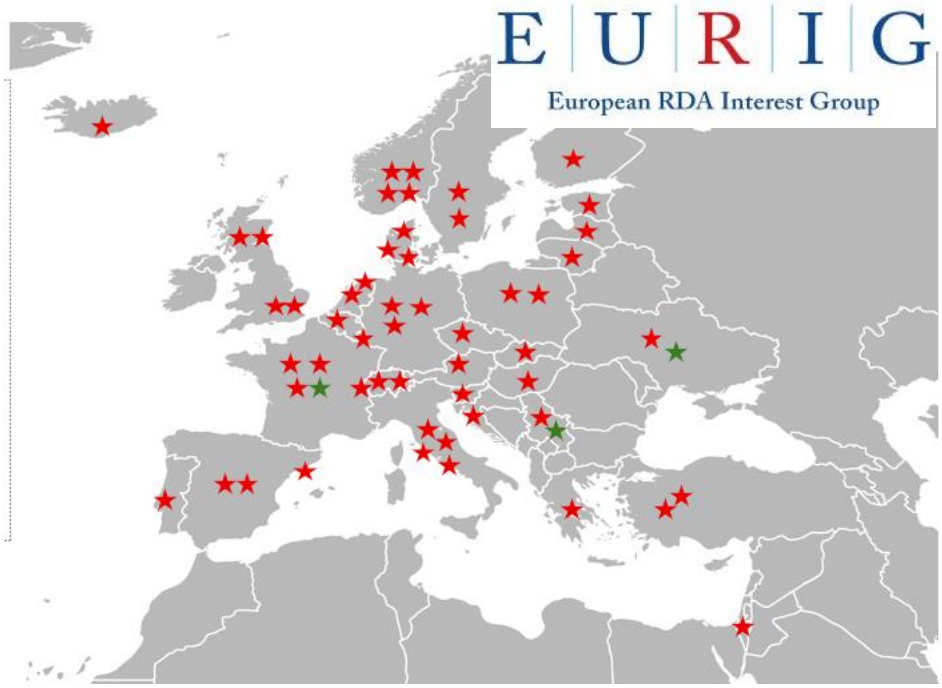
- **Technical Working Group:** *ex officio* member from 1 January 2026 (RSC/Chair/2026/6).
- **String Encoding Scheme Working Group:** *ex officio* member from April 2026 (RSC/Chair/2026/9).
- **Visibility:** named as the RSC contact for unrepresented regions in the IFLA Metadata Newsletter 11(2), December 2025; activities listed on my RSC page.

7. Next Steps

- Report the October 2026 workshop to the RSC in November 2026.
- Develop more advanced training for African cataloguers with the EOO.
- Build a regional Train-the-Trainer network from survey respondents willing to act as contacts.
- Work with ALA Digital Reference and the RDA Board on affordable Toolkit access before Original RDA is withdrawn on 11 May 2027.
- Encourage regional organisations in Africa towards an RSC Africa Representative, and continue outreach in Asia.

636.11 Report of the RSC Representative for Europe
Prepared by Ahava Cohen, RSC Representative for Europe

The Europe Region is represented by the European RDA Interest Group (EURIG). EURIG has 56 member organizations in 31 countries.



Annual Meeting 2026
This year's annual EURIG meeting was held May 28-29 2026 at KBR, the Royal Library of Belgium in Brussels. Presentations focused on Entity based cataloguing and RDA implementation, with a discussion of cataloguing unembodied works. Slides and recordings from the Annual Meeting are available on the regional website: https://www.rdatoolkit.org/europe/eurig-annual-meeting-28-29-may-2026. Minutes of the meeting are available at https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/uploads/EURIG%20minutes%202026.pdf



Thurstan Young of the British Library was elected Vice-Chair of EURIG and Christiane Niklowitz of the Swiss Library Service Platform was elected Executive Secretary.

The next EURIG Annual meeting will be held at the National Library of Scotland in May, 2027.

Editorial Committee
The EURIG EdCo is charged with assisting the RSC Representative to prepare responses to proposals. Current membership on the committee is:
Renate Behrens (RSC Chair)
Ahava Cohen (National Library of Israel)
Szabolcs Dancs (National Széchényi Library)
Anastasia Kerameos (British Film Institute, CILIP)
Hannes Lowagie (KBR Royal Library of Belgium)
Heloise Lecomte (ABES - Agence bibliographique de l'enseignement supérieur)
Luna Sindin Cordery (Biblioteca de Catalunya)
Mélanie Roche (Bibliothèque nationale de France)
Thurstan Young (British Library)

Former members of the EdCo are encouraged to share the result of their constituency consultations with the official committee members and are considered emeritus, non-voting members.

Translations
EURIG members continue to be the largest group of full and partial translators of the Official Toolkit, under the guidance of the Translations Working Group Chair, EURIG representative for

the National Széchényi Library Szabolcs Dancs. More information about translation activity in Europe can be found in the Translations Team Liaison Officer's annual report (Item 636.8).

636.12 Report of the RSC Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean
Prepared by Filiberto Felipe Martínez Arellano, RSC Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean

RDA Education Group
In January 2026, the RDA Education Group was established. Its objective is to promote use of the RDA Toolkit among the Latin America and the Caribbean LIS schools. Under its sponsorship, the School of Library Science, Documentation and Information at the National University of Costa Rica, the College of Library Science and Archives, and the Institute of Library and Information Research, both of them at the National Autonomous University of Mexico University of Mexico (UNAM), in conjunction with the RDA Mexico Group, the RDA Education Group organized the *3rd Meeting on Education for Information Organization: New Pedagogical and Technological Perspectives for Teaching and Applying the Official RDA Toolkit in the Training of Librarians*.

RDA Meeting for Latin America Subscribers
Access to the Spanish translation of the RDA Toolkit was made available to subscribers in October 2025 by ICI (International Scientific Information), the distributor of this tool for Latin America and the Caribbean. On February 12th 2026, ICI and the Grupo RDA Mexico convened a meeting for RDA subscribers from the countries of this region to discuss the use of the Official RDA Toolkit. Approximately50 subscribers attended.

A brief survey was conducted which revealed that 62 percent were still using the Original RDA Toolkit, while only 38 percent had begun exploring Official. Regarding when they planned to use and implement it, most indicated that during 2026, and other ones in 2027. Among the greatest difficulties mentioned for using and implementing Official RDA, was a lack of familiarity with Toolkit features and navigation and need for training.
Further information about this event at:
https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1QoKTRgQzW/

The 3rd Meeting on Education for Information Organization: New Pedagogical and Technological Perspectives for Teaching and Applying the Official RDA Toolkit in the Training of Librarians
The School of Library Science, Documentation and Information at the National University of Costa Rica, the College of Library Science and Archives, and the Institute of Library and Information Research, both of them at the National Autonomous University of Mexico University of Mexico (UNAM), in conjunction with the RDA Mexico Group and the RDA Education Group, organized this conference whose main objective was to promote exchange of ideas among

scholars, teachers, students, and practitioners about information organization and cataloging teaching, including innovative strategies, technological resources, and pedagogical approaches that foster the meaningful teaching and learning of the LRM model, as well as the Official RDA Toolkit conceptual framework, and its application in diverse Latin American contexts. It was celebrated in a hybrid format at the National University of Costa Rica's School of Library Science, Documentation and Information on May 26 to 29, 2026.
Program and further information (in Spanish) : https://difusion.iibi.unam.mx/EEOI/index.html
Event Video Recording (in Spanish):
https://www.youtube.com/@auditorioclodomiropicadotw7162

Spanish Language Webinar *What to Know About the Countdown Clock*
The Spanish version of the webinar *What to Know About the Countdown Clock* was carried out with James Hennelly's support on June 19, 2026. RSC Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean Felipe Martinez and RDA Board Representative Angela Quiroz delivered the webinar. It is important to point out that this webinar showed some learning resources in Spanish. RDA Mexico Group carried out the original slides' translation from English to Spanish
Video Recording is available at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoQX37qd6d8 (Please fast forward the video to 3 minutes).
Slides are available at
https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/uploads/CountdownClock_Presentation_19jun%20SPANISH.pdf

RDA Webinar Series: *RDA Concepts*
The RDA Mexico Group under sponsorship of the National Autonomous University of Mexico organized the RDA Webinar Series *RDA Concepts* for Spanish-speaking catalogers. Its objective was to introduce participants to the essential RDA terminology and concepts on RDA for transitioning to Official RDA Toolkit. The RDA series began in June, and it was delivered until November 2026, twice episodes each month. Felipe Martinez coordinated the series. Through ten episodes different concepts were approached, among them Entities, Elements, Domain and Range, Nomen, Element Labels, and Vocabulary Encoding Schemes. Spanish-speaking attendees had access to structured, and practical examples from RDA Toolkit Spanish translation. This webinar Serie was delivered on the Zoom platform and included opportunities for audience interaction.
Recordings of each live episode available at the Grupo RDA Mexico website: https://difusion.iibi.unam.mx/RDA-M%C3%A9xico/videos.html

Spanish Translation of *Phase 1: PCC Introductory RDA Training Materials*
The Spanish translation of the material set *Phase 1: PCC Introductory RDA Training* by PCC Standing Committee on Training's RDA Training Task Group: Monographs was carried out by the RDA Mexico Group under CC BY 4.0, with the authorization of the PCC. These training materials consist of 17 modules designed for catalogers. They are useful for navigating the RDA Toolkit, understanding new concepts, and defining key terms within the RDA vocabulary. These materials have been used by the RDA Mexico Group in various training workshops. Likewise, they are available to the entire cataloging community in Latin America for self-study or for

training cataloging staff, provided that credit is given to the RDA Training Working Group: Monographs (under the PCC's Standing Committee on Training) and the RDA Mexico Group.
Materials available at the RDA México Group website:
https://difusion.iibi.unam.mx/RDA-M%C3%A9xico/traduccion_es.html

XV Latin American Meeting on Cataloging and Metadata

The RDA Mexico Group, under the auspices of the Institute for Library and Information Research, the National Library of Mexico, and the General Directorate of Libraries and Digital Information Services of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, organized the *XV Latin American Meeting on Cataloging and Metadata: Challenges in the Transition from the Original RDA Toolkit to the Official RDA Toolkit* which took place on September 30, October 1 and 2, 2026. Adam Baron from the Program for Cooperative Cataloging of the Library of Congress (PCC-LC) was the keynote speaker, giving the paper *Preparing RDA Training: A Perspective from the Program for Cooperative Cataloging*. Also, there was a roundtable discussion where cataloging experts from various Mexican institutions discussed the inevitable shift in professional mindset required as the original RDA Toolkit becomes unavailable in May 2027. Participants highlighted the practical challenges, including the impact on library management systems, the necessity for developing application profiles, and the continued importance of authority control. The conference included the workshop *Navigating RDA Toolkit*, in which attendees learned to use the RDA Spanish translation. Support teaching material was the PCC's training materials in Spanish. Additionally, The RDA Mexico Group presented its website highlighting Spanish resources for Latin American catalogers adopting RDA toolkit Official translation. It was a hybrid event, presented in person and via Zoom, with the participation of over 300 catalogers from 21 Latin America countries.
Further information (in Spanish) at the website:
https://difusion.iibi.unam.mx/ECyM/

8th Colloquium on RDA in Latin America and the Caribbean

The *8th Colloquium on RDA in Latin America and the Caribbean: RDA, Metadata, and Artificial Intelligence: Towards New Models for Description, Access, and Interoperability*, took place November 4 to 6 in San José, Costa Rica. It was organized by the School of Librarianship and Information Science, University of Costa Rica. It was conceived as a high-level academic and professional forum for critical analysis, the exchange of experiences, and the collective construction of knowledge regarding standards for the description of—and access to—information resources.
Further information (in Spanish) at:
https://indico.congresos.ucr.ac.cr/event/2/overview

Workshop on Training and Examples for Official RDA

The RDA México Group will take part in this workshop sharing their experience on training their cataloguers through the *Serie Conceptos RDA*, which is well attended and builds on Mexico's long tradition in RDA cataloguing to get ready for Official RDA. Felipe Martinez Took delivered this presentation.

The workshop is organized by RDA Examples Editor Jessica Grzegorski and Education and Orientation Officer Elisa Sze and will take place on Thursday 19 November. Other participants in this workshop are:

- Michaela Edelmann from the DNB (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek) who presented the development of German language RDA examples for the DACH (Germany (D), Austria (A), Switzerland (CH)) Region.
- Keith Knop who shared learnings from the training he has provided for the Music Library Association (the US branch of IAML (the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives, and Documentation Centres).

You can register for this free workshop: https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news/rsc/save-date-free-online-workshop-rda-implementation

A recording of the whole workshop will be available after the event. RDA Mexico Group's presentation is already available on its website: https://difusion.iibi.unam.mx/RDA-M%C3%A9xico/videos.html

636.13 Report of the RSC Representative for North America
Prepared by Trina Soderquist, RSC Representative for North America

Membership
The North American RDA Committee (NARDAC) is the entity that represents the North American region on the RDA Steering Committee (RSC). NARDAC's membership, as of November 2026, consists of representatives from the following constituencies:

- American Library Association
  - Adam Baron, University of California, Berkeley, California, 2026-
  - Adam L. Schiff, University of Washington Libraries, Seattle, Washington, 2022-
- Canadian Committee on Cataloguing
  - Thomas Brenndorfer, Guelph Public Library, Guelph, Ontario, 2018- ; NARDAC co-chair, 2025-
  - Hong Cui, Library and Archives Canada, Gatineau, Québec, 2023-
- Library of Congress
  - Trina Soderquist, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 2025- ; NARDAC representative to the RSC, 2026-
  - Manon Théroux, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 2026-
- French-speaking cataloging community representative
  - Daniel Paradis, Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, Ontario, 2024- ; NARDAC co-chair, 2025-
- Library Science education representative

    - Shawne Miksa, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, 2024-
- RDA Board representative for North America (non-voting ex officio member of NARDAC)
    - Thi Bao Tran Phan, Library and Archives Canada, Gatineau, Québec, 2026-

Adam Baron and Manon Théroux joined the committee this year. Tran Phan was confirmed as the North American National Institution Representative to the RDA Board at their February meeting.

Activities
NARDAC met virtually monthly, with occasional special meetings.

NARDAC submitted two proposals in 2026, and both are scheduled to be published at the end of the November 2026 RSC Meeting and discussed at the January 2027 RSC meeting:

- RSC/NARDAC/2026/1 - Proposal to delete special instructions for the Rheims-Douai-Challoner and Confraternity-Douai-Challoner versions of the Bible for Expression: **designation of version**
- RSC/NARDAC/2026/2 - Proposal to add the element Expression: **format of notated movement**

Outreach
For recordings and slides of these presentations and more, please see the NARDAC presentations site.

- **Pre-conference workshop at the Ontario Library Association (OLA) Superconference**. On January 28, members of NARDAC, its constituents, and the RSC Education and Orientation Officer Elisa Sze presented a workshop titled, "Cataloging with Official RDA from Toolkit to Record: Breaking down the Workflow." Participants learned how to locate and cite Toolkit instructions, find supplementary community documentation, and distinguish between different recording methods for recording RDA values.
- **Spring NARDAC Update Forum**. The April 13th session included presentations from Thomas Brenndorfer on RDA training in Canada, string encoding schemes, and the extent proposals that the RSC discussed in January. Hong Cui and Trina Soderquist provided updates on RDA training at Library and Archives Canada and the Library of Congress, respectively. Adam Baron gave an overview of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging's (PCC) implementation of official RDA.
- **'RDA implementation in Canada and the United States: progress and possibilities', by Hong Cui and Trina Soderquist**. In the 'Countdown Clock' issue of *Catalogue & Index*, issue 215 (2026), Hong and Trina provided updates on training and implementation activities in Canada and the United States, focusing on the efforts by the NARDAC constituent organizations and institutions.

- **Pre-conference workshop at the ALA Annual Conference**. Members of NARDAC worked with two RDA training groups from the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) to present a pre-conference workshop on June 26 at the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference. The workshop provided an opportunity to gain hands-on experience cataloging resources and creating name authority records using the official RDA Toolkit and related PCC documentation, including LC-PCC policy statements and metadata guidance documents.
- **NARDAC Forum at the ALA Annual Conference**. NARDAC provided updates and presentations at its Forum on June 27. The guest presenters were Chelsea Hoover (Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York) and Sarah Hovde (University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland). Chelsea discussed the Music Library Association (MLA) policy statements in the Toolkit and described the work of the RSC Music Advisory Working Group. Sarah talked about transitioning the On-line Audiovisual Catalogers (OLAC) best practices into official RDA resources.
- **Fall NARDAC Update Forum**. The forum on October 19 provided updates on NARDAC activities and a repeat of the presentations by Chelsea Hoover and Sarah Hovde at the forum at the ALA Annual Conference.

Goals for 2027

- Continue to support training and implementation activities for our North American constituents and beyond
- Provide informational presentations, workshops, and updates at the OLA Superconference, the ALA Annual Conference, and NARDAC forums
- Submit responses to RSC proposals
- Submit proposals from ourselves and our constituents to the RSC

636.14 Report of the RSC Representativefor Oceania
Prepared by Jack Ennis Butler, Oceania representative to RSC

Membership
ORDAC welcomed George Sweetensen as a CatSIG Representative to the committee.

Activities
ORDAC met monthly online throughout the year. Special meetings and open sessions were convened as required to cover topics of interest and discuss proposals.

ORDAC facilitated discussions with RDA practitioners from across the region to focus on key issues such as *Collective agent* and its use by cataloguing communities from Oceania.

Outreach

Key RDA outreach events include:

Bridget Jennings, Oceania Back-up Representative, delivered a series of webinars entitled *From Original RDA MARC Record to Official RDA Metadata Application Profile*: Part 1 | Part 2 | Part 3.

ORDAC welcomed RSC Chair Elect Robert L. Maxwell and RDA publisher James Hennell to deliver the webinar *What to Know About the Countdown Clock* for audiences in Oceania.

Committee members continue to undertake outreach through ACORD, CatSIG, and other regional, and professional groups.

Official RDA in Oceania
The NSLA working group have finalised Australia's Official RDA policy statements. The Workflows group is working on guidance with anticipated completion before the end of the year. Work is also under way on integration into the Toolkit

The National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa has completed the Official RDA implementation, officially moving into 'business as usual'. 100% of Policy statements have been completed, and the NLNZ has updated the NLNZ RDA application profile with MARC 21 mapping to enable sharing across the region.

Future activities
ORDAC continues to explore wider representation across the region.

The committee is planning to prepare proposals relating to *Title proper*, the definition of *page,* and continue work on *Collective agent*.

A large focus in the coming months will be on supporting institutions moving to Official RDA within Oceania.

637.1 Report of the Joint RDA Board / RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI)
To follow.

637.2 Report of the RSC Archives Advisory Working Group
To follow.

637.3 Report of the RSC Music Advisory Working Group
RSC/MusicWG/2026/AnnualReport was published on 13 November 2026 and is available on the Working Group webpage and on ALAIR.

637.4 Report of the RSC Religions in RDA Advisory Working Group
To follow.

637.5 Report of the RSC String Encoding Schemes (SES) Task and Finish Working Group
To follow.