

To: RDA Board and RDA Steering Committee
From: Renate Behrens, RSC Chair
Subject: RSC Annual Report for 2025

This is the Annual report of the RDA Steering Committee to the RDA Board for the calendar year 2025. The report was prepared by Renate Behrens, RSC Chair, with assistance from the RSC Secretary, Anne Welsh, and input from the rest of the RSC. In particular, your attention is drawn to the individual annual reports of RSC members, published as Appendices to [RSC/Minutes/538-555](#). The Annual Report consolidates and adds to the reports made at the RDA Board Meetings ([RSC/Chair/2025/8](#) ; [RSC/Chair/2025/13](#) ; [RSC/Chair/2025/17](#) ; [RSC/Chair/2025/20](#)).

This year, the RSC met four times online in January, April, July and November. [Public minutes are available on ALAIR](#) for each of these meetings ([RSC/Minutes/500-507](#) ; [RSC/Minutes/508-520](#) ; [RSC/Minutes/521-537](#) ; [RSC/Minutes/538-555](#)).

We were pleased that the Board could join us for a joint online synchronous meeting during our April meeting ([RSC-RDABoard/Minutes/010-022](#)). As always, it was good for new members of the RSC and Board to meet everyone, and for us all to be able to discuss our progress. The RSC's Action Plan ([RSC/Chair/2025/1](#), published 27 January 2025) is agreed each year in line with the Board's Strategic Plan, and as this was the final year of the [RDA Strategic Plan 2023-25](#), the meeting was particularly timely. The Joint Meeting also provided the opportunity to discuss the activities of the Joint RDA Board / RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence ([RSC-RDABoard/Minutes/010-022](#) Item 016). We were able to agree on the Working Group's new terms of reference ([RSC/Chair/2025/10](#)). Its original tasks ([RSC/Chair/2025/7](#) Section 4) had been completed with the publication of its White Paper, *Considering AI in the Growth of RDA* ([RSC/Papers/2025/1](#)). The Working Group was assigned new key deliverables ([RSC/Chair/2025/10](#) Section 4.5): to make "recommendations for standards and quality requirements for RDA compliant AI-generated metadata" and "guidelines for documenting AI-generated metadata and creating an AI Toolkit Guide".

RSC Action Plan 2025 Outcomes

All standing tasks ([RSC/Chair/2025/1](#) Standing Tasks) were completed for 2025 and will continue into 2026.

1 Develop RDA as a responsive and dynamic standard

- a. With the RDA Board, support the community on the approach to the start of the countdown clock on 11 May 2026. *Ongoing*.
- b. Monitor use of Community Resources area and establish processes for this to become a standing task. *Ongoing*.

- c. Outreach to Toolkit users (both CMS and non-CMS) to make use of the Community Resources section of the Toolkit. *Ongoing.*
- d. Together with the RDA Board, review community implementations of RDA *Ongoing.*
- e. First the Technical Working Group, then the RSC:
 - Complete BIBFRAME mapping. *Extended into 2026; ongoing*
 - Review the concept of performance aggregates (amalgamation instructions). *Ongoing.*
- f. Continue to monitor use of soft deprecated elements. *Ongoing.*
- g. Continue to monitor application profiles under development by community members. *Ongoing.*
- h. Further the development of RDA concepts (in line with the IFLA LRM) (2025-2027). *Ongoing.*

2 Increase the adoption of RDA

- a. Continue to support regional groups. *Ongoing; including ALyC, the new regional group for Latin America and the Caribbean, which sent representation to the RSC for the first time in 2025.*
- b. Investigate an affiliate RSC membership status for regions not yet represented on the RSC, with an eye toward moving those regions to full membership status. *The companion membership was introduced in 2026, and there are no current plans to introduce further subscription categories.*
- c. Continue with outreach to archival (or other) communities in collaboration with RDA Board, as appropriate. *Ongoing, including constituting the Archives Working Group, which will meet for the first time in January 2026.*
- d. Explore interest amongst library management in the future of cataloguing. *Ongoing.*
- e. Continue outreach and orientation to LIS education and training activities. *Ongoing.*

3 Provide relevant governance

- a. Recruit or re-appoint individuals to the following RSC positions:
 - Secretary, Wider Community Engagement Officer, RDA Examples Editor. *Completed. Secretary and Examples Editor reappointed (1 January 2026 – 31 December 2027; Getaneh Alemu appointed as Wider Community Engagement Officer 1 January 2026-31 December 2027 with possibility of a second term.*
 - Technical Team Liaison Officer, Education and Orientation Officer (2026). *Ongoing. Chris Holden will end his first term on 31 December 2026.*
- b. Recruit for RSC Chair-Elect (2025). *Completed. Robert L. Maxwell appointed Chair Elect 2026, then Chair 2027-2030, then Past Chair 2031*

- c. Reappoint Task and Finish Working Groups as required. *Ongoing. In 2025, the Extent Working Group completed its work with the submission of 8 proposals for consideration at the January 2026 Meeting. The Chair and several of the members will constitute the String Encoding Scheme (SES) Working Group (2026-2027, with possibility of one year's extension) which will pick up the baton of implementation from the Extent Working Group before working on other String Encoding Schemes.*
- d. Consider the demand for further Task and Finish Working Groups (2025-2027). *Ongoing. The Archives Working Group was constituted and met for the first time in 2025 and approval was received from the Board for it to become an Advisory Working Group. The Music Working Group met for the first time on 26 January 2026. The Board has given permission for it to be an Advisory Working Group, given the amount of work to be done in this area.*
- e. Continue to contribute to the Joint RDA Board and RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (formed in 2024, with current Terms of Reference through 2026). *Ongoing. In its December 2025 Meeting, the Board approved the Group's becoming an Advisory Working Group, and this has been endorsed at the January 2025 Meeting of the RSC (Minutes forthcoming).*
- f. Continue to review existing protocols and assigned liaisons with other information standards groups (2025-2027)
 - i Update [RSC/Chair/13 - Protocol between the RSC and the ISSN International Centre](#) in consultation with the ISSN International Centre. *Completed. [RSC/Chair/2026/3](#) was signed and published in January 2026.*
 - ii Update [RSC/Chair/15 - Protocol between the RSC and the Library of Congress Network Development and MARC Standards Office](#) in consultation with the Library of Congress. *Deadline moved to 2026.*
 - iii Draft the protocol with ShareVDE (2025). *Completed. [RSC/Chair/2025/9](#) was agreed and published in April 2025.*

RDA Toolkit

There were 3 Toolkit Releases in February, June and October.

17 February 2025

“The latest release to RDA Toolkit took place on February 9 and contains some modest changes to the standard. It includes corrections to the English version of the Toolkit. Policy statements have been added by the Library and Archives Canada and the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, with significant additions from the British Library and U.S. Library of Congress and Program for Cooperative Cataloging.

This release is the first under our new publishing calendar. There will be 3 releases in 2025. The next two will be in June and October. In each release the English-language version will publish first, and the translations will follow in the weeks after.

Updates on the progress of this release will be posted here. The full release will be completed before the end of the month, and will include the roll out of the Catalan translation of Official RDA.

UPDATE: French and Finnish versions were released on 2/25.”

([February 2025 RDA Toolkit Release | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)). RDA Toolkit subscribers can also access '[Notes on the February 9, 2025 Toolkit Release](#)'.

11 June 2025

“The latest release to RDA Toolkit took place on June 6 and contains some modest changes to the standard. It includes corrections and fixes based on feedback submitted to RDA Toolkit and changes to the Guidance chapter on Aggregates. Policy statements have been added by the British Library, Library and Archives Canada, the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, and U.S. Library of Congress and Program for Cooperative Cataloging.

This release is the second under our new publishing calendar. The final release in 2025 will take place in October. In each release the English-language version is published first, and the translations will follow in the weeks after.

Updates on the progress of this release will be posted here. The full release will be completed before the end of the month.”

([June 2025 RDA Toolkit Release | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)). RDA Toolkit subscribers can also access '[Notes on the June 6, 2025 Toolkit Release](#)'.

9 October 2025

“The latest release to RDA Toolkit took place on October 9 and includes changes the wording of authorized and preferred access points across all entities. There are corrections and fixes based on feedback submitted to RDA Toolkit and changes to the Guidance chapter on Aggregates.

Policy statements have been added by the British Library, Library and Archives Canada, and the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa. This release also

introduces the policy statements from the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS). It is also worth mentioning that the [Spanish translation of Official RDA](#) debuted last week.

This release is the final one under our new publishing calendar. Next year, the release schedule will follow the same pattern, with releases in February, June, and October. In each release the English-language version is published first, and the translations will follow in the weeks after. Updates on the progress of this release will be posted here. The full release will be completed before the end of the month.

Translation updates for Catalan, Finnish and French were added on October 31st.”
([July 2024 RDA Toolkit Release | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)). RDA Toolkit subscribers can also access ‘[Notes on the October 9, 2025 Toolkit Release](#)’.

RDA Registry

The [RDA Registry](#) contains vocabularies that represent the RDA entities, elements, and controlled terminologies as [RDA element sets](#) and [RDA value vocabularies](#) in Resource Description Framework (RDF). Data contained in the Registry populate the Glossary, vocabulary encoding scheme term lists, and sections of each element page in the RDA Toolkit. The RDA Registry produced 17 GitHub releases or pre-releases in 2025, beginning with v5.2.0 in January and ending with v5.4.11 in December:

Release v5.2.0, 14 January 2025

“This release supports the February 2025 issue of RDA Toolkit. This release contains several new object elements with a range of skos:Concept.”
([Release Release v5.2.0 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#)).

Release v5.2.1, 21 January 2025

“This release includes updates to the French translation and is in support of the February 2025 issue of RDA Toolkit.”
([Release Release v5.2.1 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#)).

Release v5.2.2, 24 January 2025

“This release corrects a major error in the object element sets. The range for newly added object properties in release v5.2.0 and 5.2.1 was incorrectly generated as <http://rdaregistry.info/Elements/skos/Concept> instead of <http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#Concept>.”
([Release Release v5.2.2 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#))

Release v5.3.0, 21 March 2025

“This release supports new translations of RDA Reference. The release also removes rdan:P80114 as a rdfs:subPropertyOf rdan:P80052 and makes corrections to mapRDA2Unc.nt.”
([Release Release v5.3.0 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#))

Release v5.3.1, 21 March 2025

“This release corrects ontology metadata that contained erroneous release information.”
([Release Release v5.3.1 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#))

Release v5.4.0, 9 May 2025

“This release supports the June 2025 issue of RDA Toolkit.”
([Release Release v5.4.0 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#))

Release v5.4.1, 9 May 2025

“The release corrects minor formatting errors in the agent and manifestation elements.”
([Release Release v5.4.1 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#))

Release v5.4.2, 16 May 2025

“This release corrects minor formatting issues.”
([Release Release v5.4.2 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#))

Release v5.4.3, 4 June 2025

“This release supports recent translation updates in Dutch, Finnish, and Catalan.”
([Release Release v5.4.3 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#))

Release v5.4.4, 18 June 2025

“This release supports recent translation updates in Finnish and Catalan.”
([Release Release v5.4.4 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#))

Release v5.4.5, 27 June 2025

“This release corrects a problem with the SKOS IRIs found in the object element sets. The base IRI was generated incorrectly.”
([Release Release v5.4.5 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#))

Release v5.4.6, 7 July 2025

“This release corrects problems identified in [#218](#).”

([Release Release v5.4.6 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#))

Release v5.4.7, 22 August 2025

“This release includes translations of traditional Chinese terms for the RDA Carrier Type, RDA Content Type, and RDA Media Type vocabularies.”

([Release Release v5.4.7 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#))

Release v5.4.8, 19 September 2025

“This release includes updates for the October 2025 release of the RDA Toolkit.”

([Release Release v5.4.8 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#))

Release v5.4.9, 3 October 2025

“This release supports changes in the Finnish, Hungarian, Catalan, Simplified Chinese, and Dutch translations.”

([Release Release v5.4.9 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#))

Release v5.4.10, 5 November 2025

“This release supports changes in the Finnish and Catalan translations.”

([Release Release v5.4.10 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#))

Release v5.4.11, 12 December 2025

“This release supports changes in the Turkish translation.”

([Release Release v5.4.11 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub](#))

2025 was Chris Holden’s first as Technical Team Liaison Officer, and his annual report is available at [RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Appendix 549.8.

RDA Content

The following proposals and Fast Tracks were approved in 2025:

- 1 RSC/NARDAC/2025/1 – Proposal on numerals associated with given names**

[RSC/NARDAC/2025/1](#) was approved with amendments in the April 2025 Public Session of the RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/508-520](#) Item 509). [RSC/NARDAC/2025/1/Decisions](#) was published on 2 July and implemented on 17 August for the October release of the RDA Toolkit

2 RSC/EOO/2025/1 – Proposal to revise Guidance: Aggregates and Guidance: Diachronic Works following from RSC/Technical WG/2024/2/rev/Decisions

[RSC/EOO/2025/1](#) was discussed at the July Meeting of the RSC ([RSC/Minutes/521-537](#) Item 530). It was approved with slightly amended wording and [RSC/EOO/2025/1/Decisions](#) was implemented on 11 August for the October release of the RDA Toolkit.

3 RSC/NARDAC/2025/2 – Revision of two sets of condition and condition options for Corporate Body: variant access point for corporate body

[RSC/NARDAC/2025/2](#) was discussed in the July 2025 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/521-537](#) Item 531). In the course of the discussion, NARDAC withdrew its Recommendation 2, subject to the introduction of appropriate Examples. Recommendation 1 was approved unanimously by voting members of the RSC. [RSC/NARDAC/2025/2/Decisions](#) was published on 7 August and implemented on 17 August for implementation in the October release of the RDA Toolkit.

4 RSC/ReligionsWG/2025/1 – Proposal to Revise Name of Corporate Body

[RSC/ReligionsWG/2025/1](#) was discussed at the November 2025 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Item 546). [RSC/ReligionsWG/2025/1/Decisions](#) was published on 26 December 2025, for implementation in the February 2026 release of the RDA Toolkit.

5 FT2025-1— Fast Track Proposal – *base authorized / variant access point / base of access point*

[RSC/FT2025-1/Decisions](#) was published on 18 August 2025 and implemented in the October release of the RDA Toolkit. The Secretary noted that a further Fast Track was required to deal with a related issue.

6 FT2025-2 -- Fast Track Proposal – Revising the definition for “instrumental conductor agent of” and its narrower elements

[RSC/FT2025-2/Decisions](#) was published on 19 May 2025 and implemented in the June release of the RDA Toolkit.

7 FT2025-3 – Fast Track Proposal – Definition of “alternate identity of person” vs. “alternate identity of person of”

[RSC/FT2025-3/Decisions](#) was published on 5 August 2025 for implementation in the October release of the RDA Toolkit.

8 FT2025-4 – Fast Track Proposal – Definition of “preceded by expression” and “succeeded by expression”

[RSC/FT2025-4/Decisions](#) was published on 7 August 2025 for implementation in the October release of the RDA Toolkit.

9 FT2025-5 – Fast Track Proposal – Addition of the term “keyboard reduction score” to the RDA Format of Notated Music VES

[RSC/FT2025-5/Decisions](#) was published on 7 August 2025 for implementation in the October release of the RDA Toolkit.

10 FT2025-6 – Fast Track Proposal – *base access point / base of access point*

Following on from FT2025-1 (Item 5), [RSC/FT2025-6/Decisions](#) was published on 28 December 2025 for implementation in the February 2026 release of the RDA Toolkit.

RDA Examples

RDA Examples Editor Jessica Grzegorski presented her annual report in the November RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Item 549.5), and it is worth reading in full. Highlights include

- adding an appendix to the *RDA Examples Editorial Guide* ([RSC/ExamplesEditor/2025/1](#)) with procedures for removing content flagged as harmful and replacing it with appropriate examples
- creating full examples that are neutral regarding encoding standard. Some examples have been reformatted from previously published examples for the Original RDA Toolkit. The new example set will eventually be published as PDFs on the Toolkit website
- creating new examples for the RDA Toolkit, concentrating on elements with no examples. Priority was given to examples relating to proposals.

RDA Translations

Translations Team Liaison Officer Szabolcs Dancs presented his annual report in the November RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Appendix 549.5) and is worth reading in full. He has organized several outreach events, including an RDA workshop at the annual meeting of the Association of Librarians in Hungary in July. [His ebook introduction to RDA](#) in Hungarian was published in September. As editor-in-chief of *Central European Library and Information*

Science Review (CELISR), he encouraged and supported Teresa Preston and Anoushka McGuire in publishing their article ‘Implementing Official RDA: The Experience of the National Library of New Zealand’, *Central European Library and Information Science Review (CELISR)* 2(4): 458-462, <https://journals.bme.hu/celISR/article/view/42518/24217>.

Policy Statements

The Policy Statement Writers continued to meet online every two months throughout 2024. There were significant updates from the British Library, Library of Congress, Music Libraries Association, National Library of Finland, the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, and Libraries and Archives Canada (in French and English).

RSC Membership

This year the RSC was delighted to announce [the appointment of Dr. Robert L. Maxwell as RSC Chair Elect](#). He completed his term as RSC Representative for North America on 31 December 2025, and will spend 2026 learning the Chair role from current RSC Chair Renate Behrens, who will support him through 2027 as Past Chair. Robert’s term as Chair will end in 2030 and then he, in turn, will serve 2031 as Past Chair. [There is further information about Robert on his RSC webpage](#), which was created this year alongside pages for the other members of the RSC.

Robert will also be supported by [Anne Welsh](#), who was pleased to accept [reappointment as RSC Secretary in June](#), beginning her second, open-ended term on 1 January 2026. Under the terms of [RSC/Operations/1](#), the RSC Secretary’s term is determined in consultation with the RSC Chair and the Director of ALA Digital Reference. The position fulfils secretarial duties to the RDA Steering Committee, reporting to the RSC Chair, and editorial duties under the direct supervision of the Director of ALA Digital Reference.

[Chris Holden](#) began [his term as Technical Team Liaison Officer and Chair of the RSC Technical Working Group on 1 January 2025](#), having served as Technical Team Liaison Officer Elect in the final months of 2024. A smooth transition was ensured by former Technical Team Liaison Officer **Damian Iseminger** serving from 1 January – 30 June as **Past Chair of the Technical Working Group** and then continuing as a Working Group member.

RDA Examples Editor Jessica Grzegorski accepted the [invitation to serve for a second term](#), beginning 1 January 2026 and running until 31 December 2027. RSC Chair Renate Behrens described her work as "an important building block in the further development of RDA."

31 December also saw the end of [Elisa Sze](#)’s first term in the permanent post of **Education and Orientation Officer**, a role she grew from a time-limited appointment in 2022-23. The RSC is grateful to Elisa and her employer, University of Toronto, for [agreeing to serve a second term starting 1 January 2026](#).

We were sad to say goodbye to [Charlene Chou](#), who completed her two terms as **Wider Community Engagement Officer (WCEO)** on 31 December, having completed her handover to **Wider Community Engagement Officer Elect [Dr Getaneh Alemu](#)**, who was [appointed in September](#) and [succeeded Charlene as WCEO](#) on 1 January 2026. We are grateful to Charlene for agreeing to continue her work as a member of the RSC Religions in RDA Working Group and the RDA Board and RSC Joint Working Group on Artificial Intelligence.

2025 was significant as the year in which the [Grupo RDA America Latina y el Caribe \(RDA-ALyC\)](#) was established within the RDA Governance Structure. This group, established in January 2025, is the result of joint work by the different national RDA groups in Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru, and Chile, with the collaboration of Argentina, all committed to the implementation of RDA in libraries in the region. Chair of the Group **Ángela Quiroz Ubierna** has served on the RDA Board as National Institution Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean since 2023 and will continue to do so through 2026. At the July RSC Meeting, [we were very pleased to welcome Dr Filiberto Felipe Martinez Arellano as RSC Representative to Latin America and the Caribbean](#). A well-respected academic, [Felipe](#) has been actively advocating for RDA in the region, including organising the RDA Colloquium in Latin America six times. He has also been a member of the IFLA cataloguing Section and is a former Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean on the RDA Board.

Unexpectedly, in October 2025 **RSC Representative to Oceania [Charlotte Christensen](#)** had to [step away from the RSC and other commitments for health reasons](#). Charlotte was a very active member of the RSC, seeing Oceania's first proposal, RSC/Oceania/2024/1 on Dual-language Naming of Corporate Body and Place, from inception through constituency consultation, RSC discussion, and, ultimately, implementation of [RSC/Oceania/2024/1/rev/Decisions](#) in the Toolkit release on 9 October 2025. She is also a popular speaker, having delivered training on RDA for ORDAC and spoken as recently as April at the NARDAC Forum, on [practical implementation of Official RDA at National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa](#). We wish Charlotte well very soon and thank her for everything she has done for the RSC.

Charlotte's **Back-up Representative to Oceania [Jack Ennis Butler](#)** stepped into the **RSC Representative to Oceania** role, with [Bridget Jennings as Back-up](#). Jack has a background in both archives and libraries, and is currently Metadata and Discovery Librarian at CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) in Australia. We were very grateful to Jack, Charlotte and ORDAC for ensuring such a swift handover, and [welcomed Jack to his first RSC Meeting as Representative in November 2025](#).

We ended 2025 with the excellent news that in spite of the US government shutdown, NARDAC had succeeded in [appointing Trina Soderquist to succeed Robert Maxwell as RSC Representative to North America](#). A Cataloging Policy Specialist in the Policy, Training, and

Cooperative Programs Division (PTCP) at the Library of Congress (LC), [Trina](#) also has experience as a cataloger for the LC's Children's and Young Adults' Cataloging Program (CYAC). Before joining LC in 2016, she worked for over a decade in special academic libraries in the Boston, Massachusetts, area. NARDAC's process is for the RSC Representative to select their **Back-up Representative**, and we were delighted to hear that former RSC Representative, Chair of the Extent Working Group, and NARDAC Co-Chair [Thomas Brenndorfer](#) has accepted [Trina's invitation](#). The RSC is very grateful to former Back-up **Melanie Polutta** for all her work. Melanie continues as a member of the RDA Policy Writers Group.

The RSC would also like to thank **Colleen Barbus** for her service as **Chair of the RDA Board 2024-2025** and as an *ex officio* member of the RSC. As well as carrying out the usual Board Chair's duties, Colleen gave of her time and professional expertise as ALA Librarian and Archivist to establish the [RSC space in the American Library Association Institutional Repository \(ALAIR\)](#) and worked with the RSC Secretary and the Director of ALA Digital Reference to ensure that as well as publishing RSC papers on our website, we are able to provide each with a stable URI in this reliable online archive. Colleen remains on the RDA Board as the American Library Association Copyright Holder. Following the usual procedure of the Chair position rotating amongst the copyright holders, **Christine Oliver**, Canadian Federation of Library Associations, succeeds Colleen as Chair, 1 January 2026 – 31 December 2027.

Working Groups

Examples Working Group

The terms of reference and membership of the Examples Working Group ([RSC/Chair/2025/16](#)) are set out [on its webpage](#). Its activities in 2025 were summarised by the RDA Examples Editor in her report ([RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Appendix 549.5); highlights in [RDA Examples section, above](#).

Technical Working Group

The terms of reference and membership of the Technical Working Group ([RSC/Chair/2025/3](#)) and the RDA/MARC21 Alignment Task Force ([RSC/Chair/2025/15](#)) are set out [on their webpage](#). Their activities in 2025 were summarised by the Technical Team Liaison Officer in his report at Appendix 549.8 of [RSC/Minutes/538-555](#). Updates to the Registry are noted in the [RDA Registry section above](#).

Translations Working Group

The terms of reference and membership of the Translations Working Group are set out [on its webpage](#). Its activities in 2025 were summarised by the Translations Team Liaison Officer in

his report ([RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Appendix 549.5; highlights in [RDA Translations section, above](#)).

The annual meeting of the Working Group took place on 23 May in Sweden (and online) as part of the [EURIG annual meeting](#).

Advisory Working Groups

In its November 2024 meeting, the RSC recognised that there is a third category of topic that is neither permanent (requiring a standing working group) nor able to be resolved in the 2 years (plus 1 year extension) of the task-and-finish working groups ([RSC/Minutes/483-499](#) Item 498.1.1). In its December 2024 meeting, the RDA Board approved this request. From January 2025, the [Religions in RDA Working Group](#) and [Archives Working Group](#) were established as Advisory Working Groups.

The terms of reference and membership of the **Archives Working Group** ([RSC/Chair/2025/11](#)) are set out on [its webpage](#). In its first year, it has largely been working on establishing the extent to which RDA can be used within archives and the possibility of alignment with [Record in Context \(RIC\)](#).

The terms of reference and membership ([RSC/Chair/2025/6](#)) of the **Religions in RDA Working Group** are set out on [its webpage](#). In completing its original remit, it chose to present proposals at regular intervals and ask the RSC to decide on their implementation schedule. [RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1/Decisions](#) and [RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/2/Decisions](#) were implemented in the October 2025 RDA Toolkit release. [RSC/ReligionsWG/2025/1/Decisions](#) was approved at the November 2025 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Item 546) and has been implemented for the first Toolkit release of 2026.

Task-and-Finish Working Groups

The terms of reference and membership of the **Extent Working Group** ([RSC/Chair/2025/7](#)) are set out on its webpage. In completing its remit, it chose to present in its final year a suite of 8 proposals. Working Group Chair Thomas Brenndorfer provided an overview in the November 2025 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Item 548). On 19 November, [we announced their constituency review and asked the wider RDA community to provide feedback for the January 2026 RSC Meeting](#), at which the general direction of travel of each proposal was approved, with instructions to Thomas to provide more detail for each of them¹. He will complete this work as Chair of the **String Encoding Schemes (SES) Working Group** which will be formally instituted in the April 2026 RSC Meeting.

¹ Minutes for the January 2026 RSC Meeting are currently under preparation.

It was always intended that the conceptual review would be carried out by the Extent Working Group and then the practicalities of implementation handled by the SES Working Group, which will consist of many of the same members. It is important for members of the wider RDA cataloguing community to remember that both these working groups are focused on *structured description*. Cataloguers are reminded that *unstructured description* is available for implementation scenarios less focused on machine-readable metadata.

The RSC would like to thank all members of the Extent Working Group (2022-2025) for the substantial conceptual review they have completed. Formal discharge will be approved by the RSC in its April 2026 Meeting, when the SES Working Group will be formally instituted.

At the request of the RDA Board in 2023, a **Joint RDA Board and RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI)** was established in 2024, chaired by Ahava Cohen (RSC Europe Representative). It completed its initial tasks (set out in [RSC/Chair/2024/7](#)) with the publication of [RSC/Papers/2025/1 – Considering AI in the Growth of RDA](#). New terms ([RSC/Chair/2025/10](#)) were [published on its webpage](#) in April 2025. In its December Meeting, the RDA Board agreed with a proposal for the AI Working Group to transition to Advisory Group status, beginning in January 2026.

Collaboration with Other Groups

RSC Chair Renate Behrens continued her work to (re)establish protocols with other bodies. In April 2025 [we were able to announce a new protocol with the Share Family / Share VDE Community](#), one of the main bodies concerned with BIBFRAME. [RSC/Chair/2025/9](#) sets out the agreement between the organizations and was followed by productive discussions on the details of the collaboration. Details will be shared in early 2026.

Renate also spent time in 2025 negotiating the updating of the protocol with the ISSN International Centre, published in January 2026 ([RSC/Chair/2026/3](#)).

Outreach

Members of the RSC continued to contribute to the RDA Toolkit Webinar series and to provide presentations across all three Regions and beyond. These are listed on the [2025 Presentations and Outreach page of the RSC website](#) and here:

22 January	STA Documentation Platform and RDA DACH	Michaela Edelmann (invited speaker)	RSC Public Session, January 2025
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11 March	RDA Around the World - Updates from RSC Chair	Renate Behrens	RDA Toolkit YouTube Channel
11 March	RDA Around the World - Latin America and the Caribbean	Angela Quiroz Ubierna (RDA Board)	RDA Toolkit YouTube Channel
11 March	RDA Alrededor del Mundo - America Latina y el Caribe	Angela Quiroz Ubierna (RDA Board)	RDA Toolkit YouTube Channel
19 March	Only What Changes Remains, or the Need for a Rethink	Renate Behrens	IFLA Standards and Metadata Symposium, Athens
3 April	RDA Toolkit in a Canadian Cataloguing Course	Elisa Sze	2° Encuentro de Educación sobre Organización de la Información
8 April	RDA Toolkit, Only the Toolkit and Nothing But the Toolkit	Ebe Kartus (invited speaker)	RSC Public Session, April 2025
14 April	Practical Implementation of RDA at NLNZ	Charlotte Christensen	NARDAC Forum
12 May	Practical Implementation of RDA at NLNZ	Charlotte Christensen	ORDAC Webinar
19 May	Q&A on Official RDA Project at NLNZ	Charlotte Christensen in conversation with other ORDAC members	ORDAC Webinar
22 May	Report from the Europe Representative to the RSC	Ahava Cohen	EURIG Annual Meeting
23 May	Joint RDA Board and RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence	Ahava Cohen	EURIG Annual Meeting
4 June	RDA in Practice: Teaching RDA	Elisa Sze	IFLA Regional Division Committee. Asia-Oceania.

			Webinar. Promoting Discovery Tools for Libraries. Session 2
28 June 2025	Examples Development for RDA Toolkit/RBMS Policy Statements for Official RDA Toolkit	Jessica Grzegorski	NARDAC Forum, ALA Conference, 28 June 2025
30 June	Considering AI in the Growth of RDA: Joint RDA Board and RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence Report, 2024 - June 2025	Charlene Chou	RDA Linked Data Forum, ALA Annual Meeting
9 July	Report on the Symposium 'Metadata Standards Matter'	Renate Behrens	<i>IFLA Standards Newsletter</i> 3(1): 33-36
9 July	News from the RDA Steering Committee (RSC)	Anne Welsh	<i>IFLA Standards Newsletter</i> 3(1): 33-36
15 July	Official RDA at the National Library of Greece	Michalis Gerolimos	RSC Public Session, July 2025
22 July	News from the RDA Steering Committee (RSC)	Anne Welsh	<i>IFLA Metadata Newsletter</i> 11(2): 15-20
14 August	RDA's AI Strategy and the Future Development of RDA (YouTube video)	Renate Behrens	IFLA Bibliography Section with the Information Technology Section and the IFLA Artificial Intelligence Special Interest Group WLIC Satellite Meeting
16 September	Report from RDA Steering Committee (slides)	Renate Behrens	BIBFRAME Workshop in Europe 2025
16 September	Scaffolding Transitions: Applying Lessons	Elisa Sze, May Chan and Kyla Jemison	BIBFRAME Workshop in Europe 2025

	from Teaching Official RDA to BIBFRAME Training (slides)		
1 October	RDA – a standard on the way to more internationality and partnership	Renate Behrens	XIV Encuentro Latinoamericano de Catalogación y Metadatos 2025 [Latin American Cataloging and Metadata Meeting 2025]
1 October	Tomando en cuenta a la IA en el crecimiento de RDA: Informe del Grupo de Trabajo conjunto de la Junta Directiva RDA y el RSC sobre inteligencia artificial, 2024-Sept. 2025	Charlene Chou	XIV Encuentro Latinoamericano de Catalogación y Metadatos 2025 [Latin American Cataloging and Metadata Meeting 2025]
18 November	NSLA Official RDA Project	Aimee Hay, National and State Libraries Australasia	RSC Public Session, November 2025

In 2025 we also established webpages for each RSC member, which includes links to their presentations and outreach and any news items about them:

- [Renate Behrens, RSC Chair | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)
- [Robert L. Maxwell, RSC Chair Elect | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)
- [Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)
- [Jessica Grzegorski, RDA Examples Editor | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)
- [Chris Holden, RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)
- [Szabolcs Dancs, RSC Translations Team Liaison Officer | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)
- [Elisa Sze, RSC Education and Orientation Officer | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)
- [Getaneh Alemu, Wider Community Engagement Officer | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)
- [Ahava Cohen, RSC Representative for Europe | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)
- [Filiberto Felipe Martinez Arellano, RSC Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)
- [Trina Soderquist, RSC Representative for North America | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)
- [Jack Ennis Butler, RSC Representative for Oceania | ALA RDA Toolkit](#)

Process and Communication

The RSC website remains the primary source of information for news from the RSC. Following the upgrade of its content management system and hosting, it can now be found at <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc>. Useful pages to keep up-to-date include

- <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/news> - news and announcements
- <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/documents> – current documents
- <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/additions-and-changes-website> - additions and changes to the website

The RSC Secretary also posts calls for hosts, announcements of the publication of agenda and minutes and appointments of new RSC members to [RDA-L](#), a mailing list maintained on ALA Core Connect. (You do not have to be a member of ALA to participate in RDA-L, although a free login for the website is required).

The [IFLA Metadata Newsletter](#) usually features news from the RSC compiled by the RSC Secretary.

ALA Digital Reference publishes Toolkit and selected RSC news at <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/>.

Regional Representatives cascade news from the RSC to their communities.