

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

This report was prepared by Renate Behrens, RSC Chair, with assistance from the RSC Secretary, Anne Welsh, and input from the rest of the RSC.

RSC Chair Elect Appointed

As the Board is aware, and following the usual selection process (including ratification by the Chair of the Board), Dr Robert L. Maxwell has been appointed as RSC Chair Elect. He will take up this position once he has passed on his current responsibilities as North America Representative to the RSC. NARDAC is currently recruiting his replacement. It is expected that Robert will serve as Chair Elect in 2026, Chair 2027-2030 and Past Chair 2031. The official announcement was published [here](#).

Wider Community Engagement Officer Elect Appointed

Following the usual selection process, Dr Getaneh Alemu has been appointed as Wider Community Engagement Officer (WCEO) Elect. He will serve in this position until 31 December 2025 and will succeed Charlene Chou as WCEO on 1 January 2026 for an initial 2-year term until 31 December 2027. After she has stepped down as WCEO, Charlene has agreed to stay on the AI Working Group and the Religions in RDA Working Group and to join the Translations Working Group in her own right. Getaneh will inherit the WCEO *ex officio* roles on the Technical Working Group and as liaison to the MARC Advisory Committee (MAC). The official announcement of the new WCEO Elect was published [here](#).

Creation and Acceptance of the RDA Latin America and the Caribbean Group (RDA-ALyC) and Appointment of Latin America and the Caribbean Representative to the RSC

As the Board is aware, the RDA Latin America and the Caribbean Group (RDA-ALyC) has been formally accepted and [announced](#). Dr Filiberto Felipe Martinez Arellano (formerly of the RDA Board) has been appointed as Latin America and the Caribbean Representative to the RSC and has attended his first meeting. The official announcement of his appointment was published [here](#).

RSC Meeting July 2025

Since its last report to the Board, the RSC has met online, on 14-17 July ([RSC/Minutes/521-537](#)), with a synchronous Executive Session on Monday 14 July via Google Meet. A Public Session was held via Zoom on Tuesday 15 July.

Proposals Approved and Implemented

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

As described in [RSC/EOO/2025/1/Decisions](#), was submitted on 12 May and published on 22 May 2025. Written responses were received through June and July and [RSC/EOO/2025/summary/rev](#) was published on 14 July ahead of discussion in the Public Session of the RSC Meeting on 15 July. Suggestions were made by EURIG ([RSC/EOO/2025/1/EURIG](#)) and NARDAC ([RSC/EOO/2025/1/NARDAC](#)) and discussed in the meeting ([RSC/Minutes/521-537](#) Item 530). The Education and Orientation Officer asked the EURIG and NARDAC representatives if expanding the phrase “well-formed metadata description set” to “well-formed metadata description set of an aggregate”. Ahava Cohen and Robert Maxwell agreed that this change would meet their needs.

Voting members of the RSC approved the proposal unanimously, with the text amended per the discussion. It was implemented in August by the RSC Secretary as part of the next Toolkit release (expected in October).

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

[RSC/NARDAC/2025/1](#) was submitted on 21 February and published on 24 February 2025. Written responses were received through February and March and [RSC/NARDAC/2025/1/summary](#) was prepared and published on 16 March. The only change suggested was from the Technical Team Liaison Officer ([RSC/NARDAC/2025/1/TTWGResponse](#)), who stated that “For consistency, the Glossary definition should be in the present tense, with the verb in the first sentence reading as ‘hold’ instead of ‘held’”. He identified that “The use of ‘name’ in the Glossary definition is ambiguous, and the RDA term ‘given name’ would be clearer”. Finally, the Technical Team Liaison Officer pointed out that “The phrased ‘names of monarchs and other royals or ecclesiastics’ in the Glossary does not match the phrase used in the text of RDA ... The phrase from the text dates back to AACR2 and may be worth reviewing in light of the work of the Religions in RDA Working Group”. With all this in mind, [RSC/NARDAC/2025/1/TTWGResponse](#) suggested an alternative wording, which the North America representative and the rest of the RSC accepted in the meeting ([RSC/Minutes/508-520](#) Item 509).

With the amendments suggested in [RSC/NARDAC/2025/1/TTWGResponse](#), the proposal was approved unanimously by voting members of the RSC. [RSC/NARDAC/2025/1/Decisions](#) was published in July 2025 and implemented for the next Toolkit release (expected in October 2025).

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

As described in [RSC/NARDAC/2025/2/Decisions](#), [RSC/NARDAC/2025/2](#) was submitted on 12 May and published on 22 May. Written responses were received through June and [RSC/NARDAC/2025/2/summary](#) was published on 9 July. [RSC/NARDAC/2025/2/EURIG](#) and [RSC/NARDAC/2025/2/ORDAC](#) raised issues and NARDAC issued a written response ([RSC/NARDAC/2025/2/summary/NARDAC](#)) on 14 July for discussion in the meeting. The proposal was discussed in the Public Session and continued in the Executive Session of the meeting ([RSC/Minutes/521-537](#) Item 531). Robert Maxwell asked his NARDAC colleagues to confer on all the feedback received and reported that they agreed to withdraw RSC/NARDAC/2025/2 Recommendation 2 (to add a condition and condition option under [RDA 27.35.52.19 Format of base variant access points for corporate body](#) on the basis that the proposed instruction is covered in the instruction at [RDA 64.74.66.23 Corporate Body: access point for corporate body. Format of base access points for corporate body](#), to which cataloguers are referred from under [RDA 27.35.52.19 Format of base variant access points for corporate body](#)).

With Recommendation 2 withdrawn, voting members approved Recommendation 1 unanimously and it was implemented in August by the RSC Secretary as part of the next Toolkit release (expected in October).

Board members may be interested that in the course of the discussion in the Public Session, an issue with some of the Toolkit examples was discovered, in which it appears that the examples used for rotation of name form are not accurate. During the Public Session, the Examples Editor agreed to look at these and suggest improvements. When Robert withdrew RSC/NARDAC/2025/2 Recommendation 2, he stressed that NARDAC believed it important to add one or more examples of a variant access point recorded in direct order at [RDA 27.35.52.19 Format of base variant access points for corporate body](#). The Examples Editor agreed to make amendments as set out at [RSC/Minutes/521-537](#) Item 531.4 and has done so as part of the next Toolkit release (expected in October).

RSC/ORDAC/2024/1 – Proposal on dual-language naming of Corporate Body and Place

[RSC/ORDAC/2024/1](#) was discussed at the RSC Meeting in April 2024 ([RSC/Minutes/456-468](#) Item 462) and in two meetings of a Rapid Action Group consisting of the three Regional Representatives, Wider Community Engagement Officer (WCEO), Examples Editor, Translations Team Liaison Officer and invited experts. Examples from RSC/ORDAC/2024/1 were added to the RDA Toolkit in its July 2024 release ([RSC/Minutes/469-482](#) Item 470.2.1). [RSC/ORDAC/2024/1/rev](#) was discussed at the RSC Meeting in November 2024 and voting members of the RSC approved it in a unanimous vote. [RSC/ORDAC/2024/1/rev/Decisions](#) was published in March 2025 and was implemented in August for the next Toolkit release (expected in October).

RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1 – Proposal to Revise Name of Corporate Body

[RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1](#) was discussed at the July 2024 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/469-482](#) Item 475). Recommendations 1-3 accepted; Recommendation 4 rejected and re-presented at the November RSC Meeting as [RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/2](#) ([RSC/Minutes/483-499](#) Item 487). [RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1/Decisions](#) was published on 18 September 2024 and implemented in August 2025 for the next Toolkit release (expected in October 2025). (The RSC wanted RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1/Decisions and RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/2/Decisions implemented in the same release, and RSC/Religions/2024/2/Decisions asked the Working Group to check the location of the changes they had suggested).

RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/2 – Proposal to Revise Name of Corporate Body

[RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/2](#) was discussed at the November 2024 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/483-499](#) Item 487) and approved, subject to the proviso that the Religions in RDA Working Group consider whether the recommended instructions may be better sited somewhere broader, since the issues they raise do not solely impact *religious* bodies. [RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/2/Decisions](#) was published on 2 July 2025 and implemented in August for the next Toolkit release (expected in October 2025).

RSC/TechnicalWG/2024/2 – Proposal to revise definitions of *aggregate*, *aggregating work* and *aggregates* guidance

[RSC/TechnicalWG/2024/2](#) was discussed at the November 2024 meeting and approved with changes to wording ([RSC/Minutes/483-499](#) Item 485). [RSC/TechnicalWG/2024/2/rev/Decisions](#) was published on 14 April 2025 and was implemented in the June 2025 Toolkit Release. The future work assigned to the Education and Orientation Officer and the Technical Team Liaison Officer resulted in [RSC/EOO/2025/1](#) for the July 2025 Meeting of the RSC.

Fast Track Proposals Discussed, Approved and Implemented

RSC/FT2025-1 – Fast Track Proposal – *base authorized / variant access point / nase of access point*

This Fast Track proposal was submitted by Szabolcs Dancs, Translations Team Liaison Officer to deal with an issue translators in several languages had in understanding what is meant by *base access point* and its variants *base authorized access point* and *base variant access point*. It was discussed by the RDA Steering Committee between 7 and 9 April 2025, and voted on between 9-10 April. As recorded in [RSC/Minutes/508-520](#) Item 517.1, it was approved with a small amendment by all voting members of the RSC. [RSC/FT2025-1/Decisions](#) was published in August 2025 and implemented as part of the next Toolkit release (expected in October).

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

The Translations Team Liaison Officer prepared this Fast Track which reflected concerns raised by members of the Translations Working Group. It included a proposal to revise the definitions for “instrumental conductor agent of” for consistency. It also proposed to revise the definitions for narrower elements accordingly. Voting members of the RSC accepted the change unanimously and placed actions on the Secretary ([RSC/Minutes/508-520](#) Item 517.3) to [RSC/FT2025-2/Decisions](#) and on the Technical Team Liaison Officer ([RSC/Minutes/508-520](#) Item 517.4) to implement the changes. These actions have been completed for the next Toolkit release (expected in October 2025).

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

This Fast Track Proposal was prepared by the Technical Team Liaison Officer to correct the definition of “**alternative identity of person of**” in the RDA Glossary, which does not match the wording used by its inverse element “**alternate identity of person.**” This issue had been identified by a member of the Translations Team in the course of translating the glossary definitions. It was discussed in the July 2025 RSC Meeting and approved by voting members of the RSC ([RSC/Minutes/521-537](#) Item 526.1). [RSC/FT2025-3/Decisions](#) was prepared and implemented for the next Toolkit release (expected in October 2025).

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

This Fast Track Proposal was prepared by the Technical Team Liaison Officer to correct the definitions of the elements **preceded by expression** and **succeeded by expression** to align with the definitions of **preceded by work** and **succeeded by work**. It was discussed in the July 2025 RSC Meeting and voting members approved it unanimously ([RSC/Minutes/521-537](#) Item 526.2). [RSC/FT2025-4/Decisions](#) was prepared and implemented for the next Toolkit release (expected in October 2025).

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

This Fast Track Proposal was prepared by Chelsea Hoover and Keith Knop, MLA CMC Content Standards Subcommittee and sponsored by Chris Holden, RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer and Robert Maxwell, RSC North America Representative. It recommended that **keyboard reduction score** be added to the RDA Format of Notated Music VES with the proposed definition of “a format of notated music that consists of a score showing all solo instrument parts, with the instrumental accompaniment reduced for keyboard or other chordal instrument”. It was discussed in the July 2025 RSC Meeting and voting members approved it

unanimously ([RSC/Minutes/521-537](#) Item 526.3). [RSC/FT2025-5/Decisions](#) was prepared and implemented for the next Toolkit release (expected in October 2025).

RDA Toolkit Release

There has been one release of the Toolkit since the last Board Meeting, on 6 June. It contained corrections and fixes based on feedback submitted via the RDA Toolkit and changes to the Guidance chapter on Aggregates, as well as Policy Statements by the British Library, Library and Archives Canada, the New Zealand National Library and the U.S. Library of Congress and Program for Cooperative Cataloging. The release notes are available to Toolkit subscribers [here](#).

Official RDA Implementation at the National Library of Greece

At the Public Session of the July RSC Meeting, Dr Michalis Gerolimos gave a presentation on Official RDA at the National Library of Greece during the Public Session of the RSC on Tuesday (15 July). He was then joined by his former colleague Dr Sofia Zapounidou to answer some of the questions about the implementation project and some of the tools developed during it - the transliteration tool was especially of interest to many of the cataloguers present in the Zoom room. [The presentation and Q&A is available on YouTube](#). A link to it is also included on our [Implementing Official RDA webpage](#), which also includes links to the two tools Michalis highlighted:

- [transliteration.nlg.gr](#) provides transliterations following ALA-LC Romanization and following ISO 843:1997
- [data.nlg.gr](#) is a Wikibase prototype which converts data as is into RDA/RDF

Themed Issues of *Catalogue & Index*

Dr Karen Pierce and Fran Frenzel, the editors of Open Access journal *Catalogue & Index* have accepted a proposal from the RSC Chair and Secretary for a themed issue in May 2026 to coincide with the starting of the Countdown Clock for implementation of Official RDA. This will include articles by presenters at our Public Sessions on Official RDA Implementation and by members of the RSC. The December 2025 issue of *Catalogue & Index* is also an RDA themed issue, edited by Anastasia Kerameos, the Chair of the UK Committee on RDA (UKCoR) including Board member Jenny Wright, Technical Working Group member and former RSC Chair Gordon Dunsire, WCEO Elect Getaneh Alemu and RSC Secretary Anne Welsh.

Other Outreach Activities

The RSC Secretary has updated the [Presentations and Outreach 2025 webpage](#) as follows:

Presentation / Publication Date	Title	Presenter / Author	Sponsor / Venue	Notes	Date Posted
14 August	RDA's AI Strategy and the Future Development of RDA	Renate Behrens	IFLA Bibliography Section with the Information Technology Section and the IFLA Artificial Intelligence Special Interest Group WLIC Satellite Meeting		29 August
22 July	News from the RDA Steering Committee (RSC)	Anne Welsh	<i>IFLA Metadata Newsletter</i> 11(2): 15-20		29 July
15 July	Official RDA at the National Library of Greece	Michalis Gerolimos	RSC Public Session, July 2025		18 July
9 July	News from the RDA Steering Committee (RSC)	Anne Welsh	<i>IFLA Standards Newsletter</i> 3(1): 33-36		11 July
9 July	Report on the Symposium 'Metadata Standards Matter'	Renate Behrens	<i>IFLA Standards Newsletter</i> 3(1): 33-36		11 July
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		11 July

4 June	RDA in Practice: Teaching RDA	Elisa Sze	IFLA Regional Division Committee. Asia-Oceania. Webinar. Promoting Discovery Tools for Libraries. Session 2	Video available on RDA Toolkit YouTube Channel (starts at 6:38)	4 June
23 May	Joint RDA Board and RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence	Ahava Cohen	EURIG Annual Meeting		3 June
22 May	RDA: A Standard on the Way to More Partnership	Renate Behrens and James Hennelly	EURIG Annual Meeting	Recording also available	3 June
22 May	Report from the Europe Representative to the RSC	Ahava Cohen	EURIG Annual Meeting		3 June
19 May	Q&A on Official RDA Project at NLNZ	Charlotte Christensen in conversation with other ORDAC members	ORDAC Webinar		3 June
12 May	Practical Implementation of RDA at NLNZ	Charlotte Christensen	ORDAC Webinar		14 May
14 April	Practical Implementation of RDA at NLNZ	Charlotte Christensen	NARDAC Forum	Begins at 10:58	17 April
8 April	RDA Toolkit, Only the Toolkit and Nothing But the Toolkit	Ebe Kartus (invited speaker)	RSC Public Session, April 2025		17 April

3 April	RDA Toolkit in a Canadian Cataloguing Course	Elisa Sze	2° Encuentro de Educación sobre Organización de la Información	Slides also available in Spanish	17 April
19 March	Only What Changes Remains, or the Need for a Rethink	Renate Behrens	IFLA Standards and Metadata Symposium, Athens		11 July
11 March	RDA Alrededor del Mundo - America Latina y el Caribe	Angela Quiroz Ubierna (RDA Board)	RDA Toolkit YouTube Channel		3 June
11 March	RDA Around the World - Latin America and the Caribbean	Angela Quiroz Ubierna (RDA Board)	RDA Toolkit YouTube Channel		3 June
11 March	RDA Around the World - Updates from RSC Chair	Renate Behrens	RDA Toolkit YouTube Channel		3 June
22 January	STA Documentation Platform and RDA DACH	Michaela Edelmann (invited speaker)	RSC Public Session, January 2025		17 April

These are also included in the new About Pages for RSC members. Almost everyone now has a page as follows:

- [Renate Behrens, RSC Chair](#)
- [Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary](#)
- [Elisa Sze, RSC Education and Orientation Officer](#)
- [Jessica Grzegorski, RDA Examples Editor](#)
- [Chris Holden, RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer](#)
- [Szabolcs Dancs, RSC Translations Team Liaison Officer](#)
- [Getaneh Alemu, Wider Community Engagement Officer Elect](#)
- [Ahava Cohen, RSC Representative for Europe](#)
- [Filiberto Felipe Martinez Arellano, RSC Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

- [Robert L. Maxwell, RSC Representative for North America](#)
- [Charlotte Christensen, RSC Representative for Oceania](#)

The last report to the Board ([RSC/Chair/2025/13](#)) was published on 18 June, once all business confidential activities had been completed and could be made public. There is no business confidential information in the current report, so it will be published straight away. We continue to share regular updates on the [RSC News page](#).