To: RDA Board and RDA Steering Committee
From: Renate Behrens, RSC Chair
Subject: RSC Report, December 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. **Please note: Because of the amount of time between the RSC Meeting and the Board Meeting, Minutes have not yet been approved. Please treat anything without a web address as business confidential until the approved Minutes are published.**[1]

Save the Dates: RSC Public Sessions and Joint Meeting 2026

As usual, the RSC agreed its meeting dates in the November Meeting. They are:

- **Monday 19 – Thursday 22 January**
- **Monday 27 – Thursday 30 April**
- **Monday 27 – Thursday 30 July**
- **Monday 16 – 19 November**

We agreed the time for January's Public Session:

- **Wednesday 21 January 2026 at 19:00 - 21:00 UTC**. There is a handy time converter here.

We are always happy to see Board members attending as observers. If you would like to attend in January, please let the Secretary know by emailing RSCsecretary@rdatoolkit.org and she will send you the meeting details closer to the time.

In the synchronous Executive Session on 17 November, Colleen Barbus agreed that it would be a good idea to organise another synchronous meeting for the RDA Board and RSC. We are suggesting April again. Will most Board members be able to commit to a meeting on **Monday 27 April**? If so, the Secretary will organise a Doodle poll to find a time that works for most RSC and Board members. We are aware from last year that there are, of course, time challenges given the international nature of our membership, but we will do out best to find a time that works for most people.

We have not yet set the time of the three later Public Sessions. We are hoping that incoming Chair Chris Oliver will be able to attend our synchronous Executive Session on **Tuesday 20 January at 19:00-21:00 UTC**, and the Secretary will be in touch with her directly as soon as

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[1] If you are keen to know immediately the Minutes are published, please monitor https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/news where you will see this and other news.

she has finished drafting the November Meeting Minutes. We are aiming to set the time for the Public Sessions April – November 2026 in that Executive Session.

New RSC Representative for Oceania

As some members of the Board are already aware, Charlotte Christensen had to step down from the RSC due to health reasons[2]. Charlotte has been an extremely productive member of the RSC, most notably overseeing the first proposal from Oceania. RSC/Oceania/2024/1/rev/Decisions – Proposal on Dual-language naming of Corporate Body and Place[3] was published in March 2025 and implemented in the October 2025 release of the Toolkit.

The new Oceania Representative, Jack Ennis Butler, attended his first RSC Meeting as a voting member in November[4], and made valuable contributions to the discussions. Jack was already well-known to RSC members because he frequently attended RSC Meetings as an observer. You can find out more about him on his RSC webpage[5].

Thank you to Colleen Barbus

With the rotation of the Board Chair position from the US to Canada, November's RSC Meeting was Colleen's last *ex officio*. We will publish a public thanks to her on 31 December, but for now would like to offer our very great thanks to Colleen for being such an engaged and supportive Board Chair. We are particularly grateful that she has agreed to finalise this year's Board Strategy during this December Meeting. As experienced Board members know, the RSC can only agree its new Action Plan once the Board Strategy has been published, and it is always ideal to be able to finalise our Action Plan in our January Meeting, at the same time as we agree our Annual Report. The Chair and Secretary are very busy preparing both these documents, and will be extremely grateful to the Board for providing us with the Strategy at the end of this Board Meeting. In the meantime, we are proceeding based on Colleen's reassurance that the Strategy she is proposing follows the same course as last year, with a continued emphasis on internationalization.

With that in mind, our incoming Chair Elect Robert Maxwell has his first task, to coordinate with longstanding member of the IFLA standards working group Pat Riva and the Chair of the IFLA Bibliographic Conceptual Models Group, Sofia Zapiandou, to discuss a potential addition to the IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM) to accommodate a third element within Collective Agent. This falls within the terms of RSC/Chair/2023/rev – Protocol between the RSC and the IFLA Committee on Standards (CoS)[6]. As well as facilitating future development

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[2] News item: https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/charlotte202510
[3] https://hdl.handle.net/11213/22886
[4] News item: https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/welcomejackennisbutler
[5] https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/jackennisbutler
[6] http://hdl.handle.net/11213/21198

of RDA while maintaining its alignment with the LRM, this work is an ideal first task for Robert as he steps up from his role as RSC North America Representative to the international leadership role he will ultimately assume in January 2027 as RSC Chair. Given Renate Behrens' brief to increase RDA's and the RSC's internationalization, it also represents a sharing of skills at the highest level of RSC leadership. Robert is looking forward to learning more about the RDA community beyond North America, and expresses his gratitude for the support he knows he will receive from the RDA Board in his year as RSC Chair Elect, as well, of course, to Renate and to ALA Director of Digital Reference James Hennelly.

RSC Members' Annual Reports Published

Ahead of the Public Session of the RSC on 18 November, we circulated RSC Members' Annual Reports. These were then published on 19 November[7]. You can access the Information for Observers document, which contains the annual reports in its appendix on ALAIR[8], and we would ask you to take time to read them and provide us with any feedback. These individual annual reports feed into the RSC Annual Report which the Chair and Secretary are preparing for presentation at the RSC January Meeting Executive Session. Colleen Barbus provided a verbal report and has promised to send her written report before the Secretary publishes the Minutes, which will include all the individual annual reports in its appendix.

RSC Meeting November 2025

Since its last report to the Board, the RSC has met online, on 17-20 November[9] with a synchronous Executive Session on Monday 17 November via Google Meet. A Public Session was held via Zoom on Tuesday 18 November.

Presentation on the NSLA Official RDA Project

We continued with our programme of presentations on Official RDA implementation with a recorded presentation by Aimee Hay, Program Coordinator, National State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) on their Official RDA Project[10]. We are very grateful to Aimee for providing this presentation, which was very well-received by RSC members and Meeting observers. We are also grateful that Aimee shared her email address so those with questions can contact her directly. As always, it is interesting to see the flexibility that RDA offers in terms of its support for different implementation scenarios. In NSLA's case, the national nature of the implementation is a clear strength of their approach. Aimee also expressed thanks to colleagues at the National Library of New Zealand for sharing their implementation experience so freely. NSLA has adopted a similar approach of openness in terms of the work they have already completed.

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[7] News item: https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/novemberobserversarchive

[8] RSC/Observers/538-555, https://hdl.handle.net/11213/23487

[9] Minutes in preparation.

[10] The presentation was published to the RDA Toolkit YouTube Channel on 19 November: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmxCGPUvTqw. It is also linked from the RSC news section - https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/November2025NSLA – and from the Implementing Official RDA webpage: https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/implementingRDA

Proposals Discussed or Introduced

RSC/ReligionsWG/2025/1 – Proposal to Revise Name of Corporate Body
This proposal followed up on the request made by the RSC for the Religions in RDA Working Group to find places in the Toolkit where some of their suggestions for religious bodies could be implemented at a more general level[11]. After a wide-ranging discussion voting members of the RSC decided unanimously to implement the proposal in the knowledge that further changes will be discussed and implemented in the fullness of time. The Secretary was tasked with implementation accordingly. The Technical Working Group and the Religions in RDA Working Group were tasked with working together on enhancements to the glossary definitions to deal with some of the issues raised by the RSC in discussion[12].

RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1 – Discussion paper on soft-deprecated parallel elements
Technical Team Liaison Officer Chris Holden introduced RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1 – Discussion paper on soft-deprecated parallel elements[13]. It includes links to earlier discussions so that members of the RDA community can locate the current discussion within the lengthy and ongoing conversations around soft-deprecated terms. It also presents examples of catalogue metadata sets to provide community members with ideas of how some institutions have dealt with issues without using the soft-deprecated terms.

As well as paying tribute to members of the Working Group - Gordon Dunsire, Deborah Fritz, Szabina Ilácsa, Damian Iseminger, Ricardo Santos Muñoz, Stefan Schuh - Chris thanked members of the wider RDA community who have been so willing to engage in discussions about soft-deprecated terms already. He hopes that the Discussion Paper presents options for parallel elements that will assist in moving towards next steps, and is really looking forward to discussing RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1 in our January RSC Meeting.

Proposals from the Extent Working Group for discussion in January
Extent Working Group Chair Thomas Brenndorfer introduced the 8 proposals that the Working Group has submitted for discussion in the Public Session of the January 2026 Meeting. These proposals have been described as the largest change to the text of RDA since the 3R Project and we will be very grateful if Board members will take the time to read them and take part in the usual feedback process.

The proposals have been designed as a suite, so you are advised to set aside time to read them all through first before delving into the details of each one.

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[11] RSC/ReligionsWG/2025/1 - https://hdl.handle.net/11213/23268 - was published on 22 September and responses were received between 10 October and 13 November. RSC/ReligionsWG/2025/1/summary which includes links to the official responses, was published on 13 November: https://hdl.handle.net/11213/23381.
[12] RSC/ReligionsWG/2025/1/Decisions will be drafted, published and implemented as soon as practicable.
[13] RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1 - https://hdl.handle.net/11213/23621 – was published on 18 November, just ahead of the Public Session. A news item was published on 19 November: https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/technicalwg20251

The Working Group took a full year to revise all the feedback received for its Discussion Paper (RSC/ExtentWG/2024/1), and Thomas thanked everyone who commented on that. He suggested that you may wish to refresh your memory of the Discussion Paper and its discussion (RSC/Minutes/483-499 Item 488) before reading the proposals[14].

- RSC/ExtentWG/2025/1 - Proposal for Manifestation: **extent of manifestation** and Manifestation: **manifestation extent statement**
- RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2 - Proposal for Manifestation: **extent of unitary structure**
- RSC/ExtentWG/2025/3 - Proposal for Manifestation: **extent of unit** and its subtype elements
- RSC/ExtentWG/2025/4 - Proposal for Manifestation: **extent of aggregated content**
- RSC/ExtentWG/2025/5 - Proposal for Manifestation: **extent of embodied content** and its subtype elements
- RSC/ExtentWG/2025/6 - Proposal for Manifestation: **duration of embodied content**
- RSC/ExtentWG/2025/7 - Proposal for container and storage subelements of Manifestation: **extent of manifestation**
- RSC/ExtentWG/2025/8 - Proposal for Manifestation: **sequence of units of extent**

RSC Chair Renate Behrens thanked Thomas and the other members of the Extent Working Group. It is being stood down as planned, with the Working Group on String Encoding Schemes (SES) taking over from it and consisting initially of many members of the Extent Working Group, with Thomas as Chair. As you read the Extent proposals, you will see there is a strong need for SES to be developed in support of many of them, and so the RSC was happy to approve the standing down officially of the Extent Working Group on the understanding that the first task of the SES Working Group will be seeing the Extent proposals through discussion and implementation.

RDA Toolkit Release

There has been one release of the Toolkit since the last Board Meeting, on 9 October for the English language version and others in the weeks following. It includes changes to 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 New Zealand National Library. This release also introduces the policy statements from the Rare Books and Materials Section (RBMS). For more detailed information, you can read the full release notes[15]. It is also worth mentioning that the Spanish translation of Official RDA debuted in this release[16].

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[14] News item published on 19 November: https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/extentWGproposals
[15] https://access.rdatoolkit.org/en-US_topic_10092025_RN
[16] https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news/rda/announcing-spanish-translation-official-rda

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.

Themed Issues of *Catalogue & Index*

This is progressing as planned and we look forward to being able to share a more detailed update in our next Report to the Board.

Other Outreach Activities

The RSC Secretary has updated the Presentations and Outreach 2025 webpage[17] as follows:

Title	Presenter / Author	Sponsor / Venue	Notes	Date Posted
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]	Slides in Spanish. Title in English: Considering AI in the Growth of RDA: Joint RDA Board and RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence report, 2024-Sept. 2025	10 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]	Slides also available in Spanish: RDA – un estándar encaminado a una mayor internacionalidad y colaboración	17 November
Scaffolding Transitions: Applying	Elisa Sze, May Chan and Kyla Jemison	BIBFRAME Workshop in Europe 2025	Video available on conference YouTube	17 November

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[17] https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/presentations2025

Lessons from Teaching Official RDA to BIBFRAME Training (slides)				
Report from RDA Steering Committee (slides)	Renate Behrens	BIBFRAME Workshop in Europe 2025	Video available on conference YouTube	
Examples Development for RDA Toolkit/RBMS Policy Statements for Official RDA Toolkit	Jessica Grzegorski	NARDAC Forum, ALA Conference, 28 June 2025		30 October

These are also included in the About Pages for RSC members.

The last report to the Board[18] was published on 8 September, since it contained no business confidential information. The current report will be published once all business confidential activities have been completed. We continue to share regular updates on the RSC News page[19].

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[18] RSC/Chair/2025/17, https://hdl.handle.net/11213/23205
[19] https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/news