

To: RDA Steering Committee
From: Renate Behrens, RSC Chair
Subject: Martin Lüpold, Chair of the Archives Working Group
Interim report of the Archives Working Group

1. Introduction

The RSC Archives Working Group was formed in 2025 and held 1 preparatory meeting and 5 regular meetings.

This is an interim report to RSC reporting progress on the following questions to be researched:

1. Are there institutions that are currently using RDA to document archival materials? Are there institutions that are using retrieval systems that search metadata prepared using RDA for library materials and another standard for archival materials? What are the challenges facing these institutions?
2. Does, or can, RDA provide sufficient instructions and tools to archivists seeking to describe archival collections that are organised according to the principle of *provenance* and *respect des fonds*?
3. Does, or can, RDA provide sufficient instructions or tools for archivists to record the custodial history of documents according to archival traditions?
4. Is there a possibility for establishing an alignment between [RDA and Records in Context \(RIC\)](#), the new standard by the International Council on Archives Experts Group on Archival Description (EGAD)?
5. Are there standards bodies with which it would be useful for the RSC to establish (a) protocol(s)?

2. Questions to be researched

2.1. Reach out to the community

2.1.1. Survey

The working group decided to conduct a survey to reach out to institutions currently using RDA to document archival materials or interested in RDA. Apart from libraries, certain archives and portals should also be targeted.

- The group formulated questions and set up a Google form survey which is currently been tested by the group members.
- The group began putting together channels and e-mail lists for sending the survey out.
- The survey shall be sent out in February 2026.

2.1.2. Contacts with the community

The chair presented the work of the Working group at the Kalliope workshop in Berlin

(October) and was in contact with the RNAB community ("Resource - Cataloguing with Authority Data in Archives and Libraries" serves as an unofficial RDA application profile in the RDA DACH region).

2.2. RDA and the principle of provenance and respect des fonds

The working group checks which RDA elements can be used and what guidance is given in the Toolkit. Discussions will continue in 2026.

2.3. RDA and recording the custodial history

The working group checks which RDA elements can be used and what guidance is given in the Toolkit. Discussions will continue in 2026.

2.4. Establishing an alignment between RDA and Records in Context (RIC)

The working group found that an alignment could be established at different levels: At the levels of principles, or conceptual models, or cataloguing standards, or ontologies, or application profiles, or encodings. In particular, aligning the ontology level (RDA Registry and RiC-O) could be interesting. Discussions will continue in 2026.

2.5. Standards bodies with which it would be useful for the RSC to establish (a) protocol(s)

The working group discussed the relationship to EGAD, among others (possible contribution to part 5 of the RiC Application Guidelines). Discussions will continue in 2026.

2.6. Further work

RDA Collections Model: The working group discussed the RDA collections model with Chris Holden (Technical Team Officer) and Damian Iseminger (Past Technical Team Officer).