

To: RDA Board and RDA Steering Committee
From: Renate Behrens, RSC Chair
Subject: RSC Report, May 2026

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 published¹.**

Save the Dates: Countdown Clock Webinars

The Executive Committee is organising webinars throughout the period of the Countdown Clock. Two in the English language have been scheduled so far, with a third and final to be scheduled for May 2027:

- 19 May 2026 at 4-4:30pm UTC (There is a handy time converter [here](#)). Renate as Chair and James as RDA Publisher will check in with the community a week after the Countdown Clock has started. They will highlight what is happening and answer any questions. The Utah Library Association Conference is taking place that week, and in a very nice touch, the organisers have scheduled a group watching of the webinar. In the last 5-10 minutes, Renate and James will cut to Robert who say a few words from his home state.
- 19 November 2026 at 7-9pm UTC (There is a handy time converter [here](#)). Education and Orientation Officer Elisa Sze and Examples Editor Jessica Grzegorski are scheduling an interactive session at the half-way point of the Countdown. The format is similar to the Outreach events that we have scheduled for in-person meetings, and is taking place on the Thursday of the November Meeting. The programme will be firmed up closer to the time, so that we have a chance to address topics we know are of interest to those implementing Official RDA in the year of the Countdown Clock
- May 2027 – date and time to be agreed. Robert as Chair and James as Publisher will give a half-hour webinar concluding the Countdown year, showing where the text of Original RDA has gone and letting people know what happens next. ORDAC is very keen for this seminar to be in their time zone, and with Robert's location this is more feasible.

ORDAC is also planning some of their webinars and is coordinating with James to ensure that content is complementary.

¹ Addendum 5 June 2026: [RSC/Minutes/585-598](#) published ; addendum 10 June 2026: [RSC-RDABoard/Minutes/023-036](#) published.

Three Proposals Approved by the RSC

Minutes and Decisions Documents are under preparation, but it is no secret that voting members of the RSC have approved all three proposals brought to the RSC April Meeting. There are amendments to each of them, and a follow-up proposal is being prepared for one of them, but they will be implemented later in the year / early 2027 (according to the release schedule and work load of the editorial group, and supervised by James). The proposals are:

- [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1](#) – Soft-deprecated elements related to Manifestation: material
- [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2](#) – Soft-deprecated elements: “Details” elements
- [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1](#) – Proposal on adding new elements, applicable to rare and old materials, to the RDA Toolkit, the corresponding new definition to the Glossary, and the corresponding new properties to RDA Registry

RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1 was passed with the proviso that it not be implemented until RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2 was also ready for implementation. This is a follow-up to deal with the new terms suggested in several of the responses to RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1 and with the “Scribe, etc.” terms which were contested by EURIG on the basis of the centuries old schism between the practices of book cataloguers (enshrined in RSC/TranslationsTLO2026/1) and archival cataloguers, which the Europe Representative feared were being excluded from the proposal.

The Translations Team Liaison Officer is leading the preparation of RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2 with input from ORDAC, NARDAC, EURIG and Education and Orientation Officer and the usual support from The RDA Examples Editor, Technical Team Liaison Officer and RSC Secretary.

Three Proposals Published for Constituency Consultation

Three Proposals have been published for Constituency Review: the next two proposals on soft-deprecated terms were introduced within the RSC Meeting², and the Examples Editor managed to complete a proposal on which she had been working slightly earlier than she had expected and it was published on 1 May (UK time)³.

You can follow the responses to them on their website pages:

- [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/3](#) - Resource-to-resource digest, review, and critique elements

² News item: <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news/rsc/latest-news-soft-deprecated-terms>

³ News item: <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news/rsc/rscexampleseditor20261-ready-community-consultation>

- [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/4](#) - Soft-deprecated elements specific to content and carrier types
- [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/TechnicalWG/TranslationsTLO/2026/2](#) will be published as soon as it has been drafted.

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 November⁴. You can access the Information for Observers document, which contains the annual reports in its appendix on ALAIR⁵, 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.

RDA for Archives: Survey

As reported in the Joint Meeting of the RDA Board / RSC, the Archives Working Group has issued a survey, which is open for contributions until 15 May. There is a news item about it [here](#) which we would be grateful if Board members will circulate to their colleagues working in archives who may like to contribute.

Discharge of Extent Working Group and Terms of Reference of String Encoding Scheme (SES) Working Group

With thanks to the Board for extending the period of the Extent Working Group, their proposals were discussed at the January Meeting of the RSC, and the direction of travel was agreed by voting members of the RSC. It was agreed that rather than asking the Board for another extension to the Extent Working Group, and given that its proposals were focused on SES, the work of creating more fully-developed proposals would be taken on by the new String Encoding Scheme Working Group. Accordingly, the Extent Working Group was discharged at the April Meeting⁶, and the SES Working Group was established⁷. The SES Working Group's webpage is [here](#).

⁴ News item: <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/novemberobserversarchive>

⁵ RSC/Observers/538-555, <https://hdl.handle.net/11213/23487>

⁶ RSC/Chair/2026/8 was published on 29 April: <https://hdl.handle.net/11213/24246>

⁷ RSC/Chair/2026/9 was published on 1 May: <https://hdl.handle.net/11213/24253> ; news item: <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news/rsc/welcome-string-encoding-scheme-working-group>

Terms of Reference for the Music Working Group

The Music Working Group has updated its Terms of Reference⁸ and its webpage has been published [here](#).

Danish Implementation of Official RDA

In the Public Session of the RSC Meeting, Camilla Riis Petersen, Bibliographic Consultant, DBD Digital) provided a presentation on the Danish implementation of RDA. In particular she highlighted two entities introduced in Denmark that are not present in the IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM) or RDA but which work within the Danish cataloguing rules, DanMARC, to support documentation, search and retrieval in their national context. You can watch Camilla's presentation (again) [here](#). The [Implementing Official RDA](#) webpage has been updated, and a [news item](#) published.

RDA Toolkit Release

There has been one release of the Toolkit since the last Board Meeting, on 17 February for the English language version and others in the weeks following. It includes new examples and the introduction OLAC (On-line Audiovisual Catalogers) Best Practices. Updates were also made to policy statements from the British Library, Library Archives Canada, Library of Congress/Program for Cooperative Cataloging, National Library of New Zealand, and RBMS. Subscribers can read the full release notes [here](#)⁹.

Themed Issues of *Catalogue & Index*

This is moving from the editing to the typesetting stage and we may have more news about it by the end of this week¹⁰.

Other Outreach Activities

The RSC Secretary has updated the Presentations and Outreach 2026 webpage¹¹ as follows:

⁸ RSC/Chair/2026/10 was published on 1 May: <https://hdl.handle.net/11213/24252>

⁹ News item: <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news/rda/february-2026-rda-toolkit-release>

¹⁰ Addendum 23 June 2026: *Catalogue & Index 215* has been published.

¹¹ <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/presentations2026>

Presentation / Publication Date	Title	Presenter / Author	Sponsor / Venue	Notes
27 April	Survey on RDA Implementation Organised by EURIG	Hannes Lowagie	Joint RDA Board / RSC Meeting, 27 April	
13 April	NARDAC Spring Forum	Thomas Brenndorfer, Hong Cui, Trina Soderquist and Adam Baron	NARDAC	
13 April 2026	RDA Implementation at the Library of Congress	Trina Soderquist	NARDAC Spring Update Forum	
13 March	Removing the Barrier: the Language of RDA	Anne Welsh	CILIP Metadata and Discovery Group Conference. RDA Day	
13 March	Using the Toolkit as a Toolkit	James Hennelly	CILIP Metadata and Discovery Group Conference. RDA Day	
13 March	RDA in an Hour: the Countdown Clock	Renate Behrens	CILIP Metadata and Discovery Group Conference. RDA Day	
26 February	RDA and Choreographic Works	Robert L. Maxwell	Music Library Association Annual Meeting 2026, Salt Lake City, Utah, 25-26 February	

12 February	Why Metadata Matters: The Role of Standards and Models in Resource Discovery and Access	Getaneh Alemu	ECA Library Capacity Building Workshop, Addis Ababa, 12-13 February	
10 February	An Introduction to Using RDA for Cataloguing	Elisa Sze	Webinar for the Southeast Asian Cataloguers Community of Practice	
2 February	EURIG: First Among Equals	Ahava Cohen	RDA in Europe and the World, RSC/RDA Toolkit YouTube	Presentation starts at 1:32:13
2 February	How to Join the RDA Community	James Hennelly	RDA in Europe and the World, RSC/RDA Toolkit YouTube	Presentation starts at 1:19:37
2 February	Switching from Original RDA to Official RDA	Marja-Liisa Seppala (invited speaker)	RDA in Europe and the World, RSC/RDA Toolkit YouTube	Presentation starts at 1:07:48
2 February	Transitioning to Official RDA Without Fear: Myths, Misconceptions and Lessons from the National Library of Greece	Michalis Gerolimos (invited speaker)	RDA in Europe and the World, RSC/RDA Toolkit YouTube	Presentation starts at 48:36
2 February	Benefits of Translation and Implementation	Szabolcs Dancs	RDA in Europe and the World, RSC/RDA Toolkit YouTube	Presentation starts at 35:50
2 February	Introduction to RDA: General Information About the Standard	Elisa Sze	RDA in Europe and the World, RSC/RDA Toolkit YouTube	Presentation starts at 15:03

2 February	State of RDA in Europe and the World	Renate Behrens	RDA in Europe and the World, RSC/RDA Toolkit YouTube	Presentation starts at 2:57
2 February	RDA in Europe and the World	Renate Behrens, Szabolcs Dancs, Elisa Sze, James Hennelly, Ahava Cohen, and invited speakers	RSC / RDA Toolkit YouTube	This is the link to the whole event recording. See above for individual start times.
28 January 2026	Cataloguing with Official RDA from Toolkit to Record: Breaking Down the Workflow	Thomas Brenndorfer, Susie Jones, Elisa Sze, Ellen Wright	Ontario Library Association Super Conference 2026	
12 January	News from the RDA Steering Committee (RSC)	Anne Welsh	<i>IFLA Metadata Newsletter</i> 11(2): 28-34	

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

The last report to the Board¹² was published on 2 February, 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 page¹³.

¹² RSC/Chair/2025/17, <https://hdl.handle.net/11213/23205>

¹³ <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/news>