

To: RDA Board
RDA Steering Committee

From: Renate Behrens, RSC Chair
Christine Oliver, RDA Board Chair

Subject: Working Group on Artificial Intelligence, October 2026

This document supersedes [RSC/Chair/2026/4](#) and provides an updated set of tasks ([Section 4](#)) ahead of the proposed test of AI use in metadata creation ([RSC/Minutes/599-615](#) Item 606.2).

1 Background

Artificial Intelligence is a growth area of interest in cataloguing, librarianship and society in general. It seemed timely for the RDA Board and RDA Steering Committee to investigate potential uses and threats present in the production of RDA. With this in mind, the RDA Board suggested a joint Working Group be established in 2024 and this was agreed by the RSC ([RSC/Minutes/444-455](#) Item 446.5). In the December 2025 meeting of the RDA Board, the status of the Working Group was changed from Task and Finish to Advisory, and a new task list was provided ([RSC/Chair/2026/4](#)).

This initiative aims to explore AI's role in maintaining metadata quality, defining minimum standards for AI-generated RDA datasets, and addressing ethical and technical challenges. The Working Group published a White Paper, [RSC/Papers/2025/1 -- Considering AI in the Growth of RDA](#), in January 2025. Its first annual report was published in November 2025 ([RSC/AIWG/2025/AnnualReport](#)). In 2026, a subgroup consisting of Christian Aliverti and Renate Behrens presented the RSC and the RDA Board with a list of fields they suggested using in a proposed test of AI use in metadata creation ([RSC/Minutes/599-615](#) Item 606). In its meeting in September 2026, the RDA Board gave the go ahead for the test which was approved by the RSC ([RSC/Minutes/599-615](#) Item 606) but was concerned that approval for the test should not be interpreted at this point as RDA Board endorsement of the concept.

2 Membership

Ahava Cohen, Europe Representative to the RSC, Chair

Getaneh Alemu, RSC Wider Community Engagement Officer

Christian Aliverti, National Library of Switzerland¹
Colleen Barbus, RDA Board
Renate Behrens, RSC Chair
Charlene Chou, New York University²
Hui Ling Ng, RDA Board
Hannes Lowagie, RDA Board
Ángela Quiroz Ubierna, RDA Board

James Hennelly, ALA Digital Reference *ex officio*

It is usual for members who joined the Working Group during their tenure as members of the RDA Board or RDA Steering Committee to be invited to remain on the Working Group when their official term ends, but this is not always the case.

3 Terms of Reference

The Working Group operates within [RSC/Operations/1/2026](#) Section 6, the general terms of reference for RSC Working Groups. Having started as a task-and-finish group, the RDA Board agreed in its December 2025 meeting to being an Advisory Working Group. Although Advisory Working Groups do not have an end date, their work is reviewed each year, and their terms agreed.

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Working Group focuses on practical applications of AI to enhance metadata quality and RDA implementation.

Having completed the tasks set in its original Terms of Reference with the publication of its White Paper, [Considering AI in the Growth of RDA \(RSC/Papers/2025/1\)](#), the RDA Board and RSC re-tasked it with new Terms of Reference in [RSC/Chair/2025/10](#). These terms were updated again in January 2026 ([RSC/Chair/2026/4](#)). The current document sets out extended Terms of Reference agreed by the Board and the RSC in September 2026.

¹ Christian volunteered for this Working Group when he was a member of the RDA Board and was asked to stay on the Group when his term as a National Institution Representative came to an end.

² Charlene volunteered for this Working Group when she was a member of the RDA Steering Committee and was asked to stay on the Group when her term as Wider Community Engagement Officer came to an end.

4 Tasks

1. Research and Review

- Carry out a test of the fields used by cataloguing institutions when carrying out AI processes
- Draft guidelines for creating and using AI to help users navigate the RDA Toolkit. [Continued from [RSC/Chair/2026/4](#)]

2. Define Standards for AI-Generated Metadata

- Develop a minimal set of entities and elements that, if present, a dataset must include to be RDA compliant, even if the metadata is automatically generated. [Continued from [RSC/Chair/2026/4](#)]
- Establish quality criteria for RDA compliant metadata (including AI-generated metadata) to ensure reliability, accuracy, and consistency. [Continued from [RSC/Chair/2026/4](#)]

3. Recording and Documentation

- Provide recommendations for transparency in the AI-assisted metadata creation process. [Continued from [RSC/Chair/2026/4](#)]
- Propose methods for documenting the AI-generated nature of RDA data in metadata records. [Continued from [RSC/Chair/2026/4](#)]

5 Deliverables

- Recommendations for standards and quality requirements for RDA compliant AI-generated metadata. [Continued from [RSC/Chair/2026/4](#)]
- Guidelines for documenting AI-generated metadata and creating an AI Toolkit Guide. [Continued from [RSC/Chair/2026/4](#)]
- Provide brief progress reports to the RDA Board and the RSC for each meeting. [Continued from [RSC/Chair/2026/4](#)]
- An interim written report each year summarising findings, recommendations, and next steps. The usual expectation is for this to be agreed by the Board in its final meeting each year and by the RSC in its first meeting of the following year [Continued from [RSC/Chair/2026/4](#)].

6 Reference sources

- [Considering AI in the Growth of RDA \(RSC/Papers/2025/1\)](#)

- *Application profile for AI/Computational description* (Business confidential paper presented to the RSC in July 2026 and the RDA Board in September 2026)³
- [United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/78/L.49 Seizing the Opportunities of Safe, Secure and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence Systems for Sustainable Development, 11 March 2024](#)
- [IFLA Statement on Libraries and Artificial Intelligence, Agreed by the IFLA Governing Board, 17 September 2020](#)
- [Draft PCC Guiding Principles for Use of AI and Machine Learning Technologies in Cataloging and Metadata Work, March 13 2025](#)
- [PCC Task Group on Strategic Planning for AI and Machine Learning for Cataloging and Metadata: Final Report, 15 April 2024](#)
- [IFLA Artificial Intelligence Special Interest Group. 23 Resources to Get Up to Speed on AI in 2023](#)
- [Andrew M. Cox. *The Impact of AI, Machine Learning, Automation and Robotics on the Information Professions: A report for CILIP*, May 2021](#)
- [Saccucci, Caroline and Potter, Abigail. "16 Assessing Machine Learning for Cataloging at the Library of Congress" In *New Horizons in Artificial Intelligence in Libraries* edited by Edmund Balnaves, Leda Bultrini, Andrew Cox and Raymond Uzwysyn, 227-238. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Saur, 2025.](#)

³ This will be published at the appropriate time to be decided by the RDA Board and RSC.