
To: Gaelle Bequet, ISSN International Centre
CC: RDA Steering Committee

From: Renate Behrens, RSC Chair

Subject: Protocol between the RSC and the ISSN International Centre

Background

“RDA is a package of data elements, guidelines, and instructions for creating library and cultural heritage resource metadata that are well-formed according to international models for user-focussed linked data applications” ([RDA Steering Committee website](#)).

“The successful operation of the ISSN Network depends on the uniform application of common rules and standards for the registration of continuing resources and for the preparation of ISSN records for integration into the ISSN Register. In developing these rules, the ISSN Review Group works closely with other standards groups and stakeholders to ensure compatibility and interoperability in what is a relatively volatile and changing environment. The review group has active membership or observer status with e.g. IFLA’s International Standard Bibliographic Description Review Group (ISBD, Consolidated edition), the Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC), the RDA Steering Committee and the MARC Advisory Committee” ([ISSN Manual. MARC 21 version. December 2024 Edition, ISSN International Centre, 15 May 2025](#), pages 9-10).

This document updates the protocol between the RDA Steering Committee (RSC) and the ISSN International Centre. As such it supersedes [RSC/Chair/13](#) (28 January 2016). For a brief history of the relationship between RSC (and its predecessor the Joint Steering Committee for RDA (JSC) and the ISSN International Centre, see [RSC/Chair/13](#) and [6JSC/Chair/22](#) (4 June 2015).

Purpose

The current document sets out the relationship at the strategic level between the ISSN International Centre and the RDA Steering Committee (RSC), the managing body for RDA.

The purpose of the protocol is to support the maintenance and development of functional interoperability between data created using RDA and the ISSN instructions and element sets.

Methodology

The protocol is intended to be lightweight to avoid significant changes to the current practices, priorities, and workflows of the RSC and the ISSN International Centre.

The protocol may be supported by the use of shared documents containing alignments and mappings between components of RDA and ISSN. The RSC and the ISSN International Centre are responsible for maintaining their versions of the shared documentation.

The usual channel of communication between the two groups takes place through the position of the RSC Chair and the Director of the ISSN International Centre. At their discretion, the liaison may be delegated to another suitable person, but the liaison itself remains with the positions of RSC Chair and ISSN International Centre Director, not with any specific human being.

Duties of the RSC

The RSC Chair will be the liaison to the ISSN International Centre and will provide the Director of the ISSN International Centre with their contact information. In the unlikely event that the RSC Chair is unable to be the liaison to the ISSN International Centre, they will delegate liaison to another member of the RSC and will provide the Director of the ISSN International Centre with their contact information.

The RSC recognizes the ISSN International Centre liaison as a channel of communication between the ISSN International Centre and the RSC, informing the RSC of relevant ISSN International Centre information or activities that may impact the RDA community activities.

The RSC will consider proposals and discussion papers from the ISSN International Centre for developing RDA to improve the functional interoperability of RDA and ISSN. Proposals can be made at any of the RSC's Meetings, and the Director of the ISSN International Centre can ask the RSC Chair for the submission date for the next meeting. Proposals and discussion papers from the ISSN will be published by the RSC according to its usual policy and procedures.

The RSC Chair will inform the ISSN International Centre of potential or impending changes to RDA which may impact on shared and ISSN documentation.

Duties of the ISSN International Centre

The Director of the ISSN International Centre will be the liaison to the RSC and will provide the RSC with their contact information. In the event that the ISSN International Centre Director is unable to be the liaison to the RSC they will delegate liaison to another member of the ISSN International Centre and will provide the RSC with their contact information.

The ISSN International Centre recognizes the RSC liaison as a channel of communication between the RSC and the ISSN International Centre, informing the ISSN community of relevant

RSC information or activities that RSC judges important for the ISSN community to know, and informing RSC of relevant ISSN International Centre activities and information that may impact RDA and RSC activities.

The ISSN International Centre will consider proposals for developing ISSN policies or procedures to improve the functional interoperability of ISSN and RDA during the usual review cycle for ISSN. The ISSN International Centre will publish proposals and discussion papers according to the ISSN International Centre's policy and procedures.

The ISSN International Centre Director will inform the RSC of potential or impending changes to ISSN policies or procedures that may impact on shared and RDA documentation.

Related documents

- [RSC/Chair/13](#) (28 January 2016) precedes the current document and includes a summary of the history of the relationship between the RSC and the ISSN International Centre.
- [6JSC/Chair/22](#) (4 June 2015) precedes RSC/Chair/13 and contains further information on the history of the relationship between the RSC and the ISSN International Centre.
- [RSC/Chair/13/Shared documents](#) (28 January 2016) lists shared documents dating from the time of the RSC's predecessor, the JSC. Because of their date, they deal with Original RDA, for which the countdown clock will run between May 2026 and May 2027 and so are background documents now. It may be worth the ISSN International Centre's informing the RSC Chair if they are aware of any areas of Official RDA that would benefit from discussion between the ISSN International Centre and the RSC or if Official RDA is aligned with ISSN.

For the ISSN International Centre

Gaëlle BEQUET
Director



For the RDA Steering Committee

Renate Behrens
Chair

