

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2026 MEETING of the RDA Steering Committee
Asynchronous, via Basecamp, Google Meet and Zoom
19-22 January 2026

Attending: Getaneh Alemu, RSC Wider Community Engagement Officer
Renate Behrens, RSC Chair
Ahava Cohen, RSC Europe Representative
Szabolcs Dancs, RSC Translations Team Liaison Officer
Jack Ennis Butler, RSC Oceania Representative
Jessica Grzegorski, RDA Examples Editor
James Hennelly, Director, ALA Digital Reference (RDA publisher)
Christopher Holden, RSC Technica Team Liaison Officer
Filiberto Felipe Martinez Arellano, RSC Latin America and the Caribbean
Representative
Robert Maxwell, RSC Chair Elect
Christine Oliver, Canadian Federation of Library Associations (RDA copyright
holder), RDA Board Chair
Trina Soderquist, RSC North America Representative
Elisa Sze, RSC Education and Orientation Officer
Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary

Invited Speaker (Public Session only):

Thomas Brenndorfer, Chair of the RSC Extent Working Group

Observers registered for the Public Session on 21 January:

Catherine Amey, New Zealand
Adam Baron, USA
Gaelle Bequet, France
Dominique Bourassa, USA
Charlotte Christensen, New Zealand
Charlene Chou, USA
Hong Cui, Canada
Bonnie Dede, USA
Deborah Fritz, USA
Kathy Glennan, USA
Michela Goodwin, Australia
Juan Ignacio, France
Laura Jamieson, New Zealand
Joanna Katsune, USA

Hannes Lowagie, Belgium
Nathalie Mainville, Canada
Daniel Paradis, Canada
Ángela Quiroz Ubierna, Chile
Pat Riva, Canada
Adam Schiff, USA
George Sweetensen, New Zealand
Thurstan Young, UK

Agenda item numbering continues from the previous meeting.

Table of Contents

556 Welcome, Housekeeping and review of previous action items

Executive Session

Asynchronous Meeting

557 Annual Report

558 Action Plan

559 Operations Documents

560 Training

561 Updates from Working Groups

562 Updates from Regional Representatives

563 Update from the Education and Orientation Officer

564 Update from the Wider Community Engagement Officer

565 Update on *Catalogue & Index* May 2026 issue

Synchronous Meeting, Tuesday 20 January

566 Update from the Board

567 Update from ALA Digital Reference

568 Update from the Chair and Chair Elect

569 Meetings 2026

570 Extent Proposals

571 Discussion Paper on Soft-deprecated Terms

572 Questions from New Members

Public Session, Wednesday 21 January

[573 Introduction to the Extent proposals](#)

[574 RSC/ExtentWG/2025/1](#)

[575 RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2](#)

[576 RSC/ExtentWG/2025/3](#)

[577 RSC/ExtentWG/2025/4](#)

[578 RSC/ExtentWG/2025/5](#)

[579 RSC/ExtentWG/2025/6](#)

[580 RSC/ExtentWG/2025/7](#)

[581 RSC/ExtentWG/2025/8](#)

[582 RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1](#)

[583 Dates for your diary](#)

[584 AOB \(Any Other Business\)](#)

556 Welcome, Housekeeping and review of previous action items

All action items have been completed or are in progress. In the Synchronous Executive Session on Tuesday 20 January, Renate Behrens extended a particularly warm welcome to North America Representative Trina Soderquist, attending for the first time, Getaneh Alemu, attending for the first time as Wider Community Engagement Officer, and Christine Oliver, attending for the first time in this, her second term as RDA Board Chair, having succeeded Colleen Barbus on 1 January 2026. In the Public Session, Renate repeated this welcome and also welcomed Thomas Brenndorfer, Chair of the Extent Working Group, as an invited speaker, and, of course, the observers. She thanked all those present and not present who had responded to the proposals and discussion paper under discussion, since this is the backbone of the RSC decision-making process.

Executive Session**Asynchronous Meeting****557 Annual Report**

The Secretary presented the Annual Report for 2025 and the RSC approved it for publication. [RSC/Annual Report/2025](#) was published on 9 February.

558 Action Plan

The Secretary presented the current draft and other members of the committee provided updates. The final text was approved. The action plan was published as [RSC/Chair/2026/2](#) on 9 February. It supersedes [RSC/Chair/2025/1](#) which covered the period 2025-2027.

559 Operations Documents

The Secretary raised the issue of workload and it was agreed that going forward the aim will be to present and approve the Annual Reports and Action plans in the first RSC Meeting each year (usually in January) and the Operations Documents will be updated and presented for approval in the second RSC Meeting each year (usually April / May).

560 Training

There was a discussion on training following the publication of the updated Operations Documents.

561 Updates from Working Groups**561.1 Task and Finish / Advisory Working Groups**

Renate Behrens shared the interim report of the Archives Working Group ([RSC/Chair/2026/1](#)) and shared updates from the other Task and Finish and Working Groups. Ahava Cohen shared an update on the work of the Joint RDA Board / RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Their new terms of reference (TOR) had been discussed and approved at the Board

meeting in December, subject to the approval of the RSC. In particular, the Board recommended that this group move from Task and Finish to Advisory status, since it is clear that AI and its use in cataloguing is a topic that is here for the long term. The new TOR were published on 23 March as [RSC/Chair/2026/4](#) and the [working group webpage](#) and main [working groups webpage](#) updated with changes.

561.2 Examples Working Group

Jessica Grzegorski provided a brief update on the work of the group. In particular, she officially welcomed Tolga Çakmak, who has been active in Turkish RDA translators group. She also thanked outgoing member Emine Hatun Gür for her contributions. It is worth noting that the Working Group has added many examples to the Toolkit for Person and Corporate Body relationship elements for which there previously were no examples. These examples are based on a spreadsheet that the Program for Cooperative Cataloging created for its own documentation and training purposes. Jessica and the Working Group are grateful for the work that the PCC put into the creation of the examples, and they will continue to repurpose more of the examples as an ongoing project. [RSC/Chair/2026/5 – Examples Working Group, 2026](#) was published on 23 March and the [working group webpage](#) updated to reflect the new membership.

561.3 Technical Working Group

Chris Holden provided an overview of the current work of the Technical Working Group. In terms of work that is not business confidential, the Group is looking forward to hearing the community's responses to [RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1](#) (see [Item 582](#)). The RSC approved the Group's new terms of reference (TOR), which differ from the previous TOR only in the appointment of the new Wider Community Engagement Officer. [RSC/Chair/2026/6 – Technical Working Group, 2026](#) was published on 23 March and the [working group webpage](#) updated to reflect Getaneh Alemu's replacing Charlene Chou *ex officio* in the membership.

561.4 Translations Working Group

Szabolcs Dancs shared the recent activities of the group. He highlighted the RDA in Europe (and the World) event that he and James Hennelly have organised for 2 February¹. The RSC agreed the terms of reference for the Translations Working Group, which differs from the previous terms only in membership, reflecting the changes in the Quebecois team and the introduction of the team from the Czech Republic. [RSC/Chair/2026/7 – Translations Working Group, 2026](#) was published on 23 March, and the [working group webpage](#) updated.

¹ [The recording of this event was published to the RDA Toolkit channel](#) on 3 February.

562 Updates from Regional Representatives

562.1 Europe

Ahava Cohen shared news from the Region, highlighting the RDA in Europe (and the World) event (see [Item 561.4](#)) and the upcoming EURIG Annual Meeting (Brussels, 28-29 May)².

Ahead of the meeting, EURIG is conducting a [survey](#) on current use of Original / Official RDA.

562.2 Latin America and the Caribbean

Felipe Martinez shared news from the Region. He drew attention to current work to create the Latin America and the Caribbean RDA Education Group; the 3rd Meeting of RDA Education which will take place in Costa Rica in June; and meetings specifically for RDA subscribers³.

562.3 North America

Trina Soderquist shared current activities in North America, including the NARDAC Spring Update Forum, the pre-conference workshop at the [Ontario Library Association Super Conference](#); the pre-conference workshop at the ALA Annual Conference in June 2026 and the NARDAC Update Forum at the ALA Annual Conference in June 2026.

562.4 Oceania

Jack Ennis Butler shared that it is the quiet time of the year for Oceania with significant holiday periods. Transitions to Official RDA continue apace in the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa and National and State Libraries Australasia. Szabolcs Dancs highlighted the article by Teresa Preston and Anoushka McGuire in the *Central European Library and International Science Review* (CELISR) 2(4): 458-462, <https://journals.bme.hu/celistr/article/view/42518/24217>.

563 Update from the Education and Orientation Officer

Elisa Sze provided an update on her activities since our last meeting in November. She highlighted her work *ex officio* on the Archives Working Group and the Examples Working Group (see [Item 561.2](#)). There are several upcoming presentations and training events she highlighted: RDA in Europe (and the World) (see [Item 561.4](#)); an introduction to RDA for cataloguers in the newly established Southeast Asia RDA community of practice, organized by Haliza Jailani and Hui Ling Ng (event title and details are forthcoming); the Ontario Library Association Super Conference pre-conference workshop (see [Item 562.3](#)); and [the University of Toronto Libraries' RDA training](#).

564 Update from the Wider Community Engagement Officer

Getaneh Alemu started his term as WCEO on 1 January and shared his planned activities in sub-Saharan Africa, where he is travelling on a research trip and is planning some meetings. He also

² EURIG will publish details on its [Meetings page](#) as soon as it can.

³ For further details on any of these activities, please contact Felipe, whose details are available on the [Members page](#).

plans to conduct a survey on training needs in the region. Interested observers should look out for calls to contribute during the first quarter of 2026. He will report on his findings in April.

565 Update on *Catalogue & Index* May 2026 issue

The Chair and Secretary provided an update on current progress towards this issue of Open Access journal *Catalogue & Index* which will be issued to coincide with the start of the Countdown Clock for the transition to Official RDA.

Synchronous Meeting, Tuesday 20 January

566 Update from the Board

Christine Oliver succeeded Colleen Barbus as Chair of the Board on 1 January. She shared the Board's Strategic Plan which was approved during the December 2025 Board Meeting. As part of the process of preparing the final draft of the Action Plan (see [Item 558](#)), the RSC was then able to ensure that their priorities align with the Board's strategic priorities. [RDA Strategic Plan 2026-2028 was subsequently published to the Board's webpage](#). Christine also highlighted the Board's approval for the AI Working Group to transition from a short-term task and finish group to a long-term advisory group (see [Item 561.1](#)). The Board was in the final stages of recruitment for a new National Institution representative for North America⁴. Finally, Christine shared the Board's upcoming activities for 2026, including monitoring reactions to the start of the Countdown Clock. The Board is also very excited to see the work of Grupo RDA ALyC and to hear about new Wider Community Engagement Officer Getaneh Alemu's recent work in Africa.

566.1 Welcome from ALA Digital Reference

As publisher of RDA, James Hennelly welcomed Christine as RDA Board Chair. With her longstanding involvement in RDA, she is an ideal person to lead the community alongside RSC Chair Renate Behrens and RSC Chair Elect Robert Maxwell as the Countdown Clock begins in May.

567 Update from ALA Digital Reference

James Hennelly provided an update on the latest activities, across the areas of technical developments, the latest meeting of the copyright holders, and the RDA in Europe (and the World) event that he had co-organised with Szabolcs Dancs (see [Item 561.4](#)). He highlighted the work of the Hungarian and Arabic translators and looked forward to their inclusion in the Toolkit later in the year⁵.

⁴ In the February meeting of the RDA Board Thi Bao Tran Phan (Library and Archives Canada) was confirmed as the North America National Institution Representative (2026-2029).

⁵ Please watch <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news> for announcements.

568 Update from the Chair and Chair Elect

Renate Behrens shared progress following the implementation of [RSC/Chair/2025/9 - Protocol between the RSC and the Share Family / Share-VDE Advisory Council](#). Technical Team Liaison Officer Chris Holden is coordinating with the BIBFRAME Interoperability Group and will report in future meetings on their work. An invitation has been extended for members of the Share Family to join the Technical Working Group. Renate also shared the publication of [RSC/Chair/2026/3 - Protocol between the RSC and the ISSN International Centre](#). Robert Maxwell updated the group on the meetings that he and Renate have had with Pat Riva about Collective Agents.

569 Meetings 2026

While we confirmed the *dates* for the 2026 meetings in our November Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) Item 542), we delayed setting the times for meeting 2-4 so that the new Chair of the Board could have input. Renate checked that the times worked for everyone on the RSC and then confirmed the Executive Sessions as:

- Monday 27 April at 18:00-20:00 UTC
- Monday 27 July at 18:00-20:00 UTC
- Monday 16 November at 19:00-21:00 UTC

Renate confirmed the Public Sessions as:

- Tuesday 28 April at 18:00-20:00 UTC
- Tuesday 28 July at 18:00-20:00 UTC
- Tuesday 17 November at 19:00-21:00 UTC

There is a handy time converter [here](#). The [Public Sessions were published on the RSC News page](#) on 21 January and the Secretary will issue the usual calls for observers closer to the date of each meeting⁶.

570 Extent Proposals

The RSC discussed their formal responses to the proposals from the Extent Working Group (see [Items 574-581](#)). The practical implications of several potential outcomes were discussed. It was clear that there is support for the general direction of travel of the proposals, and James Hennelly set out the steps that would need to be taken for implementation. There was also a full and frank discussion of any impact on the Countdown Clock of the perception that large-scale changes to Extent are on the horizon. Given that the String Encoding Scheme Working Group will succeed the Extent Working Group in April with a mandate to focus first on fleshing out the Extent proposals (since the responses have been positive to the general direction of travel but have

⁶ Please follow <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/news> for announcements.

requested more details), the speed of implementation in the Toolkit does not match the perception of members of the wider RDA cataloguing community.

570.1 **ACTION:** Chris Oliver and James Hennelly to issue a statement recommending that institutions should not wait for the Extent proposals to be fleshed out, discussed, voted on, and implemented before they (the institutions) implement Official RDA.

571 Discussion Paper on Soft-deprecated Terms

Chris Holden and Renate Behrens thanked the RSC for their formal responses to RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1 and for their work to encourage their communities to respond. Chris is interested to hear any direct comments from observers in the Public Session and he shared that some community members had been in contact with him directly. It is clear that some of the terms are still in use and a nuanced approach is needed for this group of terms. He reminded the RSC that the Discussion Paper focuses on the soft-deprecated terms that the Technical Working Group could tell were going to be difficult, based on previous surveys. In the April Meeting, the Technical Working Group will start to introduce proposals for the terms for which there are more straightforward solutions. He hopes that by the end of this year, we will have arrived at a set of terms that we can deprecate and a set of terms that we can restore to full status and that we can do this to the satisfaction of the wider RDA cataloguing community. It is important to remind any concerned members of the wider RDA cataloguing community that no terms will be deprecated without discussion in Public Sessions of the RSC.

572 Questions from New Members

Christine Oliver (RDA Board Chair) and Trina Soderquist (North America Representative) thanked the RSC for its help in (re-)orientating themselves. They paid particular thanks to the RSC Chair and Secretary and to their predecessors, Colleen Barbus (former RDA Board Chair) and Robert Maxwell (former North America Representative). They did not have any questions today, and were happy to contact people directly going forwards. However, they were glad to see this item on the agenda and encouraged the Chair and Secretary to continue to include a space like this in the Executive Session when new RSC members are appointed.

Public Session, Wednesday 21 January

573 Introduction to the Extent proposals by Thomas Brenndorfer, Chair of the Extent Working Group and Incoming Chair of the String Encoding Schemes Working Group

Renate Behrens thanked the Extent Working Group for all the work they have done over the last three years. Today is a milestone, being able to talk about concrete proposals, and from reading the formal responses to each proposal she felt optimistic of our agreeing a direction of travel

which could then be taken forward into specific proposals by the incoming String Encoding Scheme Working Group. For the benefit of observers, Renate reminded us that Thomas had agreed to chair the SES Working Group with the idea that its first task would be implementation of the work undertaken by the Extent Working Group. Thomas has reported that several of the Extent Working Group members will continue into the SES Working Group and any that do stand down are happy to be contacted in future (i.e. they will comment on the SES Working Group's work on Extent but won't stay on to deal with non-Extent SES).

573.1 Introduction from Working Group Chair

Thomas Brenndorfer thanked everyone who contributed to the proposals and who provided responses. He said that it is important to see the proposals under discussion at this meeting as being about the concepts behind the work that needs to be undertaken to make the SES and other instructions about Extent in the text of RDA. Moving forwards the SES Working Group will take up the baton. There were a number of general issues raised in the formal responses and by observers in the Public Session. For ease of reading, these are summarised thematically in Items 57.2-4.

573.2 Questions on String Encoding Schemes

There were several questions about the final form of SES and Community Resources. In terms of Community Resources, it is important to be clear that each of these needs to have an owner who updates them. James Hennelly said that *legacy instructions* have a different status, since they are not updated – they are a record of former RDA text. Legacy instructions are not updated. If a community wanted to continue to use any SES that are in the legacy instructions, they can use them as is. If they wanted to *update* them, they would need to check with James in the first instance – it may be possible for them to copy the SES from the legacy instructions into their own Community Resources area, and if they did this they would be able to update their copy as they would any other Community Resources. As publisher, James will let them know what they need to do from a copyright perspective, as well as how to achieve what they need technically, so do keep James in the loop when making any plans to reuse legacy instructions in your own community. Thomas highlighted that in most cases, the Extent SES is usually a matter of reordering things. There may be a few terms that are removed, but mostly the issue is one of hierarchy (see Item 573.4). Thomas also stated that it is important not to project into new elements expectations about SES. The new elements introduced in the proposals are very focused and limited, covering a need to separate out the different aspects of extent. Following some discussion, Thomas and RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer Chris Holden confirmed that SES form part of a structured description and that while this is beneficial in many ways, institutions are not compelled to tackle Extent using structured description options. Unstructured description is and will still be present for those institutions who prefer to use it. Thomas said that the SES Working Group will be offering guidance to the RSC on what to keep in base RDA; even adjusting instructions to make them fit base RDA and not an SES where this is more appropriate.

573.3 Questions on Vocabulary and Definitions

In particular, Thomas thanked those who suggested good ideas and some necessary fixes for terms “prints”, “jigsaw puzzle”, “folded leaf”, etc. (“sheet” being limited to thinness). He highlighted the value of community review as evinced by this valuable feedback. He pointed out that some old problems (some inherited even from AACR2) had resurfaced, for example the limiting of “diagrams” to cartographic use. Thomas had also noted down from the responses the need for editorial work on the part of the SES Working Group to fit RDA structure and conventions with common phrases.

573.4 Structural Questions

There were questions about polyhierarchy, which although tempting, is not an approved feature of RDA. There were also questions around keeping Carrier Extent Unit VES as the place for Extent of Unitary Structure values.

573.5 Guidance Chapters

Education and Orientation Officer Elisa Sze asked whether the SES Working Group will look at suggestions to update the Guidance chapters. Thomas replied that it was helpful to have this pointed out, as they had not considered it, but of course it is an important issue. Elisa said she is happy to look at and provide comments on Guidance chapter updates as and when needed. She was strongly of the opinion that it is important to update Guidance chapters at the same time as making SES changes. The rest of the RSC and Thomas supported her in this.

573.5.1 ACTION: RSC Chair, Working Group Chair and Secretary to ensure Guidance chapters form part of the SES Working Group Terms of Reference.

574 RSC/ExtentWG/2025/1

[RSC/ExtentWG/2025/1](#) was published on 18 November 2025 and formal responses were received from 9-17 January 2026. [RSC/ExtentWG/2025/1/summary](#) was published on 18 January, highlighting the need for further detailed work contained in the formal responses. In discussion during the Public Session, each of the points contained in the summary were discussed, and Thomas Brenndorfer stated that this proposal and those that followed, were submitted in the knowledge that further work would be needed. He asked for approval of the direction of travel and in a vote this was given unanimously, with the stipulation that the first action of the SES Working Group should be to draft a more detailed proposal showing how the direction of travel will be taken.

574.1 ACTION: Secretary to prepare RSC/ExtentWG/2025/1/Decisions

574.2 ACTION: SES Working Group to implement

RSC/ExtentWG/2025/1/Decisions in a fuller proposal

575 RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2

[RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2](#) was published on 18 November 2025 and [formal responses](#) were received from 9-17 January 2026. As in RSC/Extent/2025/1, the Extent Working Group was seeking approval for direction of travel, in the expectation that the SES Working Group will submit a more fully-worked out proposal. In discussion in the Public Session, Ahava Cohen acknowledged the work of the Extent Working Group and stated that she was glad that we are talking conceptually. She highlighted the issue raised in [RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2/EURIG](#) that some of the suggested terms require cataloguers to determine intent. Chris Holden pointed out that definitions need to apply even where there is only one of a unit. Jack Ennis Butler stated the need for checks and balances to be in place to ensure that the list of terms did not become unwieldy. Renate Behrens stated that ISBD compatibility must be maintained, both in terms of ISBD(M) and the consolidated ISBD. Speaking as an observer, Thurstan Young reiterated the importance of this point. There has always been a commitment from the RSC to maintain its compatibility with ISBD. In voting, it was unanimously decided that the direction of travel indicated by the proposal should be fleshed out by the SES Working Group into a future proposal, taking into account the issues raised in this Public Session and the [formal responses to RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2](#).

575.1 ACTION: Secretary to prepare RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2/Decisions

575.2 ACTION: SES Working Group to implement
RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2/Decisions in a fuller proposal

576 RSC/ExtentWG/2025/3

[RSC/ExtentWG/2025/3](#) was published on 18 November 2025 and [formal responses](#) were received from 9-17 January 2026. As in RSC/Extent/2025/1, the Extent Working Group was seeking approval for direction of travel, in the expectation that the SES Working Group will submit a more fully-worked out proposal. In discussion in the Public Session, Chris Holden reiterated the strong statement made by the Technical Working Group in [RSC/ExtentWG/2025/3/TTLO](#), that “while RDA technically allows polyhierarchies, the group does not think it is the best option in this specific case.” Robert Maxwell queried whether bibliographic format was appropriate to be covered by “extent”. Ahava Cohen stated that she found the definitions for dimensions very prescriptive – will this be an SES in itself? Thomas Brenndorfer reminded everyone that there is always the option to use unstructured description instead of structured description. The Extent Working Group considered structured description, with this in mind, and knowing that its work would be followed by that of the SES Working Group. Machine actionability is a consideration for the SES Working Group. In voting, the RSC unanimously approved the direction of travel of RSC/ExtentWG/2025/3 and requested the SES

Working Group to take on board the comments in this Public Session and in the [formal responses](#).

576.1 ACTION: Secretary to prepare RSC/ExtentWG/2025/3/Decisions

576.2 ACTION: SES Working Group to implement RSC/ExtentWG/2025/3/Decisions in a fuller proposal

577 RSC/ExtentWG/2025/4

[RSC/ExtentWG/2025/4](#) was published on 18 November 2025 and [formal responses](#) were received from 8-17 January 2026. As in RSC/Extent/2025/1, the Extent Working Group was seeking approval for direction of travel, in the expectation that the SES Working Group will submit a more fully-worked out proposal. In discussion in the Public Session, Ahava Cohen asked if it could be made explicit when pluralization may be used. It would also be good to be explicit when talking about the thing itself and / or reproductions of it. In voting, the direction of travel was approved, and the SES Working Group was requested to develop a fuller proposal, taking into account the issues raised in the Public Session and in [formal responses](#).

577.1 ACTION: Secretary to prepare RSC/ExtentWG/2025/4/Decisions

577.2 ACTION: SES Working Group to implement RSC/ExtentWG/2025/4/Decisions in a fuller proposal

578 RSC/ExtentWG/2025/5

[RSC/ExtentWG/2025/5](#) was published on 18 November 2025 and [formal responses](#) were received from 8-17 January 2026. As in RSC/Extent/2025/1, the Extent Working Group was seeking approval for direction of travel, in the expectation that the SES Working Group will submit a more fully-worked out proposal. In the discussion in the Public Session, Ahava Cohen said that a mapping of what existing terms are moving where would be helpful, not only for a future proposal but for cataloguers used to the previous locations of terms. Jack Ennis Butler highlighted the need for structured description for embodied content. In voting, the direction of travel was approved, and the SES Working Group was requested to develop a fuller proposal, taking into account the issues raised in the Public Session and in [formal responses](#).

578.1 ACTION: Secretary to prepare RSC/ExtentWG/2025/5/Decisions

578.2 ACTION: SES Working Group to implement RSC/ExtentWG/2025/5/Decisions in a fuller proposal

579 RSC/ExtentWG/2025/6

[RSC/ExtentWG/2025/6](#) was published on 18 November 2025 and [formal responses](#) were received from 8-17 January 2026. As in RSC/Extent/2025/1, the Extent Working Group was seeking approval for direction of travel, in the expectation that the SES Working Group will submit a more fully-worked out proposal. In the discussion in the Public Session, Chris Holden highlighted that **duration of representative expression** can be a differentiator between two aggregates, but the concept of **envisioned duration** becomes difficult. It was suggested that the Music Working Group's expertise may be requested to consider both a future proposal from the SES Working Group and any examples. In voting, the direction of travel was approved, and the SES Working Group was requested to develop a fuller proposal, taking into account the issues raised in the Public Session and in [formal responses](#).

579.1 ACTION: Secretary to prepare RSC/ExtentWG/2025/6/Decisions

579.2 ACTION: SES Working Group to implement RSC/ExtentWG/2025/6/Decisions in a fuller proposal

580 RSC/ExtentWG/2025/7

[RSC/ExtentWG/2025/7](#) was published on 18 November 2025 and [formal responses](#) were received from 8-17 January 2026. As in RSC/Extent/2025/1, the Extent Working Group was seeking approval for direction of travel, in the expectation that the SES Working Group will submit a more fully-worked out proposal. In the discussion during the Public Session, Elisa Sze queried whether this proposal could be directed to the Archives Working Group, and it was agreed that the Chairs of the SES and Archives Working Group should discuss and possibly co-author a proposal. In voting, the direction of travel set out in the proposal was approved, with the stipulation that the SES Working Group should take on board comments in the [formal responses](#) and consult with the Archives Working Group in preparing a new proposal with fuller details.

580.1 ACTION: Secretary to prepare RSC/ExtentWG/2025/7/Decisions

580.2 ACTION: Chair to speak to Chair of the Archives Working Group in the first instance and put him in touch with the Chair of the SES Working Group

580.3 ACTION: SES Working Group to implement RSC/ExtentWG/2025/7/Decisions in a fuller proposal, with input from the Archives Working Group

581 RSC/ExtentWG/2025/8

[RSC/ExtentWG/2025/8](#) was published on 18 November 2025 and [formal responses](#) were received from 8-17 January 2026. As in RSC/Extent/2025/1, the Extent Working Group was seeking approval for direction of travel, in the expectation that the SES Working Group will submit a more fully-worked out proposal. In voting, the direction of travel was approved, with the proviso that the SES Working Group take on board comments in the [formal responses](#) and Public Session in preparing a fuller proposal.

581.1 ACTION: Secretary to prepare RSC/ExtentWG/2025/8/Decisions

581.2 ACTION: SES Working Group to implement RSC/ExtentWG/2025/8/Decisions in a fuller proposal

582 RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1

[RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1](#) was published on 18 November 2025, and although formal responses are optional for Discussion Papers, [RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1/ExamplesEditor](#), [RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1/NARDAC](#) and [RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1/ORDAC](#) were received between 8-14 January 2026. In the Public Session, Chris Holden introduced the Discussion Paper, stressing that its aim was to take the temperature of the room. He thanked the wider RDA cataloguing community for its ongoing willingness to assist in the consideration of the soft-deprecated terms. The current Discussion Paper provides an overview of how it might look if parallel elements did not exist. He highlighted the Linked Data context; the impact of internationalization (i.e. it is not always obvious which is the main language and which the parallel); and that RDA asks us to prefer to describe the resource as it presents itself all in one element. Renate Behrens thanked Chris and the rest of the Technical Working Group for the excellent paper, and echoed Chris's thanks to the wider community for its feedback.

582.1 ISBD and ISBD(M). Ahava Cohen stated that EURIG members had raised really strong issues with regard to any suggestion of changing the practice, and teaching of the practice, of using parallel terms. RDA has committed to being compatible with ISBD (consolidated ed. and the new ISBD(M)) and this is important to the EURIG cataloguing community.

582.2 Rare Materials. Jessica Grzegorski provided examples from the Rare Materials cataloguing community in which there are practical limitations to transcription, normalization and practice that is centred solely on an item's self-description. She is also aware of issues from the cartographic cataloguing and still image cataloguing communities.

582.3 Scope for Human Error. Trina Soderquist reported that within North America she had heard from cataloguers on both sides of the argument (for / against full deprecation). What is clear is that something needs to be done. An issue that concerns Trina and several of her colleagues is the issue of duplication of entry, which is something we know leaves scope for human error. Because of the variation in responses she had received, she submitted a formal

response, and commended [RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1/NARDAC](#) to Chris and the Technical Working Group in the hope that it might be useful to them in the next stages. She promised several NARDAC members that she would highlight their strongly stated need for context. Given that those within North America calling for full deprecation are active in Linked Data areas, it makes sense that context should be paramount to them.

582.4 Practical Experience from New Zealand. Jack Ennis Butler had also submitted a formal response and he wanted to highlight that the National Library of New Zealand has implemented Official RDA with a clear policy of not using any soft-deprecated terms. They have yet to encounter any difficulties with this approach. Jack commended [RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1/ORDAC](#) to Chris and the rest of the Technical Working Group in the hope that it will be useful to them.

582.5 Engagement with Wider Community. Getaneh Alemu asserted that the new contact he has made within the large cataloguing community in Sub-Saharan Africa means that there will be new implementations in that Region. They may well follow New Zealand in ignoring soft-deprecated terms, but we will not have data from them for around a year.

582.6 ACTION: Chris Holden to take on board all the feedback during the discussion as he formulates his next steps

582.7 ACTION: Chair and Secretary to add a verbal report from Chris to the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting

583 Dates for your diary

Renate Behrens reported that the RSC had discussed ([Item 569](#)) and confirmed the times of the next Public Sessions as follows:

- Tuesday 28 April at 18:00-20:00 UTC
- Tuesday 28 July at 18:00-20:00 UTC
- Tuesday 17 November at 19:00-21:00 UTC

There is a handy time converter [here](#). The [Public Sessions were published on the RSC News page](#) on 21 January and the Secretary will issue the usual calls for observers closer to the date of each meeting⁷.

584 AOB – Renate Behrens

Ahava Cohen shared that there have been many requests for the AI WG to create a minimal description set, the list of entities and elements which must be in a record for it to be valid RDA. She highlighted the PCC Advisory Committee for Library Systems and Vendors'

⁷ Please follow <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/news> for announcements.

(LSV) [Minimum Viable MARC Bibliographic Records](#) document which contains two different sets of MARC field requirements for bibliographic records, one for "preliminary" records and another for "final abbreviated" records, split up by format type. Ahava stated that this is similar to what is being requested by the cataloguing communities, but for RDA. She asked the RSC to consider these requests. After some discussion, the RSC decided to schedule discussion by the Executive Committee.

584.1 **ACTION:** Chair and Secretary to schedule discussion at next Executive Committee meeting.

Approved by the RDA Steering Committee
24 April 2026.