

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2026 MEETING of the RDA Steering Committee
Asynchronous, via Basecamp, Google Meet and Zoom
27-30 April 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 Technical Team Liaison Officer
Felipe Martinez, 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

RDA Board Members, attending solely the Joint RSC / RDA Board Meeting on 27 April:

Colleen Barbus, American Library Association (RDA copyright holder)
Laura Jamieson, Oceania Representative to the RDA Board
Hannes Lowagie, Europe Representative to the RDA Board
Rania Osman, Africa Representative to the RDA Board
Ángela Quiroz Ubierna, Latin America and the Caribbean Representative to the RDA Board

Invited Speakers, attending solely the Public Session on 28 April:

Thomas Brenndorfer, Chair of the Extent Working Group and the String Encoding Scheme Working Group
Chelsea M. Hoover, Chair of the Music Working Group
Camilla Riis Petersen, Bibliographic Consultant, DBC Digital

Observers registered for the Public Session on 28 April:

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
Nathan Diena, Canada
Deborah Fritz, USA
Sarah Furger, USA
Kathy Glennan, USA
Michela Goodwin, Australia
Juan Ignacio, France
Laura Jamieson, New Zealand
Bridget Jennings, New Zealand
Joana Katsune, USA
Nathalie Mainville, Canada
Daniel Paradis, Canada
Ángela Quiroz Ubierna, Chile
Pat Riva, Canada
Adam Schiff, USA
George Sweetensen, New Zealand
Manon Theroux, USA
Thurstan Young, UK

Agenda item numbering continues from the previous meeting.

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Synchronous Meeting, Monday 27 April 2026

The RSC is delighted that the RDA Board has accepted our invitation to join us for our Executive Session on 27 April. The Minutes of this Meeting are currently with members of the Board and the RSC for approval will be published as RSC-RDABoard/Minutes/023-036 in the [Minutes section of the website](#). They will be archived in the [RSC Minutes section of ALAIR](#).

Public Session, Tuesday 28 April 2026

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Executive Session

Asynchronous Meeting

585 Welcome, Housekeeping and review of previous action items

All actions from previous meetings have either been completed or are in progress. A welcome from the Chair was shared on the RSC News page ([Appendix 585](#)).

586 Operations Documents

The Secretary reported that her workload is still over her contracted hours and she had not completed the drafts. This item was carried over to the next meeting, on the proviso that workload allows for them to be completed by then.

586.1 ACTION: Secretary to complete DRAFT Operations Documents for the July Meeting.

587 Updates from Working Groups

587.1 Task and Finish / Advisory Working Groups

587.1.1 Archives Working Group

Following the January Meeting, at which its draft was presented to the RSC, [RSC/Chair/2026/1 – Interim Report of the Archives Working Group](#) was published on 13 April 2026.

587.1.2 Music Working Group

The Music Working Group has met, and its updated Terms of Reference were shared with the RSC and approved by voting members. [RSC/Chair/2026/10 – Music Working Group 2026](#) was published on 1 May 2026.

587.1.3 Extent Working Group

Following the approval of the direction of travel for the Extent proposals in the January Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/556-584](#) Items 570, 574-581), voting members of the RSC were asked to approve the discharge document for the Extent Working Group. [RSC/Chair/2026/8 – Discharge of Extent Working Group](#) was published on 29 April 2026. On behalf of the RSC, Renate Behrens expressed her thanks to the members of the Extent Working Group for all their hard work.

587.1.4 String Encoding Scheme (SES) Working Group

Voting members of the RSC were asked to approve the Terms of Reference for the SES Working Group. They expressed themselves very grateful to Keith Knop and Gordon Dunsire, members of the Extent Working Group who are willing to stay on as members of the SES Working Group, and to Ebe Kartus, who is bringing her expertise to the SES Working Group. [RSC/Chair/2026/9 – String Encoding Scheme Working Group, May 2026-2028](#) was published on 1 May.

587.1.5 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Working Group

Ahava Cohen provided a brief verbal update in the Public Session ([Item 598.3](#)).

587.2 Examples Working Group

RDA Examples Editor Jessica Grzegorski provided an update on activities. She highlighted that the Group's work on examples sometimes uncovers gaps in RDA instructions or guidance. In the near and longer term, they plan to explore or submit proposals for the introduction of an element for collation, clearer guidance on the transcription of inaccuracies (e.g., typos) in manifestation elements, and instructions for recording information about handwriting scripts for manuscripts ([Item 598.4](#)).

587.3 Technical Working Group

Technical Team Liaison Officer Chris Holden updated the RSC on the Working Group's activities since the last RSC meeting. As well as writing the proposals to deal with soft-deprecated terms ([Item 596](#)), they have provided feedback on the proposals from other RSC members. Several members of the group have volunteered for a joint project with members of the Share-VDE community to create RDA-to-BIBFRAME mappings.

587.4 Translations Working Group

Translations Team Liaison Officer Szabolcs Dancs reported on the success of the [RDA in Europe and the World event](#), for which [the recording is available on the RDA Toolkit YouTube channel](#). As well as drafting RSC/Translations/TLO/2026/1 ([Item 593](#)), Szabolcs has also published an article entitled 'RDA in Central (and Eastern) Europe' in the Slovak library journal *Knižnica*. The guidance document for the first phase of implementation of RDA in Hungary has been published and is available [here](#). A section for Hungary including this news has been added to the [Implementing Official RDA page](#).

588 Updates from Regional Representatives

588.1 Europe

588.1.1 UK

Ahava Cohen highlighted the CILIP Metadata and Discover Group Conference in Bristol in March, which included an RDA Day led by the UK Committee on RDA, with [Renate Behrens as keynote speaker](#) and papers from [James Hennelly](#) and [Anne Welsh](#).

588.1.2 Sweden

The National Library of Sweden (KB) has entered into an agreement with the American Library Association (ALA) for a companion subscription to RDA Toolkit and has begun the transition to Official RDA. Application profiles, practices, and guidelines will be published via KB's online service Metadatabyrån.

The implementation will take place in stages, as it must be synchronized with the ongoing development of the KB format (which is based on BIBFRAME) and with the creation of a

reduced MARC export format. At present, they are working on application profiles for agents. (To support the added volume of material to be described, the planned shift away from individual records toward relationships between entities, and increased emphasis on provenance and validation, the library's RDA practices must be formulated in a way that ensures they are interpretable not only by human cataloguers, but also by machines.)

588.1.2 Czech Republic

The Czech translation of the RDA Registry is almost ready and should be available in the Registry and on the National Library website later this year. The Czech application profile is being prepared and should be also ready later this year.

588.1.3 Israel

As part of gearing up for Official RDA implementation Israel is working on its Registry translation using an AI-assisted translation routine devised for use in its subject authority file. Work on the national AP is proceeding and cataloguing leadership is assisting academic libraries to persuade their institutions about the need for subscriptions to the Toolkit. When the Arabic translation is available the Israeli Metadata Forum will be evaluating the terms used for compatibility with the Palestinian/Israeli Arabic dialects and whether the official translation can replace the local terms for Arabic-language cataloguing.

588.2 Latin America and the Caribbean

Felipe Martinez shared the following news from the Region.

588.2.1 Translation of the RDA Toolkit, Uptake of Official RDA, Training Plans

Access to the Spanish translation of the RDA Toolkit was made available to subscribers in October 2025 by ICI (International Scientific Information), the distributor of this tool for Latin America and the Caribbean. In February 2026, ICI convened a meeting for RDA subscribers from the countries of this region to discuss the use of the Official RDA Toolkit. Approximately 50 subscribers attended, and a brief survey revealed that 62 percent were still using the Original RDA Toolkit, while only 38 percent had begun exploring RDA Toolkit Official. Regarding when they planned to use and implement it, most indicated that during 2026, and other ones in 2027. Among the greatest difficulties mentioned for using and implementing RDA Toolkit Official, it was mentioned there was a lack of familiarity with their features and navigation and need for training. Taking this into account, ICI is preparing a comprehensive online training program, which will be announced soon.

588.2.2 Translation of PCC Introductory RDA Training Webinars and the *Report on Approaches to Teaching RDA in the LIS Curriculum*

The Mexico RDA Group has translated into Spanish the series of materials prepared for the PCC "Phase 1: PCC Introductory RDA Training Webinars". Talks have begun with Adam Baron, Chair of the PCC RDA Implementation Task Group, to disseminate their use for RDA training in Latin America and the Caribbean. Also, the Mexico RDA Group made the Spanish translation of the document "*Report on approaches to teaching RDA in the LIS classroom*" by Elisa Sze,

which can be accessed

at https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/uploads/SPA_Informe_sobre_estrategias_para_la_ensenanza_de_RDA.pdf

588.2.3 Group RDA Education

In January 2026, the Group RDA Education was established. Its objective is to promote use of RDA Toolkit among the Latin America and the Caribbean LIS schools. Under its sponsorship, the School of Library Science, Documentation and Information at the National University of Costa Rica, the College of Library Science and Archives, and the Institute of Library and Information Research, both of them at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), in conjunction with the RDA Mexico Group, have organized The 3rd Meeting on Education for Information Organization “New Pedagogical and Technological Perspectives for Teaching and Applying the Official RDA Toolkit in the Training of Librarians” whose main objective is to promote exchange of ideas among scholars, teachers, students, and practitioners about information organization and cataloging teaching using Official RDA Toolkit. During this event the course “Navigating the RDA Official Toolkit” will take place. This conference will be held on May 26 to 29 at National University of Costa and online. Further information (in Spanish) at: <https://difusion.iibi.unam.mx/EEOI/index.html>

588.3 North America

588.3.1 NARDAC Spring Forum

Trina Soderquist highlighted the NARDAC Spring Forum, which included presentations from Thomas Brenndorfer on RDA training in Canada, string encoding schemes, and the extent proposals that the RSC discussed in January. Hong Cui and Trina Soderquist provided updates on RDA training at Library and Archives Canada and the Library of Congress, respectively. Adam Baron gave an overview of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging’s (PCC) implementation of official RDA. [The recording is available on the RDA Toolkit YouTube channel.](#)

588.3.2 Proposals under preparation

Trina also shared that NARDAC has received five proposals from the American Library Association’s Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (ALA’s CC:DA). They hope to have some of these, or other proposals, ready for RSC review soon.

588.3.3 NARDAC at ALA Annual

Finally, Trina drew attention to NARDAC’s work with two PCC RDA training groups to present a preconference workshop at the ALA Annual Conference on Friday, June 26. The workshop will provide an opportunity for catalogers to gain hands-on experience cataloging resources and creating name authority records using the official RDA Toolkit and related PCC documentation, including LC-PCC Policy Statements (LC-PCC PSs) and Metadata Guidance Documentation (MGDs). Also at ALA Annual, NARDAC will provide updates at its Forum on Saturday, June 27.

588.4 Oceania

588.4.1 Implementation of Official RDA

Jack Ennis Butler highlighted that Official RDA in the Oceania region is currently best represented by the implementation at the National Library of New Zealand (NLNZ) and the National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) Official RDA project. The NLNZ continues to improve policy statements and guidance based on cataloguer experience of implementation, including clarification on the use of over 130 work to work relationship elements. The aim is to achieve policy statements for all Toolkit elements in the July release, with only a handful of lesser used elements still outstanding after the February release. Once that work is completed, the focus will turn to providing support for New Zealand libraries as the countdown clock ticks. The NSLA Official RDA project is running to schedule. They aim to complete their draft policy statements before the end of April. Then they will undertake testing and review across May and June. This will allow time to finalise Policy Statements in early July before the team begins drafting guidance documentation.

588.4.1 ORDAC committee news

In other news, ORDAC was delighted to welcome George Sweetensen into the Committee and farewell Brad Chugg. We would like to thank Bradd for his contributions. during his time with ORDAC.

589 Update from the Education and Orientation Officer

Elisa Sze shared the highlights of her work since the last meeting. As well as her presentation at the [RDA in Europe and the World webinar](#), she drew attention to [her session at the webinar for the Southeast Asia RDA Community of Practice](#). She also shared training materials from the Ontario Library Association Super Conference pre-conference workshop [Cataloguing with Official RDA from Toolkit to Record: Breaking Down the Workflow](#). Elisa was part of the team that wrote and delivered these materials. Elisa will be working with the Wider Community Engagement Officer to deliver a two-part webinar that will introduce cataloguers to RDA terms and concepts, as well as a brief demonstration of navigating the RDA Toolkit (see [Item 590](#)).

590 Update from the Wider Community Engagement Officer

Getaneh Alemu shared the findings from his survey on awareness of and engagement with RDA in Africa. It was clear that there is a demand for awareness-raising and training, and Getaneh is working with Education and Orientation Officer and with colleagues in the Region to develop online training. It is likely that this will be delivered over two days. Both Renate Behrens as RSC Chair and Christine Oliver as Chair of the RDA Board thanked Getaneh for his work to engage with colleagues in Sub-Saharan Africa and Elisa for her willingness to provide training which will assist Getaneh in his work there.

Public Session, 6:00-8:00pm UTC, 28 April 2026

591 Welcome to the Public Session

Renate Behrens welcomed everyone to the Public Session. A public welcome was shared on the RSC News page ([Appendix 591](#)).

592 The Danish RDA Implementation and Its Entities

Camilla Riis Petersen, Bibliographic Consultant, DBC Digital (invited speaker) provided an overview of the Danish Implementation of Official RDA. [The recording is available on the RDA Toolkit YouTube channel](#). Renate Behrens thanked Camilla for her insights into another way of implementing Official RDA, and referred those present to the [Implementing Official RDA page](#) where links to information on the Danish Implementation sits alongside those of other areas.

593 RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1

[RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1](#) was published on 20 February 2026. Written responses were received between 2 and 23 April. In the Public Session there was wide-ranging discussion. In particular, Examples Editor Jessica Grzegorski, who is also a member of the RBMS Policy Statement Writers Group stated “It is important that cataloguers are able to do what they were always able to do,” highlighting that the genesis of the proposal lay within the Translations Working Group’s noting that the terms rare books cataloguers across a number of language and cultural groups use every day.

Technical Working Group Chair Chris Holden asserted that the Technical Working Group saw this as a good proposal with a good global case. He was happy to welcome it, as the Technical Working Group could “accept that these elements are ‘crucial’ to the rare materials cataloging community and settling for the use of broader elements would lead to an unacceptable lack of specificity when it comes to cataloging rare materials. We appreciate that the proposal cites specific community feedback and points out that the adoption of these new elements will likely further the use of RDA in these communities. We also acknowledge that rare materials catalogers are the domain experts of these proposed elements, and so we defer to their judgement that these elements are necessary for the description of rare materials” ([RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1/TTLO](#)).

He drew attention to the Technical Working Group’s more general caution “against a creep of more and more specific elements and encourage communities to consider localized subtypes of elements for community-specific purposes. We would like to remind all RDA users that, if the Toolkit lacks a specific element, that does not bar a community from defining a local subtype that fits within the hierarchy of the Toolkit (many communities, for example, define an ISBN as a subtype of Manifestation: identifier for manifestation, even though there is not a specific element in RDA for ISBN identifiers). In the future, the Community Resources section of the Toolkit might be considered as a platform for documenting community-specific subtypes that don’t necessarily merit inclusion in the full Toolkit” ([RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1/TTLO](#)).

[RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1/EURIG](#) expressed “a concern about adding elements to Base RDA (as opposed to Community Resources) for the benefit of one specific community after the end of the 3R project” and while they felt the rare materials cataloguing community “is broad enough and international enough to warrant addition to Base RDA” they asked for “guidelines explaining what sort of communities could be so privileged and/or which communities should lodge their extensions in the Community Resource area”. In response to a verbal restatement of this request from Ahava Cohen, Chris Holden responded that while he understood the perspective from which this was being asked, the answer was not really something that he felt could be enshrined in guidance beyond saying that requests for new terms should be coming from an international perspective, as the current proposal did. He referred to the Music community and the Archives community as clearly international in the same way that the Rare Materials cataloguing community is. He would not like to prescribe that only communities with, for example, IFLA or other international body representation, like IAML (the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres) could propose new terms. As Technical Team Liaison Officer he is always happy to reply to individual queries from communities that are unsure whether to enshrine terminology in local procedures or submit proposals for an addition to Base RDA. The Technical Team Liaison Officer is keeper of the RDA Registry and is supported by the Technical Working Group in considering queries raised about such issues from the wider RDA cataloguing community. He also highlighted the focus in the current proposal on consultation across different language groups and the focus on ascertaining use cases as opposed to simply requesting a list of MARC terms be added. Use case is always a major focus of the Technical Working Group’s consideration of new terms. He repeated Jessica Grzegorski’s statement that this proposal very clearly sought to continue to enable cataloguers “to do what they were always able to do”.

Education and Orientation Officer Elisa Sze stated that she does not come from a rare books background, but she felt that “it may be helpful to think about the hierarchy of the new terms.”

After hearing comments from some observers, RSC Chair Renate Behrens drew the Public Session discussion to a close in the interest of time and suggested that discussion continue in the Asynchronous Executive Session.

The RSC Secretary pointed out that there needed to be a clear set of recommendations on which voting RSC members could vote. While a revised proposal was one option, it may mean asking members of the wider community to review a large number of terms for which there was already approval from the RSC. An alternative would be to approve the terms that were non-controversial on the proviso that RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1 be swiftly followed by a proposal to deal with the new terms suggested in several official responses and the controversial terms within this proposal.

Between the Public Session and the afternoon of the final day of the meeting, the RSC continued to discuss the specific issues around some terms.

In the end, there was unanimous approval for TranslationsTLO/2026/1 with amendments set out in [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1/Decisions](#). Voting members of the RSC gave the provision that this should not be implemented until RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2 has been drafted, discussed and decided.

- 593.1 ACTION:** Secretary to prepare and publish RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1/Decisions¹.
- 593.2 ACTION:** Translations Team Liaison Officer to prepare RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2 to deal with the new terms suggested in official responses to RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1 (**wood engraver, etc.**) and the issues raised by EURIG around the **scribe, etc.** terms that were not approved in TranslationsTLO/2026/1².
- 593.3 ACTION:** Representatives for Europe, North America and Oceania and the Education and Orientation Officer to contribute to the drafting of RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2³. If no solution can be agreed for the **scribe, etc.** terms, these can be passed to the Archives Working Group via the RSC Chair and Secretary for fuller discussion.

594 RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1

[RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1](#) was published on 23 February for discussion at the April 2026 Meeting of the RSC. Responses were received from 2-24 April. In the Public Session of the RSC Meeting, following discussion, the recommendations of the proposal were approved unanimously, with one amendment from NARDAC: “deleting the Prerecording option, “Do not use this element; use Manifestation: material instead to record a value” ([RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1/NARDAC](#)).

- 594.1 ACTION:** Secretary to prepare and publish RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1/Decisions⁴.
- 594.2 ACTION:** Technical Team Liaison Officer to implement RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2/Decisions⁵.

¹ Action completed before Minutes published: [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1/Decisions](#) was published on 8 May 2026.

² Action completed before Minutes published: [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2](#) was published on 4 June 2026.

³ Action completed before Minutes published: [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2](#) was published on 4 June 2026.

⁴ Action completed before Minutes published: [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1/Decisions](#) was published on 6 May 2026.

⁵ This action will be completed in the timescale agreed at the next Editorial Group Meeting. The Editorial Group is chaired by RDA publisher James Hennelly and takes account of the impact of changes not only on the workloads of the Technical Team Liaison Officer, Examples Editor and RSC Secretary but also on the members of the

595 RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2

[RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2](#) was published on 25 February for discussion at the April 2026 Meeting of the RSC, where it was approved unanimously, with an amendment suggested in [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2/ORDAC](#) and set out in [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2/Decisions](#).

595.1 ACTION: Secretary to prepare and publish RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2/Decisions⁶.

595.2 ACTION: Technical Team Liaison Officer to implement RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2/Decisions⁷.

596 Introducing RSC TechnicalWG/2026/3 and RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/4 for discussion in the Public Session of the July Meeting

Renate Behrens asked Chris Holden to introduce the next two proposals from the Technical Working Group, which recommend the full deprecation of two groups of soft-deprecated terms: [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/3 – Resource-to-resource digest, review, and critique elements](#) was published on 28 April and formal responses will be uploaded to the [proposal's page on the RSC website](#) when they are received. [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/4 – Soft-deprecated elements specific to content and carrier types](#) was published on 28 April and formal responses will be uploaded to the [proposal's page on the RSC website](#) when they are received. [A news item](#), including details of Regional Representatives for feedback was published on 29 April.

597 Introducing the RSC String Encoding Scheme Working Group

Renate Behrens highlighted the discharge of the Extent Working Group ([Item 587.1.3](#)) and publicly thanked its members for the completion of their work. The next steps for the Extent proposals will be carried out by the String Encoding Scheme (SES) Working Group, whose Terms of Reference were approved by the RSC in this meeting ([Item 587.1.4](#)). She publicly thanked Thomas Brenndorfer, Gordon Dunsire, and Keith Knop for their willingness to stay on as members of the SES Working Group and Ebe Kartus for her willingness to join. The Chair of the Working Group, Thomas Brenndorfer then provided a brief overview of the Group's plans. Some of this is summarised in [a news item](#) posted on 2 May ([Appendix 597](#)). Information about the Group is available on [its webpage](#).

Translations Working Group and the Policy Statement Writers. Where no proviso to wait is set by the RSC, the timing of editorial changes to the text of RDA is determined by the publisher.

⁶ Action completed before Minutes published: [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2/Decisions](#) was published on 6 May 2026.

⁷ This action will be completed in the timescale agreed at the next Editorial Group Meeting. See [Item 594.2 footnote 3](#) if further details are needed.

598 AOB (Any Other Business)

598.1 Music Working Group

In the Public Session Renate Behrens asked the Chair of the Music Working Group to provide a brief update on their current activities ([Item 587.1.2](#)). You can find out more about the Group on [its webpage](#).

598.2 Archives Working Group Survey

In the Public Session Renate Behrens drew attention to the Archives Working Group's survey, which was running until 15 May ([Appendix 598.2](#)).

598.3 AI Working Group

In the Public Session, Renate Behrens asked Ahava Cohen to provide a brief update. After a summary of their work to date as outlined on [the Group's webpage](#), she shared that their next steps are to work on an Application Profile.

598.4 RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1

In the Executive Session, the Secretary shared that the Examples Editor had submitted a proposal a little earlier than expected and that discussion of it will be included in the Public Session of the July Meeting, alongside RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/3, RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/4 ([Item 596](#)) and, if it is ready in time, RSC/TranslationsWG/2026/2 (see [Item 593](#)). [RSC/ExamplesEditor/2026/1](#) was published on 30 April and responses to it will be posted on [its page on the RSC website](#) when they are received. [A news item](#), indicating the Regional Representatives, was published on 30 April.

APPENDIX

585 Welcome to the April 2026 Meeting of the RSC

Published at <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news/rsc/welcome-april-2026-meeting-rsc>



A very warm welcome to our April Meeting from RSC Chair Renate Behrens (pictured). The meeting runs asynchronously from today (27 April) until close of play on Thursday (30 April) and includes a synchronous Executive Session at which we are delighted to welcome members of the RDA Board and a Public Session tomorrow, at which we will discuss three proposals and hear about RDA implementation in Denmark from Camilla Riis Petersen, Bibliographic Consultant, DBC Digital.

Here are some links you may find interesting / useful:

- More about Camilla's presentation (including details on how to register to attend): [April Public Session, Including Presentation on Danish Implementation](#)
- The latest on implementation of Official RDA, including a new section on the UK: [Implementing Official RDA](#)
- Minutes of the January Meeting: [RSC Meeting Minutes](#) (also available with [URI on ALAIR](#))
- Agenda of the April Meeting: [RSC Meeting Agendas](#) (also available with [URI on ALAIR](#))
- RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1 and its responses: [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1](#) (individually [posted to ALAIR](#))
- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1 and its responses: [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1](#) (individually [posted to ALAIR](#))
- RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2 and its responses: [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/2](#) (individually [posted to ALAIR](#))

If you have already registered for tomorrow's public session, you will receive joining instructions later today (UK time). If you have not registered yet, there is still time to do so: simply email Anne Welsh, RSCsecretary@rdatoolkit.org and she will be happy to send you the joining instructions (including Zoom link).

We look forward to seeing those of you who are able to attend the Public Session tomorrow.

591 Welcome to the Public Session of the RSC April Meeting

Published at <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news/rsc/welcome-public-session-rsc-april-meeting>



RSC Chair Renate Behrens (pictured) is happy to welcome RSC members and observers to the Public Session of the April Meeting.

We are grateful to Camilla Riise Petersen (Bibliographic Consultant, DBC Digital) for her presentation on RDA Implementation in Denmark. The recording of Camilla's presentation will be shared as soon as possible after the meeting.

In order to allow for the free and uninhibited flow of discussion, the rest of the meeting will not be recorded. Registered observers will find [the agenda](#) in their joining instructions.

As well as discussing [RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/1](#), [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/1](#) and [RSC/TechnicalWG2026/2](#), we will be introducing [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/3](#) and [RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/4](#), which will be discussed in the July Public Session, after constituency consultation.

Renate will also be sharing news of the Countdown Clock and a series of webinars in English which will start on 19 May 2026 - one week after the Countdown to the withdrawal of Original RDA as a live product begins. ALyC is organising a similar series which will begin in Spanish in June. We will share registration details [here](#) as soon as they are available.

597 Welcome to the RSC String Encoding Scheme Working Group

Published at <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news/rsc/welcome-string-encoding-scheme-working-group>



This week the RSC was able to discharge the Extent Working Group, as it passes the baton to the String Encoding Scheme Working Group, whose first duty will be to see the Extent proposals through to completion.

At the January RSC Meeting, voting members were happy to approve the direction of travel recommended by Thomas Brenndorfer (Chair, pictured) and the rest of the Extent Working Group - Gordon Dunsire, Keith Knop, Liz O'Keefe, Mark Scharff, Alice Robinson, James Hennelly (*ex officio*) and Chris Holden (*ex officio*). This will be carried forward by the SES Working Group - Thomas Brenndorfer (Chair), Gordon Dunsire, Ebe Kartus, Keith Knop, Getaneh Alemu (*ex officio*), Jessica Grzegorski (*ex officio*), James Hennelly (*ex officio*), Chris Holden (*ex officio*) and Elisa Sze (*ex officio*).

The increased number of *ex officio* members reflects not only an influx of technical expertise and enthusiasm in the case of Dr Getaneh Alemu, but also the recognition of the RSC that context is particularly important for SES. In discussion of the Extent proposals in January, it was clear that both Examples and Guidance would need to be considered very carefully and so our Examples Editor and Education and Orientation Officer were happy to volunteer. As Elisa Sze said at the time, "Guidance is vital not only in training those who are using RDA for the very first time, but also for all of us who are adjusting to changes in the text. It can also provide us with clarity when we are making a decision, as all cataloguing agencies must when they make decisions around whether to use unstructured description or structured description like SES."

RSC Chair Renate Behrens and Working Group Chair Thomas Brenndorfer were both clear in January in stressing, in answer to a question from observers in the Public Session, that the Extent SES were intended to be used by cataloguing agencies who wanted to use structured description. "Unstructured description is always an option. The Extent proposals are for those who choose structured description," they said. They hope that Jessica and Elisa will help ensure that context is clear in the next round of proposals.

In discharging the Extent Working Group, Renate thanked all members very much for their service. Task and Finish Working Groups are intended to run for two years, and these individuals gave double that time in working out the conceptual route forward for this complex area of cataloguing.

Welcoming the SES Working Group, she thanked Thomas, Gordon Dunsire and Keith Knop for their willingness to stay on. All three are long-standing members of the RDA community who have contributed both conceptually and practically to its development over a number of years. Gordon was, of course, the *de facto* architect of the standard, and both he and new SES Working Group member Ebe Kartus are heavily involved in the design of SES at IFLA. As Renate said, "The SES Working Group is small in number because of the level of technical expertise it requires. The list of names on its roster is a testament to that, and we are very grateful that this team of experts is willing to recommend to us the best routes forward for SES."

598.2 RDA for Archives: Survey (open until 15 May 2026)

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As shared in yesterday's Public Session, the Archives Working Group is conducting a survey of Archives to gain an understanding of their awareness and use (or otherwise) of RDA.

Here is the email Working Group Chair Martin Lüpold (pictured) has circulated to email lists.

Please feel free to forward to any colleagues involved in archival description that you think may be interested in contributing:

Since its inception, RDA (Resource Description and Access) has been intended to be a standard that can be applied widely within the GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums) sector.

*Now, with expressions of interest from some groups within the archival community, the RDA Steering Committee (RSC) feels that the time is right to explore the issues involved in **applying RDA to archival materials**.*

*The RSC mandated the [RSC Archives Working Group](#) to reach out to the community. The Working Group would like to know **how you use RDA for archival material and what challenges you face**.*

The survey is intended for libraries or archives that are recording archival material with RDA, or are otherwise interested in using RDA for archives.

The answers of the form are used for the purposes of the RSC Archives Working Group, namely to facilitate the use of RDA for recording archives.

Thank you for sharing your experience!

Feel free to forward this e-mail to other colleagues.

Please fill in the form until May 15, 2026:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDk6kE6lP6StIx5zFXiVwyFjEu0YtFoeL-V6jrRILMXHzwYA/viewform?usp=dialog>

Best regards,

Martin Lüpold, Chair, RSC Archives Working Group