Benefits of translation and implementation

Szabolcs Dancs (Translations Team Liaison Officer)
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R|D|A
Resource Description & Access

Full Translations:

Partial translations:

EURIG
European RDA Interest Group

RDA
Resource Description & Access
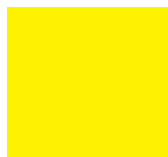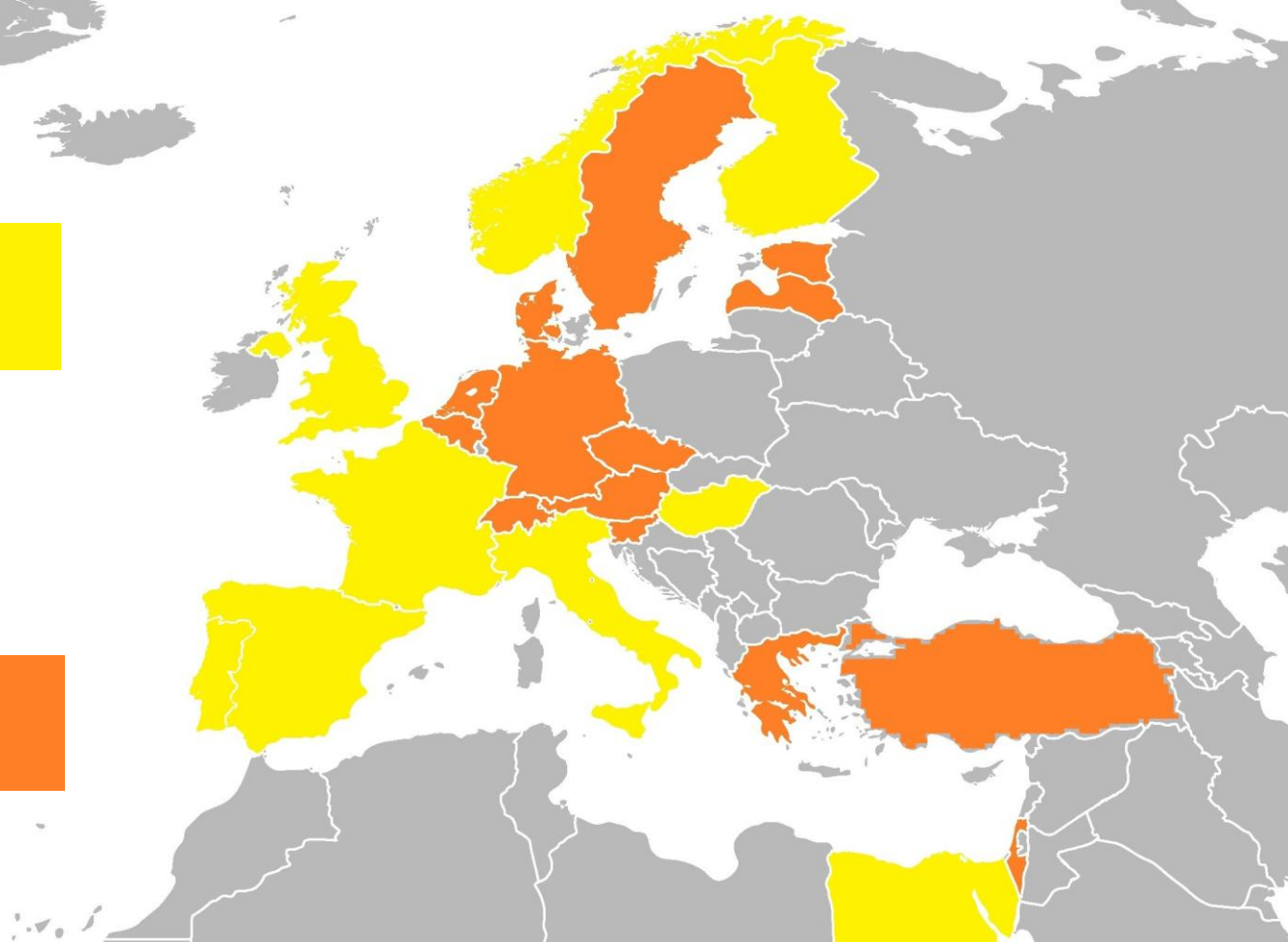
Full translations	Partial translations
Arabic (in Registry)	Czech
Catalan (published)	*Chinese* (in Registry)
Finnish (published)	Danish (in Registry)
French (published)	Dutch (in Registry)
Hungarian (in Registry)	Estonian (in Registry)
Italian (in Registry)	German (in Registry)
Norwegian (published)	*Greek* (in Registry)
Portuguese	*Hebrew*
Spanish (published)	*Korean*
	Latvian (in Registry)
	Slovenian
	Swedish (in Registry)
	Turkish (in Registry)
	Vietnamese (in Registry)

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Partial translation

- **RDA Reference:**
  - the labels, definitions, and scope notes of RDA entities, elements, and vocabulary encoding schemes for controlled data values
  - continuously maintained and are published through GitHub in coordination with Toolkit releases
- **Benefits:**
  - RDA ontology and vocabularies become readily available to the creators and stewards of metadata working in various languages
  - long-term accessibility of high quality metadata,
  - users' interest and convenience as chief approach (ICP, LRM)
  - licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution
  - 4.0 International License

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Full translation

- **RDA Reference + the text of RDA Toolkit**: guidelines and instructions regarding RDA entities and elements, and their application; examples (also in MARC 21, if applicable)
  - "RDA Toolkit is an integrated, browser-based, online product that allows users to interact with a collection of cataloguing-related documents and resources, including RDA" (FAQ)
  - policy statements and community resources: within the structure of the RDA Toolkit
- **Benefits**
  - broadening the accessibility of RDA as an international standard
  - enabling communities around the world to communicate and support each other through a common framework
- use of a computer-assisted translation software (TRADOS), other AI-based tools can by applied

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Why to translate and implement RDA? (1.)

- an international standard + an implementation of IFLA Library Reference Model, determining the future of library cataloguing
- more than a descriptive cataloguing standard:
  - RDA has expanded to become a package of data elements, guidelines, and instructions for creating metadata, with the guidelines and instructions being encapsulated in the Official RDA Toolkit, and data elements readily available for reference in a linked open data context through the RDA Registry → the term 'framework' can be used to characterize the current RDA

RDA in Europe (and the World)

2026-02-02

Why to translate and implement RDA? (2.)

"RDA is being developed to meet the needs of:

- ■ International communities

- ■ Cultural heritage communities

- ■ Linked data communities

Metadata created according to RDA guidelines are intended to support the discovery and identification of resources in library and other cultural heritage collections." (FAQ)

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Why to translate and implement RDA? (3.)

- translated into more than 20 languages
- compatible with
  - ISBD consolidated edition
  - MARC 21 format for bibliographic data
  - MARC 21 format for authority data
  - DCMI metadata terms
- can be represented using Resource description framework (RDF)

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RDA & ISBDM

„ISBDM metadata is designed to be interoperable with RDA: resource description and access.”

„ISBDM stipulations correspond to implementation scenarios A (Linked open data) and B (Relational or object-oriented data) of RDA.”

„All ISBDM elements are mapped to RDA elements, with minor differences in granularity that arise from the more restricted scope of ISBDM.”

„The RDA Toolkit and RDA Registry are the basis of refinements to the LRM attributes and relationships in the ISBDM ontology with associated stipulations and guidance. The standard is maintained by the RDA Steering Committee.”

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Other materials to be translated

- **RDA Frequently Asked Questions** (translated into Catalan, French, German, Hungarian)
- **Learning Resources**
  - **Resources for educators**
    - **Report on approaches to teaching RDA in the LIS classroom**
    - **RDA teaching & training tips** (translated into Chinese and Spanish)
    - **Template RDA teaching slides**

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Outreach activities & internationalisation

- supporting decision-making through outreach activities (dedicated webinars)

- outreach events as a part of the regular RSC meetings or held by RDA regional organizations and representatives

- Translators' Meetings at the annual EURIG meetings (once a year)

- challenges raised by internationalism: multilingualism, multiple scripts, religious-neutrality

- assisting the development of the standard through working groups (Examples WG, Technical WG, Translations WG, Archives WG, Religions in RDA WG, Artificial Intelligence, Music WG, String Encoding Schemes WG)

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Some sources

- Behrens, R. (2024) Internationalisation of cataloguing in cultural institutions with RDA using the example of the German-speaking region, Central European Library and Information Science Review (CELISR), 1(1), p. 34–43. https://doi.org/10.3311/celisr.37098

- Dancs S. (2026) RDA in Central (and Eastern) Europe, Knižnica, 2026(1) [under publication]

- Preston, T. & McGuire, A. (2025) Implementing Official RDA: The experience of the National Library of New Zealand, Central European Library and Information Science Review (CELISR), 2(4), p. 458–462.

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Thank you!

RDA Steering Committee –
https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc

RDA Steering Committee FAQ –
https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/content/rda_faq

RDA YouTube channel –
https://www.youtube.com/c/RDAToolkitVideo

Szabolcs Dancs
transwgchair@rdatoolkit.org

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