RDA: Resource Description and Access

A New Cataloging Standard for a Digital Future

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Today we'll be giving you an update on progress toward the publication of a new cataloging standard, which will be called RDA: Resource Description and Access.

RDA will be the end result of efforts that have been underway for some time to simplify, clarify, and update the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, or AACR2

RDA — Topics for today

- Why a new standard?
- RDA Goals
- RDA Content
- Issues in developing RDA
- RDA and Music
- Preparing for RDA

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Today we're going to focus on six things:

Why we need a new standard to replace AACR2

Some of the Goals for RDA – what we're trying to accomplish, what we intend for RDA to be

John will discuss what will be in RDA – some general info. and a few specifics

And then John discuss some of the difficult issues that we've been facing with developing RDA and I'll talk a bit about some issues related to RDA and music,

And finally we'll discuss what you can do to prepare for RDA by informing yourself about the process and participating in review of the RDA drafts.

Why a new standard?

- Simplify rules
  - Encourage use as a content standard for metadata schema
  - Encourage international applicability
- Provide more consistency
- Address current problems
- Principle-based
  - Build on cataloger's judgment
  - Encourage application of FRBR/FRAD

Why do we even need a new cataloging standard?

Simply stated, we now have an opportunity to simplify our cataloging code and to establish it as a content standard for resource description for various metadata schema, and to encourage its use worldwide.

We need a new code that will be more consistent across the various types of content and media, and that demonstrates the commonalities of different types of resources.

We want to address current problems with rules in AACR2, such as with GMDs (general material designators) and for cataloging digital materials

And we want to change the approach to cataloging, to get back to more principle-based rules that build cataloger's judgment and are simple to use.

And, we want a new standard that will encourage the application of the FRBR data model (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic records) and now also FRAD (Functional Requirements for Authority Data - used to be called "FRAR")

A new cataloging environment

RDA

- Wide range of information carriers: wider depth and complexity of content
- Metadata created by a wider range of personnel
- Many new metadata formats

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We also need to keep in mind that we now are working in a totally new cataloging environment.

We need to catalog a much wider range of information carriers that we used to. We also need to deal with a much wider depth and complexity of content in the resources that we catalog.

Whether we like it or not, metadata is now created by a wider range of personnel: not only by skilled professional catalogers, but by support staff, non-library staff, and also publishers, - who have a wider range of skill levels.

And, of course, we are dealing with many new metadata formats.

International developments

- IFLA's Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR)
- FRAD for authority data
- Updating the Paris Principles (IME ICC)
  - IFLA Meeting of Experts on an International Cataloguing Code

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We also need to take into account international developments that are shaping the future.

The IFLA conceptual model, Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records, or FRBR, reinforces the basic objectives of catalogs and the importance of relationships to enable users to fulfill basic tasks with respect to the catalog – enabling them to find, identify, select, and obtain information they want.

FRBR also offers us a structure to meet these basic user tasks, including ways to collocate records at the level of works and expressions, to show relationships. And now there is a companion data mode to FBBR for authorities: FRAD.

Besides FRBR and FRAD, IFLA has also produced a draft statement of international cataloguing principles that is being vetted by cataloging rule makers worldwide.

In developing RDA, we need to take all of this work into account when looking toward the future.

Standards and more standards …

RDA

- ■ Communication Standards
  - ■ MARC
    - • UNIMARC
    - • MARC 21
    - • MODS/MADS
    - • MARCXML
  - ■ XML DTDs
  - ■ Next generation?
- ■ Metadata Standards
  - ■ Dublin Core
  - ■ MPEG 7
  - ■ VRA
  - ■ EAD
  - ■ ISBD (also a content/display standard)

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What else has brought us to this point?

Our cataloging rules have provided **content** standards, that is, a focus on the contents of the data elements and how they are to be constructed in bibliographic and authority records. Those records in turn have been packaged since the late 1960's in MARC records to enable record sharing.

But we are now seeing new ways to package information that describes resources and provides access, and so it's important that our cataloguing rules remain independent of any communication format, so that they can provide a content standard that could be used by other emerging metadata standards, like Dublin Core and others.

RDA Goals

Let's look at some of the goals for the development of RDA.

RDA will be ...

- A new standard for resource description and access
- Designed for the digital environment
  - Developed as a web-based product
  - Description and access of all digital resources (and analog)
  - Resulting records usable in the digital environment (Internet, Web OPACs, etc.)

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We envision RDA as a new standard for resource description and access, designed for the digital environment.

By digital environment we mean three things:

RDA will be

A Web-based tool

A tool that addresses cataloguing digital and all other types of resources

And a tool that results in records that are intended for use in the digital environment – through the Internet, Web-OPACs, etc.

RDA will be …

- Multinational *content standard* providing bibliographic description and access for a variety of media and formats collected by libraries today
- Developed for use in English language environment; it can also be used in other language communities
- Independent of the format (e.g., MARC 21) used to communicate information

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RDA will be "a multinational content standard for providing bibliographic description and access for a variety of media and formats collected by libraries today" – this is a quote from the Strategic Plan.

Notice here the emphasis on RDA functioning as a content standard, rather than a display standard.

While developed for use in English language communities, RDA can also be used in other language communities – we are expecting that other countries will translate it and adjust its instructions to follow preferred language and script conventions – just as there are now many translations of AACR2.

RDA will be independent of the format used to communicate information, just as AACR2 has been before.
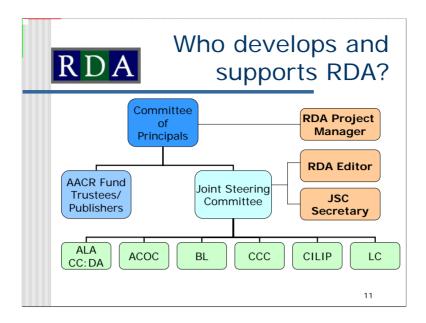
RDA will support the FRBR user tasks for find, identify, select, and obtain (you'll see in a few minute more about how we're aligning the structure of RDA with these user tasks) AND

Enable users to find and use resources appropriate to their information needs.

The users are the reason we catalog at all.

Who develops and supports RDA?

RDA

Committee of Principals

RDA Project Manager

AACR Fund Trustees/ Publishers

Joint Steering Committee

RDA Editor

JSC Secretary

ALA CC:DA — ACOC — BL — CCC — CILIP — LC

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You may also already be familiar with the structure of the organization that supports the development of RDA. In any case, I think it's worth keeping in mind that RDA is an international effort that is being supported by six constituencies in the U.S., Canada, the UK, and Australia.

The CoP members are the directors or their representatives from the Canadian, UK, and US professional library associations as well as the British Library, and Library and Archives Canada. There is also the group of publishers who manage the AACR Fund

The Joint Steering Committee is in charge of the CONTENT of the rules, and reports to the Committee of Principals. The JSC is comprised of representatives from the six constituent organizations, represented by the green boxes. I fit into this structure as the person who represents ALA on the Joint Steering Committee.

It's important to consider this structure when talking about issues we're facing, because the collaborative nature of the project does pose certain challenges for the developmental process.

In addition to the organizations that are represented here by boxes, there are also other individuals who have an important role in the development process: there is Marjorie Bloss, who is the RDA Project Manager, and who reports to the Chair of the Committee of Principals. The RDA Editor, Tom Delsey, reports directly to the Chair of the JSC, and finally the JSC Secretary (orange boxes).

JSC, Editor, Project Manager, Secretary

Here's a picture of the current six members of the JSC, pictured here with the RDA Editor, Project Manager, and Secretary.
(Photo taken last October at JSC meeting in D.C.)

Front row: Nathalie Schulz, Secretary; Deirdre Kiorgaard, ACOC and JSC chair; Jennifer Bowen, ALA; Marg Stewart, CCC; Marjorie Bloss, Project Manager.

Back row: Tom Delsey, RDA Editor; Alan Danskin, BL; Barbara Tillett, LC; Hugh Taylor, CILIP.

RDA Content

Be warned that the content of RDA is a work in progress. I'm going to be relying on some of the background documents to describe the current plans. However, these plans are subject to change as development continues.

RDA content

- Scope and Structure
  - Descriptive data elements
  - Access control data elements
  - Resource discovery
  - Based on FRBR/FRAD models
  - Based on IME ICC Statement of International Cataloguing Principles
- **http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rda.html#scope**

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The development of RDA is based on a number of background documents.

The Strategic Plan for RDA provides the overall framework.

A statement of Principles and Objectives for RDA – based on the IME ICC Statement of International Cataloguing Principles –

has been developed; this currently covers Part A (Description) and will be expanded to include Part B (Access point control) when the draft of Part B is issued.

A new document was issued following the October 2006 JSC meeting: RDA Scope and Structure.

This document helps to explain what is included in RDA and what is not; the relation between RDA and the underlying models (FRBR, FRAD, IME ICC); the structure of RDA as a list of data elements and the sort of guidelines that can be expected for each element.

This document is posted on the JSC website and is worth looking at.

RDA content

- Prospectus
  - Design principles
  - Outline of the code as a whole and of each part
  - **http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rdaprospectus.html**

Finally, there is the RDA Prospectus which gives an overview of RDA as a whole and is updated following each JSC meeting to reflect decisions made.

The Prospectus is available on the JSC website and I recommend that you have a look at it.
It is a 12-page PDF file, most of which consists of outlines. It also contains a description of the design principles behind RDA.

RDA — Design Principles

- **Alignment with conceptual models**
  - Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records
  - Functional Requirements for Authority Records
- **Recording, not presentation**
- **Ease and efficiency of use**
- **Respect for legacy data**

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The design principles include:

Alignment with conceptual models for bibliographic and authority data developed by IFLA.

RDA will establish a clear line between the recording of data and the presentation of data.

RDA will focus on providing guidelines for recording data that can be applied independently of the structures for encoding and storing that data (MARC and related standards) or for display (ISBD and similar standards). The latter will be covered in appendices.

RDA will be written for ease and efficiency of use in the modern cataloging environment.

Among other things, an attempt is being made to express the rules in more accessible language.

Finally, RDA will recognize the need to integrate legacy data created under AACR and earlier rules; the need for retrospective adjustments to legacy data will be minimized.
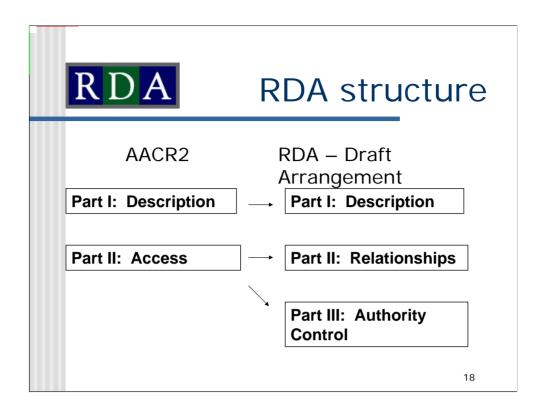
RDA — Outline

- General introduction
- Part A – Description
- Part B – Access point control
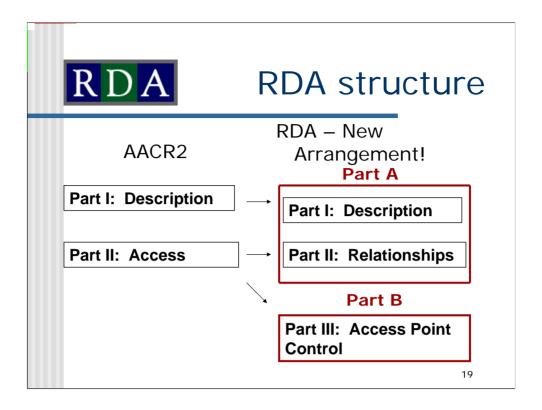- Appendices
- Glossary
- Index

Based on the latest plans, I now want to drill down into the content of RDA as outlined in the prospectus.

This is a top-level view of the code.

AACR is divided into two parts: description (part I) and access (part II).

The original working outline for RDA was divided into 3 parts. The selection of access points was to be reconceived as Part II, on Relationships, while the rules for the form of access points would be given in a new Part III, on authority control.

RDA structure

AACR2	RDA – New Arrangement!
	Part A
Part I: Description	→ Part I: Description
Part II: Access	→ Part II: Relationships
	Part B
	Part III: Access Point Control

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As a result of comments received during the latest round of comments on part 1, it was decided that the distinction between description and access is not fundamental. Indeed, any descriptive data element can be the basis for an access point.

Instead, Part A is now about description **and** access and covers the content of bibliographic records.
Part B deals with access point control, and covers the content of authority records.

This division brings RDA more in line with the terminology used in other resource description communities,
where "description" is generally seen to encompass elements used in resource discovery
as well as those used in resource identification.

Part A
Chapters 0-5

R D A

0. Introduction to Part A
1. General guidelines for resource description
2. Identification of the resource
3. Carrier description - FRBR "Select"
4. Content description - FRBR "Select"
5. Acquisition and access information - FRBR "Obtain"

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This is the current outline for the first six chapters of Part A. The red annotations show how the chapters align with the FRBR user tasks.

These chapters pretty much cover what was in Part 1 of AACR2 but the arrangement is very different from the arrangement of Part 1 of AACR2. This arrangement is intended to address the problems identified with the AACR2 arrangement by "class of materials". This new structure will provide more flexibility to describe resources that have multiple characteristics – like many digital resources.

Part A Ch. 6-7 "Relationships"

FRBR user task "Find"

- Chapter 6: Relationships between FRBR Group 1 and Group 2 entities
  - Persons
  - Corporate bodies
  - Families
- Chapter 7: Relationships among FRBR Group 1 entities
  - Works
  - Expressions
  - Manifestations
  - Items

Choice of primary access point → Part B

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The next two chapters of RDA will address relationships – these include related works, expressions, manifestations, and items (as in the right column, that is, relationships BETWEEN the FRBR Group 1 entities), as well as relationships between FRBR Group 1 and Group 2 entities, that is, persons, corporate bodies, and families that play some role with respect to the resource being described.

A bit more detail for those of you who reviewed the draft of Chapters 6 and 7:

If you looked at the draft of these two chapters during the review period last summer, you may notice here that we've decided to reverse the order of the two chapters – that decision was based on comments from many constituencies who suggested that it made more sense to have them in the reverse order.

As a result of discussions at the October JSC meeting, and based on ALA's comments, we will also be moving rules that guide the choice of access points to Part B – as part of the guidelines on access points for works and expressions.

This will leave only general guidelines regarding the associations between Group 1 and Group 2 FRBR entities in Part A and this will now be in Chapter 6.

Part B
Access point control

RDA

- **General guidelines for access point control**
  - Based on *Functional Requirements for Authority Data*
- **Access points**
  - Covers both preferred forms and variants
  - Chapter on access points for works includes choice of primary access point
- **Other information used in access point control (entity identifiers, sources, etc.)**

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Part B of RDA will now cover access point control, or authority control, and will be guided by the new "FRAD" model (Functional Requirements for Authority Data).

Part B will cover choice of access points, including choice of primary access point, which will be described in the context of naming works and expressions.

Part B of RDA will cover both preferred forms of names and the variant forms that could be used as references or in clusters for alternative display forms.

Part B will cover much of what is now covered in AACR2 Part 2 but including more about other data that is needed for access control.

Part B, Access Point Control

- Introduction to Part B
- 8. General guidelines on access point control
- 9. Access points for persons
- 10. Access points for families
- 11. Access points for corporate bodies
- 12. Access points for places
- 13. Access points for works, etc.
- 14. Other information used in access point control

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The introduction to Part B will discuss the functional objectives, principles, and key concepts involved in authority control.

Note the introduction of Chapter 10, covering names of families who are involved in the creation of works such as family papers.

Note also that the scope of Chapter 12 covers places generally, and not just geographic names that are jurisdictions. It is not clear whether the rules will be significantly expanded to cover non-jurisdictional place names (typically used as subjects).

Chapter 13 may be the most significant enhancement over AACR2. The rules for formulating access points for works may contain the rules for selecting a primary access point and will definitely include the rules for formulating a control title access point. It will make a distinction between the element that serve to identify and distinguish **works** from those that identify and distinguish **expressions**. A catalog that is based on these guidelines will be more easily able to display bibliographic descriptions organized according to the FRBR model.

Chapter 14 will cover data elements in authority records other than headings and references – such as notes justifying the content of the access points.

New terminology

AACR2 terms	RDA terms
Heading	Access point
Authority control	Access point control
Authorized heading	Preferred access point
Uniform title	Preferred title
Main entry	Primary access point
Added entry	Secondary access point

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We're making an attempt to update much of the card catalog-based terminology that remains in AACR2, and some of our plans regarding terminology have changed recently as we've received comments on recent drafts. We will be replacing the AACR term "heading" with "access point. So Main Entry and Added Entry will become "primary access point", and Secondary Access Point".   We're also moving away from using the term "authority control" toward using "access point control".

Instead of using the term Uniform Title, we're proposing to use the term 'Preferred title" which can be for either a work, an expression, or for the manifestation that they are contained within.

If you've seen this slide in previous presentations, you'll notice some recent changes here. We had earlier proposed using the term "citation" within RDA and the term may still be used, but we're discovering that there's a lot of confusion about that term. The law community, in particular uses the term "citation" to mean something very specific. So the use of the term "citation" in RDA is under discussion – it now looks less likely that we will be using it.

RDA   Appendices

- A – Capitalization
- B – Abbreviations
- C – Initial articles
- E – Presentation of descriptive data
- F – Presentation of access point control data

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Finally, RDA will include appendices, a glossary, and an index.

Some of the appendices in AACR2 are being eliminated (including possibly some of the ones listed here). Many of the instructions in the AACR2 appendices were aimed at a consistency of display that may not be necessary in today's catalogs. It is also becoming increasingly clear that the use of abbreviations often is an impediment to users in today's international environment.

In addition to these, there is a plan to include appendices on the presentation or display of bibliographic and authority data based on the ISBD and the GARR (a comparable standard for display of authority data), and perhaps according to other display standards.

Some consideration is also being given to including a mapping to MARC 21 and other data encoding standards.

Some "Big Issues"

Now I'd like to mention some of the big issues that we have been discussing as we've developed RDA – some are resolved, some are open questions where we're still looking for the right solution. In some cases we're trying to balance two different objectives, and we're still discussing what might be the appropriate approach for RDA.

Continuity vs. change

- "Why didn't you just throw out AACR2 and start over?"
- Keep the best of what we have
- Compatibility with existing records is essential!
- Maintain international agreements

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Some commenters on the drafts of RDA have been surprised to see that RDA contains a significant amount of the text of AACR2 and wondered why we hadn't rewritten the whole thing.

We have never seen that as a desirable way to proceed. The current revision of AACR2 represents over 25 years of thoughtful revision and incorporates years of agreements made between the six constituencies from four different countries. We don't want to reinvent the wheel, when so much of the work had already been done through the revision process to AACR2. And we want to build on many of our cataloging traditions that have served us well.

In addition, one of our goals is that records created using RDA will be able to coexist in a catalog with records created under AACR2. So keeping much of the earlier text will help to give us this continuity and compatibility between records created using AACR2 and using RDA. Plus we need to maintain international agreements regarding continuity – with the ISBDs, for example.

Content vs. display

- RDA will be a content standard not a display standard
- RDA will contain new data elements, redefined elements
  - New elements to replace the GMD
  - Clarify definition of "notes"
- Retain relationships between elements
- RDA records can still be presented in an ISBD display if desired

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The JSC decision to make RDA a content standard rather than a display standard was really a key to moving RDA forward. This allowed us to move beyond the ISBDs – by not requiring ISBD punctuation (which is irrelevant to metadata communities, and not used in many OPACs anyway). This decision also presented more freedom for RDA to move beyond the defined ISBD areas – we could re-order elements, redefine elements, add new elements, etc.

For example, we're moving away from using the GMD, which I'll talk about a bit more in a minute. We're also clarifying the definition of "notes" so that "notes" are used to record data related to another data element (such as notes about the source of title). But many other "notes" in AACR2 – for example, those that show relationships or give additional information, such as a date of original publication, can now become separate data elements in their own right.

In making this transition, we've needed to keep in mind two things; first, that we still need to retain the relationships between elements now that we're not relying on the structure of ISBD areas to do this for us.

Secondly, we need to ensure that RDA records can still be displayed in an ISBD display if a library still wants to do that – in this way we can honor our agreement to keep RDA compatible with the ISBDs. So we're trying to build in compatibility yet flexibility at the same time.

Transcription

- How important is data transcription to resource identification?
    - Rare books, etc. – very important!
    - Metadata communities – not!
- "Take what you see"
    - Correction of inaccuracies
    - Facilitating automated data capture

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One of the big issues that we're dealing with is reassessing the importance of **transcribing** data from a resource. This has always been an important aspect of our cataloging tradition. But we're finding that in describing digital resources, transcription is much less important than it is for other resources. This is one area where we're still discussing what the appropriate approach will be in RDA – in order to make RDA more usable to metadata communities while not creating more problems by making automated record matching and duplicate detection more complicated.

One of our ways of addressing this is to try to simplify the process of transcription by "taking what you see" on the resource – to eliminate many of the rules that instruct catalogers to alter the data that they are transcribing. For example, in RDA inaccuracies will be recorded as they are found, and corrected elsewhere in the record. Access points can be made for both the incorrect and the correct form. This and other simplifications to the transcription rules are designed to facilitate automated data capture and reusing metadata from other sources, such as from publishers. Catalogers will also have more flexibility in RDA to take capitalization and abbreviations as they appear on the resource.

One of the benefits of this procedure is that it legitimizes the automatic capture of data from either the resource itself (in the case of digital resources) or from data supplied by the publisher.

RDA — Content issues

- Terms for Content and Carrier
  - RDA/ONIX framework for resource categorization
  - JSC GMD/SMD Working Group
- Mandatory ("Required") Elements
- Mapping Data Elements
  - RDA/MARC 21
  - Dublin Core

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One of the elements that has received significant attention is the GMD. It was decided to re-examine the way in which we categorize resources. There have been two complementary efforts going in this area. Most recently, a joint initiative between the RDA and ONIX organizations [explain!] completed a draft framework for categorizing resources that can be used by both communities and that will facilitate the transfer and use of data across the two communities.

The JSC is in broad agreement with the draft framework, and it, along with the work of the JSC's GMD/SMD Working Group, is becoming the basis for three new data elements for RDA: Media Type, Carrier Type, and Content Type.

We've done some further work on the list of RDA mandatory data elements to reconceptualize them as "Required", "Required if applicable", or "optional", and to standardize the labeling of options in RDA that present alternatives, optional additions, or optional omissions. These are areas where a cataloging agency will want to make decisions on what options to follow, or to follow recommendations from LC, PCC, etc.

We're also developing a mapping of RDA elements to MARC 21 – since most libraries at least in the U.S. will be putting RDA records into MARC 21 for a while, we need to facilitate this. The JSC presented a Discussion Paper to MARBI at ALA Midwinter.
RDA will also include a mapping of elements to Dublin Core.

Ongoing work

- Mode of Issuance
- Sources of Information
- Internationalization
- Persistent Identifiers and URLs
- Appendices
- Access Points for Families
- Examples
- Glossary

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Here are some other areas where the JSC is continuing to work on proposals from its various constituencies and which will be incorporated into RDA before initial release:

Mode of issuance: There were extensive comments on this, especially how to organize guidelines for various types of resources according to mode of issuance.

Sources of information: There were many unresolved issues raised in the responses to Chapters 1-5; the JSC has recently had a conference call in which we developed a strategy for moving forward on this issue.

Internationalization: LC proposed some rule changes to facilitate use of RDA using other languages and scripts.

Persistent Identifiers and URLs: There is a proposal relating to how these would be covered in RDA

Appendices on capitalization, abbreviations, and initial articles.

Access Points for Families: A new chapter in RDA Part B!

JSC Examples Groups: All examples in AACR2 are being reviewed and new ones recommended for new guidelines in RDA.

Glossary: Terms will be assessed for inclusion based on a new policy on the scope of the Glossary.

General: All of the comments made in the responses to the draft of Chapters 1-5 are being considered and resolved by the JSC.

RDA development process

- Emerging critique of RDA
- Challenges RDA goals
- Questions usefulness of RDA for contemporary resource description
- Questions principled nature of RDA content

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It will not have escaped the notice of many of you that there is an emerging critique of RDA – most notably in an article published in the December issue of D-Lib.

This critique challenges the goals of RDA, questions the usefulness of RDA for contemporary resource description, and questions the principled nature of RDA content.

RDA development process

ALA recommendations
- Adopt a top-down process
  - Start with principles, general guidelines, not text from AACR2
- Extend the timeline to allow for a review of the complete text
- Provide additional resources for RDA development

This critique was also evident in CC:DA's consideration of recent drafts. As part of the ALA response to Chapters 6 and 7, ALA made a number of recommendations to the JSC.

1. Adopt a top-down development process. Start with principles and general guidelines, rather than details carried forward from AACR2.
2. Extend the timeline to allow for a review of the entire text of RDA.
3. Provide additional resources to support RDA development.

RDA development process

JSC response

- RDA Scope and Structure
    - Clarification of principles, relation to underlying models
- Timeline extended; review of full text planned
- Possibility of additional resources for rewording text, developing features of RDA Online

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At the October meeting, the JSC responded to many of these recommendations:

1. The RDA Scope and Structure document clarifies the principles behind RDA and the relation of RDA to various underlying models.
2. The timeline has been extended, and a review of the full text is planned, although very little time has been provided for substantive revisions based on that review.
3. The possibility of additional resources for additional editorial support and for developing features of RDA Online is being considered.

The JSC clearly did not agree with ALA that the drafts of RDA are not based on principles; it is clearly up to ALA (and other constituencies) to suggest ways in which general guidelines and broad overviews can be introduced into the text in order to provide a clearer structure for the details.

RDA and Music

Now I'd like to talk about some of the specific things about RDA that may be of particular interest for music cataloging, and for cataloging formats that are frequently collected by music libraries: scores, sound recordings, video recordings, digital resources

RDA and Music

- Types of Content, Carrier, Media
- Other Chapter 3 and 4 issues
- Part B: Access point control
  - Primary access points for performances; special music rules
  - Designations of role
  - Work/expression identifiers

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These are the issues that I'll be talking about in next slides.

Three new data elements to replace the GMD (John already mentioned RDA/ONIX collaboration and need for new ways to categorize content and carrier). Will see these in the draft of Chapter 3 (and parts of Chapter 4) that are coming out this month.

Other Chapter 3 and 4 issues.

Will talk about a few issues related to Part B although a draft of Part B hasn't come out yet so many issues haven't been discussed yet:

Issues related to choosing a primary access point (used to be "main entry") – especially the difficulties in coming up with principled guidelines for performances and the status of the special rules in AACR2 for main entry for musical materials. Note that this is moving to Part B – had been in Chapter 7 of the previous draft.

Designations of roles, or relator information and why important.

Finally talk about how uniform titles are being reconceptualized as work/expression identifiers.

New data element: Media type

RDA

- Media type: general type of intermediation device
- Optional element
- Examples:
  - Audio
  - Computer
  - Video
  - Unmediated

Media type: definition "reflects the general type of intermediation device required to view, play, run, etc. the content of a resource".

Broad categories: reflect the type of categories that a system might want to allow users to use to limit search results.

The eight categories are: audio, computer, microform, microscopic, projected, stereographic, unmediated, video

In broad terms, what type of device do I need to use this resource?

So far media type is planned to be an optional element (in the forthcoming draft) – can be repeated if necessary (e.g. MP3 file could be given both "audio" and "computer")

Books and scores would be considered "unmediated" – no intermediation device needed to view the content of the resource.

New data element: Carrier type

- Carrier type: storage medium in combination with intermediation device
- Required element
- Examples:
  - Audio disc
  - Online resource
  - Volume
  - Videodisc

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Carrier type (definition) reflects the format of the storage medium and housing of a carrier - in combination with the type of intermediation device required to view, play, run, etc. the content of a resource.

More specific than Media type – gives more information to the user to assist in the "select" user task – information that users need to determine whether they can use a particular resource: each media type is listed with more specific carrier types listed for each.

In the draft of Chapter 3, carrier type is a required element.

Repeatable – as many terms as needed may be recorded if resource consists of more than one carrier (e.g. volume with an audio disc).

Some examples of categories in the draft: audio disc, online resource, volume, videodisc.

Important to keep in mind that the terms themselves are less important than the categories behind the terms. A system could not display the terms at all, but display icons, or terms could be mapped to something else for display purposes. Same as for media type, content type.

Important thing about these is that behind them is a rigorous categorization of carriers that will also be used by communities that use the ONIX standard and there will be consistency between the communities.

New data element: Content type

- Content type:
  - Fundamental form of communication
  - Sense through which it is perceived
  - Number of dimensions, movement
- Required element
- Examples:
  - Notated music
  - Performed music
  - Text

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Content type (definition) reflects the fundamental form of communication in which the content is expressed and the human sense through which it is intended to be perceived. For content expressed in image(s), content type also reflects the number of spatial dimensions in which the content is intended to be perceived and the perceived presence or absence of movement.

Appears in Chapter 4 since it reflects the content contained within a resource (work/expression) rather than carrier (manifestation) – which are in Chapter 3

While this is in Chapter 4, you will have an opportunity to review it – the part of Chapter 4 that contains this new element is being released with the draft of Chapter 3 so all 3 new elements can be reviewed together.

Required element (in the forthcoming draft)

Can record as many terms as needed.

Examples of content type: notated music, performed music, text.

RDA

- Extent: display "1 score" instead of
  - Carrier type = volume
  - Content type = notated music
  - MLA proposal – eliminate "pages of music"?
- Sound characteristics (type of recording, playing speed, etc.)
- Audio, video materials with digital aspects

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Other Ch. 3 (Carrier) and 4 (Content) issues of interest:

Extent element: consists of both number of units/subunits and an appropriate term for the type of carrier. Terms for type of carrier in extent are **not** going away, and appear **in addition** to the new element "carrier type". New elements are rigorous for systems purposes, while carrier terms used in Extent may include content elements to aid the user: for example: "1 score" may be more informative to a user than the relevant carrier/content type. Display it so users understand it:

MLA proposal will be considered in April to eliminate the distinction "pages of music" for music for a single instrument, etc. – would be reflected under "extent" if it is accepted.

Sound characteristics: had been mostly part of physical description (also some info. that went into notes, e.g. dolby) now all are considered separate elements: type of recording, playing speed, configuration of playback channels, etc.

How to deal with resources that could be considered either audio/video or digital – exhibit aspects of both for example, an audio CD, a DVD? Much discussion about how these resources should be treated:. Decision in RDA is that you can treat them (for example) either as an audio resource or as a digital resource – or record all aspects of the resource, depending on what is important to the agency creating the description.

- Format of notated music (formerly musical presentation statement)
- "Notes" now separate elements
  - Nature and scope of content
  - Language, etc. of content
  - Medium of performance
  - Duration

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Reminder: Chapter 4 reflects aspect of the content (work or expression) contained within a resource. Won't see these in the next draft that comes out, but keep in mind anyway:

Musical presentation statement has become "format of notated music": New data element in Chapter 4

RDA takes many elements that used to be relegated to second-class status in AACR2 as "notes" and has made them separate elements in their own right: several of these in Chapter 4 are elements that are important for music:

Nature and form of content,

Language, etc. of content ("braille")

Medium of performance

Duration – always recorded in the same element – not sometimes in physical description and sometimes in Notes. (Still could be combined in a contents note)

Part B issues

- **Selection of primary access point**
  - Special rules
  - Performances
  - Designations of role
- **Work/Expression identifiers**

Now let's move to talking about issues for Part B of RDA.

Here are the issues I'm going to talk about regarding music issues in Part B.

Again keep in mind that these have not had significant discussion yet so my comments involve more speculation.

Selection of primary access point

- Special rules incorporated into general guidelines
- Performances
- Designations of role
  - Should they be required?
  - vs. statements of responsibility?

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Special rules for selection of primary access point for music (libretti, pasticcios,etc.) incorporated into general rules for selecting primary access points – will still have examples.

Performances: difficult issue to resolve. Rules for main entry for sound recordings recast as rules for selection of primary access point for all performances Overarching principle: give primary access to person/body who has responsibility for the work, not to the expression. How to tell what performance is an expression as opposed to a new work. At what point does a performer have responsibility for more than the performance ("performers who do more than perform"). What does that mean for motion pictures? Desire for a principled approach at odds with practices of various communities, how users think about resources. Still being discussed.

Designations of role, or relator information. MARC relator codes, or relator terms as used by rare book community. Provides info. on the relationship between the access point and the work or expression contained in it – records this relationship in a predictable place in the record. Can be very important for "FRBRizing" a catalog. Should they be required in RDA? Will be discussed during Part B. At least need to acknowledge that if you don't record them there are certain functions that your catalog may not be able to perform.

Other place where relationships are recorded are in statements of responsibility, which now are not required in RDA (option to record controlled access point in lieu of statement of responsibility). Relator information is more machine actionable. Disagreement about statements of responsibility.

Work/expression identifiers

- Recasting primary access point as work identifier
- Expression identifiers: when are they needed?
- Issues for music:
  - Collective uniform titles
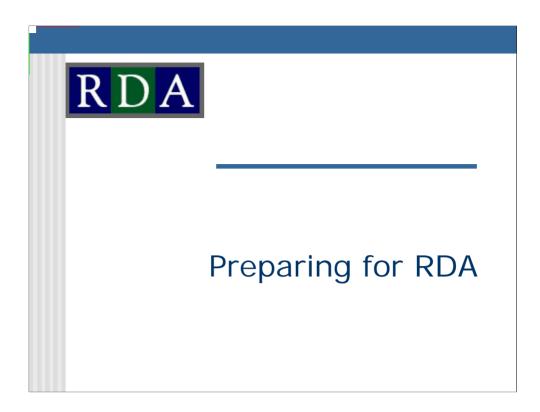 - Work vs. expression elements

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As I mentioned, selection of primary access point will be associated with constructing a textual work or expression identifier – moved to Part B. Used to refer to these as uniform titles. RDA will include instructions for constructing expression-level identifiers, although expectation is that this will be an option that is not used very often. Actually already going a bit in this direction in AACR2 when we add language to a uniform title.

May be other ways to do collocation at the expression level: faceted browsing by format, language, date (esp. date of performance), performer. Provide the option in RDA for when a library may want to use it: maybe to provide further differentiation between headings in an extensive collection in a narrow area: many expressions of the same work.

Intention is that the guidelines in Part B will result in access points mostly the same as those constructed according to AACR2 to minimize the amount of catalog maintenance needed on existing headings. But in analyzing rules in AACR2 according to FRBR, some problems with uniform rules that will need to be considered.

Collective uniform titles: don't identify a work or an expression: "Selections" "Piano music", etc. What should be done with these guidelines? Current definition of "uniform title" means several different things – not useful. Work and expression level elements are interspersed within Chapter 25 – ideally would want to tack expression-level elements on to the end (language) – Selections after language. Needs discussion.

Preparing for RDA

Although RDA is still a moving target, it is not too soon to begin thinking about what will be involved in implementing RDA.

RDA — Applying RDA

- RDA is a content standard,
  not an encoding standard
  or a presentation standard
- BUT …
- In order to apply RDA, you need
  to select an encoding standard
  (such as MARC 21) and
  possibly a presentation standard
  (such as ISBD)

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One of the design principles of RDA is that it is a content standard, not an encoding or a presentation standard.

However …

In order to apply RDA you need to select an encoding standard such as MARC 21 or DC and possibly a presentation standard such as the ISBD or your local OPAC display specifications.

Only after you have made these decisions can you begin to record the content of RDA data elements.

Applying RDA

- RDA will offer many alternatives, options
- Very few required data elements but many optional elements
- Who decides how to apply RDA?
  - National libraries
  - Other governing bodies: OCLC, PCC
  - Local institutions

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RDA will include many different options and alternatives:

What kind of description to make (simple, comprehensive, analytical – like AACR2)

Alternatives for how to record relationships

Which data elements to use (only a few will be required)

The national libraries are already talking about how and when to make these implementation decisions. We expect that other governance entities such as OCLC and the PCC will also need to make decisions about what is required for various record levels, and how data should be encoded.

Where there is no national or consortial decision, then local institutions must decide what parts of RDA to apply to what resources. RDA offers the possibility of a broad standard applied to all resource description activities – but that might not be something that your institution feels they can or should do.

Applying RDA

- **My personal best guess:**
  - For *most* resources, we will continue to encode RDA data in MARC 21 and to exchange records
  - In certain contexts (records contributed to OCLC?), we will probably continue to use ISBD presentation
  - For *some* materials, we may apply RDA to data encoded in XML or DC

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My personal best guess is that for most resources, we will continue to encode RDA data in MARC 21 and to exchange records.

In certain contexts (possibly records contributed to OCLC?), we will probably continue to use ISBD presentation features (such as prescribed punctuation).   So far, this looks like business as usual and will probably raise few implementation issues.

For some materials, however, we may choose to apply RDA to data encoded in XML or DC. Over time, this part of the workflow may increase significantly.

Encoding RDA records in MARC 21 and DC

RDA

- Most RDA data elements can be incorporated into MARC 21
- A few changes:
  - New data elements to replace GMDs
  - Possibly some other modifications necessary to MARC 21
- RDA and DC: mappings, further discussions

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As noted, the JSC has already begun looking at MARC 21. We expect that most *RDA* data elements can be incorporated into the existing MARC 21 structure using current MARC 21 guidelines for coding and order of data elements.

However, there are a few changes that we know about now, such as the new data elements to replace the GMD.
There may also be other changes that we haven't identified yet.

If you are using Dublin Core in some capacity in your institution, you may want to consider whether there are advantages to using RDA for the content of metadata records that might increase the compatibility of DC and MARC records.

We recognize that there are some significant differences between the data models behind RDA and Dublin Core, and the JSC has started to have some conversations directly with members of the DC community – had a meeting with DC and IEEE-LOM members last wee, and we're hoping to schedule a follow-up meeting within a few months.

- RDA will establish a clear line of separation between the recording of data and the presentation of data
- ISBD punctuation not required in RDA, but instead is an option.
- Presentation information (e.g. ISBD punctuation) will appear in an appendix of RDA
- Use of ISBD may be mandated in some situations or it may be a local option

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Regarding ISBD punctuation,

Just to clarify, one more time …

It is not yet clear to what extent individual catalogers will need to make these decisions.

High-level decisions may govern most cases (OCLC, for instance); where such decisions do not apply (e.g. to local digital library collections), an institutional policy is probably a good idea. Begin thinking about this well in advance of implementation.

RDA's objective in separating recording and presentation is to make RDA usable for those

who are not interested in using ISBD punctuation, so that we can address the needs of various communities.

These considerations might not apply to the institutions represented here – or they might apply only to some resources that such institutions describe.

RDA Implementation Scenarios

- Implementation scenarios for RDA data
- "Flat file" – no links between records
- Linked bib. and authority records
- Relational/object oriented
- Initially systems will support flat or linked
- Eventually we hope to design systems that support the full relational scenario
- http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/working2.html#ed-2

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The JSC has been thinking about broad database architectures that might be appropriate for RDA data.

Tom Delsey, the RDA Editor, has prepared a document showing three implementation scenarios – all of which could support RDA.

The most rudimentary is a "flat file" structure: separate bibliographic and authority records with no links.

The second scenario shows linked bibliographic and authority records, with authority records used to represent access points for works and expressions.

The final scenario is a vision of a "FRBRized" structure with separate records for each of the Group 1 entities, linked to each other and to authority records for the Group 2 entities.

Initially systems will support either flat or linked structures, but eventually we hope that systems that support the full relational scenario will become common.

I recommend that you have a look at this document.

Retrospective catalog maintenance?

- Significant changes to existing records will not be required
  - Certainly true in Part A
  - Current intention in Part B
- Need for adjustments when integrating RDA and AACR2 records will be minimal

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If you remember the transition between AACR and AACR2, you may be wondering whether libraries will have to make major changes to existing records.

Significant changes to existing records created under AACR2 will not be required.
At this point, while RDA is still in development, we can't promise that there will not be a need for ANY changes to existing records. However …

As we're developing RDA, we're keeping in mind the need to ensure that older records will be compatible with records created under RDA, and our intention is to require as few changes as possible.

Training for RDA

- Catalogers *will* need some training in RDA
- Groups that provide training are beginning to make plans
- Online product will assist with learning

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We are beginning to talk with various groups that generally provide cataloging training (such as ALA/ALCTS) about the need to provide training for RDA. Other groups such as MLA would be logical participants in training for RDA. But we also are looking at options for people who can't attend conferences and workshops, and so are looking at "train the trainer" models as well, such as the model used for the SCCTP workshops.

It's a bit early to develop a specific training plan since the content of RDA is not yet set. But you will definitely start hearing more about this over the next year or two.

We anticipate that the nature of the RDA online product itself will help catalogers to learn to use RDA, since it will lead you through the cataloging process and allow catalogers to customize the product for the type of resources that they are cataloging.

RDA Online Prototype

- View/listen to a 3-minute demo. of RDA Online
- Complete a brief survey – we want your feedback!

www.rdaonline.org

We currently have a prototype of the online available that anyone can view and comment on – I encourage everyone to have a look at it. We hope it will give you a good idea of how the product will actually work.

It has been difficult sometimes for people who are reviewing the printed drafts of RDA to get a sense of how the product will actually work, so I think it's really helpful to try this out.

Next RDA draft review

- Chapter 3 ("Carrier") - complete
- Chapter 4 ("Content") addendum
- New elements to replace GMD
  - Media type, Carrier type (Chapter 3)
  - Content type (Chapter 4)
- Incorporates constituency comments
- Draft available March 2007

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Finally, you can prepare for RDA by participating in the development of RDA.

The next draft review will begin in March, with a revised and complete draft of Chapter 3, and an addendum to Chapter 4. These will allow reviewers to see the new data elements that have been developed to replace the GMD in their context within RDA.

This draft of RDA will also incorporate hundreds of individual comments that the JSC received from constituencies on the previous draft of Chapter 3.

The draft will be available for public review in March.

RDA draft reviews

■ March-July 2007	Chapter 3
■ June–Sept 2007	Chapters 6-7
■ Dec 2007-Mar 2008	Part B Access Point Control
■ July-Sept 2008	Complete draft
■ Early 2009	First release of RDA

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The new timeline continues with reviews of drafts of Chapters 6 and 7 this summer; Part B next winter; and the complete draft in summer 2008. First release of RDA is scheduled for the first quarter of 2009.

Commenting on RDA drafts

- RDA drafts available at:
  www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rda.html
- Informal discussion: subscribe to RDA-L (link on page above)
- Formal comments: submit via MLA representative to CC:DA (Mark Scharff)

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I encourage you all to actively participate in reviewing the drafts of RDA.

The drafts are being posted to this URL – the draft of Chapters 0 through 7 are posted right now, although the comment periods are over. We have also made the vast majority of JSC documents public via the JSC website, so you can read as many as you want.

If you want to simply engage in informal discussion of RDA, consider joining our discussion list, RDA-L – there is a link for how to join at the address above. Please note that comments posted to RDA-L will not automatically be considered by the JSC for inclusion in RDA (although we are monitoring the list and are open to new ideas that we could incorporate).

To have your comments FORMALLY considered for inclusion in RDA, the JSC has asked that people within the JSC constituent countries (US, UK, Canada, Australia) use the committees that are already in place – in the U.S, that's CC:DA.
MLA members should send comments to Mark Scharff, MLA rep. to CC:DA.

Questions?

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