Diachronic works: future development from the ISSN International Centre perspective

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A Practical Introduction to the New RDA Toolkit
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The ISSN: a dedicated network for continuing resources

- An identifier for all kind of continuing resources
- A decentralized assignment process
  - A Network of 90 National Centres
  - Assignment associated to the production of a reference bibliographic record
- A unique point of access to ISSN information: the ISSN Portal
  - Maintained and distributed by the ISSN International Centre
  - More than 2 million records; 10% for online resources
  - “Essential” data elements available as linked open data
  - For human and machine consumption
ISSN and RDA

- Since 2015, a protocol between the RSC and the ISSN International Centre
  • In order to support “functional interoperability between data created using the RDA and ISSN instructions and element sets”
- ISSN records created according to the ISSN Manual
  • Based on the ISBD
  • But amended to avoid potential conflicts between RDA and ISSN rules
- LRM alignment as a driver for harmonization
  • As recognized by a RDA/ISBD/ISSN Meeting in Wrocław (August 2017)
  • And by a RSC / ISSN IC discussion paper (http://www.rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC-Chair-20.pdf)
IFLA-LRM alignment for serials and other continuing resources

- LRM section 5.8 dedicated to serials
  - but may be applicable to all continuing resources
- Main characteristics underlined:
  - Aggregate several levels of content (serial title / issue / article)
  - Dynamic resources whose content change over time

“Description of serial works does not limit itself to a description of the past, but is also intended to allow end-users to make assumptions about what the behavior of a serial work will be, at least in the near future”

IFLA-LRM
Impacts on the RDA Toolkit 1/3

- Discussed by the Aggregates Working Group and the Serials Task Force

- Introducing the notion of “diachronic work”
  - A work that is planned to be embodied over time
  - published over a limited time (“finite”) or over an indefinite time (“continuing”)

<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>Successive</th>
<th>Integrating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indeterminate</td>
<td>E.g. serials</td>
<td>E.g. most websites and databases</td>
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| Determinate         | E.g. dictionaries in several volumes           | E.g. websites of a limited duration (Olympic games…)

- The “extension plan” is an essential characteristic of the work
  - While the “mode of issuance” is a manifestation attribute (= number of carriers)
Impacts on the RDA Toolkit

- Re-locating several elements from manifestation to work
  - Frequency – which is part of the “publication plan”
  - ISSN and key-title: identifier for the work (but also for expression and manifestation)
- A specific cardinality for diachronic works the “1:1:1 WEM lock”
  - 1 work = 1 expression = 1 manifestation
- Prevents any form of collocation based on the commonality of content
  - “As it is impossible to predict that this relationship will hold in the future” (IFLA-LRM)
Collocation of serials

The New York times

The New York times (English)

Expression

Manifestation

Collocation of serials

The New York times

The New York times (English)

Expression

Manifestation

Collocation of serials

The New York times

The New York times (English)

Expression

Manifestation

Collocation of serials

The New York times

The New York times (English)

Expression

Manifestation
The end of collocation for serials?

- The New York times (print)
- The New York times (CD-Rom)
- The New York times (online)

Work

Expression

Manifestation
The end of collocation ?!
Impacts on the RDA Toolkit: clustering

- Any RDA entity can be clustered, i.e. grouped with other entities sharing common characteristics
  - on any criterion
  - at the discretion of an implementing agency
- To create the cluster, the implementing agency assigns the same nomen-string to each member of a cluster
- An entity can be a member of more than one cluster
Cluster of works: the ISSN-L case

Cluster identifier: “0362-4331”
Clustering criterion: “same title on different media versions”
Implementing agency: “ISSN International Centre”

ISSN-L 0362-4331

Print 0362-4331
CD 1542-667X
Online 1553-8095
Thank you for your attention!

Questions? Join us on booth 2920