RDA in the Wider World

IFLA WLIC Satellite Meeting.

11 August 2016, Dublin, Ohio, USA

Proposal for Presentation

Christian Aliverti (Swiss National Library NL)
Head of the Section Bibliographical Access, Member of the NL Management Board, EURIG representation, member of the Committee for Library Standards, lecturer in cataloguing at the University of Zurich and at the University of Applied Sciences HTW Chur.

Swiss National Library NL
Hallwylstrasse 15
CH-3003 Bern
Switzerland
Mailto: christian.aliverti@nb.admin.ch

Renate Behrens (German National Library, DNB)
Office for Library Standards, Head of the RDA-Project in Austria, Germany and German-speaking Switzerland, representation in the RDA Steering Committee, EURIG representation, IFLA Cataloguing Section

German National Library
Office for Library Standards
Adickesallee 1
D-60322 Frankfurt am Main
Mailto: r.behrens@dnb.de

Abstract (400 Words)
Austria, Germany and German-speaking Switzerland have implemented RDA for cataloguing. The transition has been prepared in an extensive cooperative project in the three countries over the past three years.

Even if the objective of the first implementation step has been libraries and library networks, the experts have already started to consider the cataloguing of special materials such as rare books and have joined together to create new working groups. These already extend beyond the circle of libraries; representatives of other cultural institutions are also taking part. Existing cataloguing codes and standards in the archive and museum fields will be aligned with RDA for the first time. Currently, RDA contains no or not enough rules for the cataloguing of special materials such as literary archives, rare books and manuscripts; however these are being introduced in the international review process. Working Groups for “Literary Archives and Autographs”, “Rare Books”, “Graphic Materials” and “Manuscripts” are or will be set up.

Those working groups for special cataloguing can build a bridge between the communities. The goal is not the full integration of the existing non-librarian rules in RDA. We aim for guidelines that are interoperable with RDA. The distinction between the descriptive and the access point part of
the rules seems necessary here. The Gemeinsame Normdatei, GND, a cooperative authority file, controls the access points and applies already RDA.

The conceptual work of the working groups concerns the entity work, titles, hierarchies and RDA implementation scenarios. Cataloguing unique objects demands a new definition of the entity work and the delimitation of the other WEMI-entities. The harmonization of standards for archives or museums with RDA requires that the librarian title concept be revised. In archival cataloguing models, the provenance of the items is important. The harmonization of the ISAD(G) provenance model (hierarchical description) with the RDA instructions to series/items is a desire. The development of RDA implementations scenarios for collections of museums and archives would be useful.

The presentation shows how the RDA project is organised in the German speaking countries. It presents the first experiences with RDA cataloguing. It reports on the working groups concerned with the cataloguing of special materials. It also provides an insight into how the cooperation with galleries, archives and museums is organised with respect to RDA.