Analysis of the current version of RDA

« A French perspective »

RDA in Europe meeting - September 2021, 14th
A thorough analysis made in 2020-2021 by the Standardisation WG of the Tb programme
RDA - a universal standard?

- The only internationally oriented cataloguing code that is deliberately oriented towards an entity/relationship model.
- A new version that broadens the target audience beyond libraries
- But an opening that brings contradictions
  - The multiplication of options reinforces the uniqueness of each profile
  - Interoperability is made real by alignments between named graphs in the LoD, with an increasing role of identifiers
  - Access points managed by APs (remaining local), thus impeding full universal bibliographic control and seamless data exchanges

Official: “RDA is a package of data elements, guidelines, and instructions for creating library and cultural heritage resource metadata that are well-formed according to international models for user-focused linked data applications.”
RDA - a suitable code for cataloguers?

- A difficulty in using the RDA Toolkit in current cataloguing practice
- A need to write supplementary library cataloguing policies for our catalogers,
- And update it as quickly as RDA evolves
RDA - An implementation of IFLA LRM, complex and in some way difficult to manage according to RDA

For example
3 versions of the same work
Paul Auster’s «Talking to Strangers»
Paul Auster’s Talking to Strangers in RDA

Contributor to aggregate

Agent Auster, Paul (1947-....)

Aggregating work
Talking to strangers: Selected Essays, Prefaces, and Other Writings, (1967-2017)

Aggregator agent

Expression of work

Aggregating expression
English version, text

Manifestation of expression

Aggregate manifestation

Agent Auster, Paul (1947-....)

Aggregating work
Samtaler med fremmede (spoken word)

Aggregator agent

Expression of work

Aggregating expression
Danish version, spoken word

Manifestation of expression

Aggregate manifestation

Agent Auster, Paul (1947-....)

Aggregating work
Samtaler med fremmede (text)

Aggregator agent

Expression of work

Aggregating expression
Danish version, text

Manifestation of expression

Aggregate manifestation

Agent Auster, Paul (1947-....)

Transformation by audience (language version)

Agent Auster, Paul (1947-....)
Paul Auster’s Talking to Strangers in RDA-FR

Auster, Paul (1947-....)
Oeuvres critiques. Choix.
Texte noté

Auster, Paul (1947-....)
Oeuvres critiques. Choix.
Parole énoncée

Agent
Auster, Paul (1947-....)

Creator of aggregated works
Aggregating work
Critical writings.
Choice.

Expression of work
Manifestation of expression
Aggregate manifestation

Aggregate expression
English version, text

Aggregator agent
Agent
Auster, Paul (1947-....)

Expression of work
Manifestation of expression
Aggregate manifestation

Aggregating expression
Danish version, text

Expression of work
Manifestation of expression
Aggregate manifestation

Aggregating expression
Danish version, spoken word
RDA - some entities still to be created or improved

- An implementation of the entity Person with no link to the Bibliographic Identity
  - Raises some difficulties with ISNI and the rights management community
- Some LRM entities not yet fully implemented:
  - Place
- Some useful but outside LRM entities not yet implemented:
  - Fictitious entity
  - Bibliographic identity
  - Concept
  - Event
- No detailed description of some kinds of resources, transferred to APs
  - Audiovisual
  - Cartographic resources
  - Still image
As a conclusion

- RDA-FR is consistent with almost all RDA Revised rules, except Aggregates, Management of Persons, and some minor other points
- RDA-FR is more precise and more suited to cataloguer’s needs
- Thus we will keep writing RDA-FR, as it is based on the IFLA LRM model and relying on RDA
- We reaffirm our wish to be a member of the RDA community, via EURIG
- The RDA analysis report is a first deliverable of the French Bibliographic Transition Programme in the medium term
- The report is available online
Thank you for your attention!

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