News from NARDAC: The North American Region Fledges Its Wings

Dominique Bourassa
Chair, NARDAC
ALA Representative to NARDAC
Catalog Librarian, Yale University Library
North American RDA Committee (NARDAC)

• Represents the North American region on the RDA Steering Committee (RSC)

• Formed in January 2018
NARDAC Members: 2019

American Library Association (ALA) Representatives
- Dominique Bourassa, Yale University, NARDAC Chair
- Stephen Hearn, University of Minnesota

Canadian Committee on Cataloguing (CCC) Representatives
- Thomas Brenndorfer, Guelph Public Library, NARDAC Representative to the RSC
- Nathalie Mainville, Library and Archives Canada

Library of Congress (LC) Representatives
- Damian Iseminger, Bibliographic Access Section, Music Division, Coordinator of Web Content
- Kate James, Policy & Standards Division, Back-up Representative to the RSC

RDA Board National Institution Representative from North America (ex officio)
- Beacher Wiggins, LC
NARDAC Members: 2020

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- Damian Iseminger, Bibliographic Access Section, Music Division, Coordinator of Web Content
- Melanie Polutta, Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division

RDA Board National Institution Representative from North America (ex officio)
- Merideth Fletcher, LAC
Review of Discussion and Proposal Papers
RSC resumes broad community review

• NARDAC solicited feedback on the following papers:
  ➢ Expression Excerpts
  ➢ RDA Content Elements
  ➢ RSC Operations Documents
  ➢ String Encoding Schemes in RDA Toolkit
• Comments received informed NARDAC’s responses to the RSC
Challenges

- Short turnaround time for comments
- Feedback periods during holidays
- More frequent meetings (quarterly instead of annual)
Still To Do...

- Figure out
  - how community feedback on proposals and discussion papers can be handled more efficiently
  - if and how NARDAC responses can be shared with communities
Experiment to Create an RDA Proposal
The Proposal

To add elements for curators who play a role at the work level (ex. curators of exhibitions)

- curator agent of work
- curator collective agent of work
- curator corporate body of work
- curator family of work
- curator person of work
Process: Step 1

Proposal drafted by

- ALA Representatives to NARDAC
- ARLIS/NA, chaired by Andrea Puccio
- CC:DA 3R Task Force, chaired by Robert Maxwell
Process: Step 2

Proposal sent to CC:DA
• Discussion
• Vote

Decision: send proposal to NARDAC as an ALA proposal with revisions stemming from CC:DA discussions
Process: Step 3

NARDAC evaluates the proposal

• Discussion
• Revision (back and forth with ARLIS/NA)

Result:

• Strong proposal
• Several issues still unresolved

Decision: proposal not forwarded to the RSC at this time
Still to do...

- Define how future North American RDA proposals will be handled based on insight we gained from our experiment
- Continue work on proposal following RSC advice
Special thanks to ARLIS/NA

- For bringing the curator issue to NARDAC’s attention
- For their patience during this process
- For serving as NARDAC’s guinea pig!
User-Friendly Element Project
Premise

• Baffling and intimidating element labels
  ➢ contributor person of still image
  ➢ contributor agent to amalgamation
  ➢ medium of performance of choreographic content of representative expression

• Element labels not intended for “human consumption”

• Element labels and definitions grounded in linked data principles

• Elements designed to be meaningful to machines

Confused by Ben Davis from the Noun Project. https://thenounproject.com/search/?q=confused&i=817476
User-friendly Element Project

- NARDAC charged by the RSC to develop a set of user-friendly element labels to be used for public display
- CC:DA 3R Task Force helped review the entire set of RDA unconstrained elements and definitions (Merci beaucoup!)
- NARDAC report and list of user-friendly labels discussed at the RSC meeting in Santiago
Still to do...

• Revise list of labels based on RSC comments
• Write discussion paper
• Submit revised list of labels and discussion paper to the RSC
RSC Expectations

• Developing a single set of user-friendly labels suitable for every community using RDA is probably impossible

• Communities will develop their own vocabularies
Outreach activities
Some Outreach Events

• Damian and Kate: “Anticipating the New RDA,” Lecture series Digital Future and You, LC (16 July)

• Thomas: “Relationship Elements,” RDA Orientation New Concept Series Webinar (7 August)

Participation in the Development of Local Policies

• Stephen: co-chair, LC-PCC Task Group on Data Provenance in Beta RDA Toolkit

• Melanie: co-chair; Dominique: consultant, LC-PCC Task Group on Element Labels in the Beta RDA Toolkit

• Melanie: leader, LC-PCC policy statements (with Damian and four other staff at LC)
NARDAC’s Goals
NARDAC’s Goals

• Develop effective interaction with the communities NARDAC represents
• Become a support and information hub
• Provide support and direction to constituent groups that assume training responsibilities
• Extend outreach
Caveats

NARDAC reality:
• only 6 members representing a widespread region
• $ for operations

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Northern_America_(orthographic_projection).svg
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