

Summary

- A switch to RDA in Denmark will mean that all libraries have to switch at the same time as we are closely working together in the national union catalogue - the national bibliography, the national library, public and research libraries.
- RDA was decided as the future cataloguing standard in Denmark in 2016 by the authorities.
A Danish profile was drawn up closely connected to the original text (no translating of RDA was intended)
- Due to financial issues (who should pay for the implementation), RDA hasn't been implemented so far.

Meanwhile: RDA 3R came along:

Danish cataloguers are not well trained in cataloguing during their education – the job as a cataloguer is often a part time task - training is from colleague to colleague - we are not that many experts.

Danish cataloguers as a whole would never have the time to

- examine the guidelines in RDA carefully
- get beyond the theoretical level (translated or not)
- use RDA as a practical tool in order to find exact instructions on what to do – for example they would never dream to look up the phrase *aggregator agent of*

The Danish Bibliographic Council: A more pragmatic approach is necessary

Recommendation:

Implement RDA-rules only when the change will

- add value to the users of our current catalogue compared to current practice.
- promote a shift in the datamodel (from a full bibliographic record to a relationship model: bibliographical record related to authority records)
- provide instructions for entities without current instructions (now: how to choose and form a personal name – RDA: also adding further information (gender, nationality, biographical information etc.)

What to do?

A Danish RDA-handbook is recommended

It will properly content:

- Guidelines on defining work according to Danish tradition, choice of the access points for different kinds of works, handling types of aggregates in a Danish context etc.
- How to describe the entities work, expressions, persons and corporate bodies in Denmark and how to relate the entities—directly referring to RDA rules and building a national repository of authority data
- Recommend use of our current rules on describing manifestations with few necessary moderations from RDA. (Properly we will end up having something within the limits of RDA but the rules will be concrete and easier to work with in a MARC-environment)

How to?

It is now analyzed:

Outlining the content of a Danish RDA handbook and the consequences for the Danish format and other bibliographic standards.

The implications of this conditions for implementation in the national infrastructure and how to interact with local library catalogues

A roadmap and price for implementation in the national infrastructure including options where possible

Final decision is expected in the middle of 2022