A long and winding road: RDA from principles to practice

Alan Danskin (Chair JSC)
Overview

• Background and introduction
• Objectives and principles
• Testing and Evaluation
• Implementation
• Future development
Background and introduction

- AACR2
  - 1978
  - 1988
  - 1998
  - 2002
Governance structure and business model

Publication and marketing

Policy and programmes

Committee of Principals
[CEOs/Directors or designates]
ALA, CLA, CILIP,
LC, LAC, NLA, BL

Co Publishers
[Copyright Holders]
ALA, CLA, CILIP

Joint Steering Committee
ALA, BL, CCC,
CILIP, ACOC, LC

Editor
(2004-2009)

Co Publishers
[Copyright Holders]
ALA, CLA, CILIP

Joint Steering Committee
ALA, BL, CCC,
CILIP, ACOC, LC

AACR Fund
[Trustees]
ALA, CLA, CILIP

Manages the income from royalties

Content development

Manages the income from royalties
Why RDA?
DICKEYNS (Charles)


12904. f. 25/4.


12906. cc. 57.


12991. bbb. 88.

Dutch.


1489. g. 39.

Esperanto.


12840. b. 48.

French.


12650. de. 56.

Part of the *“Bibliothèque des chemins de fer.”*

German.


12608. bb. 28.

Part of the *“Miniatuur-Ausgaben klassischer Dichtungen.”*

Italian.


12604. eee. 2.


12601. bbl. 6.

Spanish.


12600. e. 2.

Part of the *“Biblioteca de La Publicidad.”*

**ADAPTATIONS AND ABRIDGEMENTS.**
Gilster, Paul, 1949-
Finding it on the Internet: the essential guide to archie, Veronica, Gopher, WAIS, WWW (including Mosaic), and other search and browsing tools / Paul Gilster.
Includes index.
ISBN: 0471038571 (alk. paper: pbk.): $19.95

Tracings:
Su: Internet (Computer network)
Su: World Wide Web (Information retrieval system)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Shelves</th>
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<td><strong>The Biographical Edition of the Works of Charles Dickens</strong></td>
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<td>YC.1887.a.1655</td>
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<td>Tauch. 250b, Tauch. 250d, Tauch. 250i</td>
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<td>1853</td>
<td>[1852, 53]</td>
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</table>
Proliferation of carriers
Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records

- Conceptual model
  - Entities, Relationships, Attributes

- First part of a comprehensive conceptual model
  - FRAD = Functional requirements for authority data
  - FRSAR = Functional requirements for subject authority records
• Principles
• Content / Carrier
• Logical Structure of AACR2
  – Class of materials “
• Seriality
• Internationalisation

Case Law
  – Inconsistencies introduced
Over specialisation
  – Very detailed rules for classes of specialist material; exceptions from general rules

HELP!!!
A map, that’s chapter 3.
It’s electronic, so that’s chapter 9.
It updates monthly, so maybe chapter 12?
Background and introduction

- AACR2
  - 1978
  - 1988
  - 1998
  - 2002
  - 2004 (AACR 3)

2010
RDA objectives and principles

- Objectives and principles for the design of RDA
  - Guided the development of content for first release
  - Conflicting principles need to be balanced

- Functionality of records produced using RDA
  - Descriptive data
  - Access point control data
  - Statement of International Cataloguing Principles

http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/5rda-objectivesrev3.pdf
General Principles (ICP)

Convenience of user
Representation
Common usage
Accuracy
Sufficiency and necessity
Significance
Economy

Consistency and Standardisation
Integration
Defensible, not arbitrary
If contradict, take a defensible, practical solution.
Design Objectives

- **Comprehensiveness**: cover all types of resources and content represented in catalogues
- **Consistency**: consistent formulation of instructions, etc.
- **Clarity**: clear and written in plain English; unambiguous with respect to concepts, terminology, and scope of application
- **Rationality**: rational, non-arbitrary decisions
- **Currency**: responsive to new developments and new types of resources and content
Design Objectives

- **Compatibility**: with internationally established principles, models, and standards
- **Adaptability**: amenable to adaptation by various communities to meet their specific needs
- **Ease and efficiency of use**: should be easy and efficient to use.
- **Format**: presentation in either a conventional print format or in a digital format.
Comprehensiveness and currency

• Resources
  – Organisation by entities and attributes
    • Describe resources in their own terms, not in relation to existing types.
  – Extensible vocabularies for media types and carrier types
  – Supplementary instructions for music, legal, official publications, etc.

Content
  – Chapter 7 Describing Content
  – Extensible vocabulary for content type
  – FRBR Group 3 entities (concept, object, event) represented by placeholders for first release
Rationality: rational, non-arbitrary decisions

Rule of three removed

Core elements:
- Subset of RDA Element Set
- Minimum necessary to support user tasks
  - FRBR / FRAD weightings
- Some elements are core only when defined conditions apply:
  - Type of resource
  - Restriction of scope
- A “floor not a ceiling”
- Agency policy
Cost efficiency

Purpose of elements recorded is clear
–Elements are recorded if justified by user tasks, e.g.

“Make a note …if it is considered important for identification or access”

Automated data capture
–Data automatically derived from a digital source can be transcribed as it appears on the source without modification

Alternatives, options, and exceptions,
–Guidelines and Instructions are clearly labelled
–Agencies can establish / share profiles
Flexibility

- Instructions and guidelines = main text
- Display = Appendices D & E
- RDA has been designed for use with a variety of encoding schemes:
  - ISBD
  - MARC 21 / MODS & MADS
  - Dublin Core
  - Registration of RDA elements and vocabularies in RDF
Continuity

Implementation scenarios:
1. Relational / Object oriented database structure
2. Linked bibliographic & authority records
3. Flat file database structure (no links)

RDA elements = attributes
Constructing access points to represent entities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| Scenario 1 (Person) | Name = Luckombe, Philip  
Date of death = 1803 |
| Scenario 2 (Name Authority) | Luckombe, Philip, d. 1803  
Date of death = 1803 |
| Scenario 3 (Bibliographic Record) | Luckombe, Philip, d. 1803 |
## Example of composite description for a book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RDA REF</th>
<th>RDA ELEMENT</th>
<th>DATA RECORDED</th>
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<tr>
<td>2.3.2</td>
<td>Title proper *</td>
<td>The organization of information</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.4.2</td>
<td>Statement of responsibility relating to title proper *</td>
<td>Arlene G. Taylor</td>
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<td>Designation of edition *</td>
<td>Second edition</td>
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<td>2.8.2</td>
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<td>Libraries Unlimited, a member of the Greenwood Publishing Group</td>
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<td>[2004?]</td>
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<td>3.4</td>
<td>Extent of text *</td>
<td>xxvii, 417 pages</td>
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<td>3.5</td>
<td>Dimensions</td>
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<td>Library and information science text series</td>
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RDA: Future Development

Priorities

• FRBR Group 3 entities, attributes and relationships
• Issues deferred until after first release
  – http://www.rda-jsc.org/working2.html#sec-6
  – Constituencies are prioritising issues for discussion
Links

Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
http://www.rda-jsc.org/

RDA Online – Information about publication
http://www.rdaonline.org/index.html

Registry
http://metadataregistry.org/schema/list.html
http://metadataregistry.org/vocabulary/list.html