

# The new version of RDA: structure, key concepts and content

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R | D | A  
Resource Description & Access

# Library Reference Model

RDA is an implementation of the LRM

RDA is an extension of the LRM

All RDA entities and elements are equivalent or narrower sub-types of LRM entities, relationships, and attributes.

*Corporate Body* and *Family* are sub-types of *Collective Agent*

RDA entities are encapsulated under *RDA Entity*

*RDA Entity* is a sub-type of *LRM Res*

# Structure

All RDA elements are treated equally

No “relationship designators” in appendices

Instructions for recording an entity or element are grouped under the entity or element

Each has its own “page”

Element pages are grouped in entity “chapters”

General guidance on special topics is provided separately

Modular structure supports context

ENTITIES

GUIDANCE

POLICIES

RESOURCES

All

Search



RDA Entity

Work

Expression

Manifestation

Item

Agent

Person

Collective Agent

Corporate Body

Family

Nomen

Place

Timespan

Introduction to RDA

Aggregates

Application profiles

Content and carrier

Data provenance

Diachronic works

Fictitious and non-human appellations

Manifestation statements

Nomens and appellations

Recording methods

Representative expressions

Resource description

Terminology

Transcription guidelines

User tasks

## Welcome to the RDA Toolkit BETA site

Please explore the site in full with the knowledge that the functions and content of the site are still under development. The RDA Steering Committee has not authorized the beta site for use in cataloging work.

News

All News >

# Recording methods

## Four distinct kinds of data

1. Unstructured description: keyword indexes  
Transcriptions, notes; flat-file applications
2. Structured description: browse indexes, parsing  
Derived, compound values; bib/authority applications
3. Identifier: direct indexes  
Local scope; relational database applications
4. IRI (URI): Semantic web  
Global scope; linked open data applications

# Transcription

Context: How a manifestation describes itself  
Principle of representation


Basic transcription is optimized for machine  
intermediation

Optical character recognition software


Normalized transcription preserves the current RDA  
approach

Other transcription rules may be applied


# Transcription guidelines

RDA provides guidelines for transcribing a value of a **manifestation statement**  to support the user tasks *find* and *identify*.

## OPTION

Apply the RDA **Guidelines on basic transcription** . These guidelines require a minimal degree of cataloguer intervention.

## OPTION

Apply the RDA **Guidelines on normalized transcription** . These guidelines require additional cataloguer judgement.

## OPTION

Apply any transcription guidelines.

# Manifestation statements

LRM attribute that accommodates the principle of representation

RDA provides a set of sub-types that have an approximate alignment with ISBD

e.g. manifestation edition statement

Unstructured description: the value is obtained by direct transcription, with or without transliteration



# Appellations and *Nomen*

*Nomen* entity treats an appellation as a thing that can be described separately

“Name” authority control

An appellation is a string that references an entity  
Name/title, access point, identifier

RDA provides specific elements for appellations  
e.g. title of work; access point for person;  
identifier for place

# Appellations and recording methods

The string value of a relationship element must be an appellation of the related entity

Related person of work: “Gordon Dunsire”  
“Dunsire, Gordon”  
“nb2001072552”

Appellation element	Value string	Recording method
Name of person	“Gordon Dunsire”	Unstructured description
Access point for person	“Dunsire, Gordon”	Structured description
Identifier for person	“nb2001072552”	Identifier

# Data provenance

## Metadata about metadata

Who created the metadata?

When? Using what standards? etc.

RDA treats a metadata description set (one or more statements) as a *Work*

The work is described using RDA

Provenance is optional

But is essential in the context of 'fake news'

Fake metadata ☹️

# Options ...

RDA does not assume that all, or most, Toolkit users will make the same choices

What entity to use in a hierarchy?

What element to use? What relationship element to use in a hierarchy?

Record the first value, any value, or all values?

Etc.

# Choices

Optional instructions are explicitly presented, often associated with conditions that provide a context

Guidance and instructions indicate that entity and element hierarchies and appropriate recording methods provide choices


All levels of choice have active links and citation numbers

## CONDITION

None of the terms in a vocabulary encoding scheme is appropriate or sufficiently specific.

## OPTION

Record a suitable uncontrolled term as an unstructured description.

For general guidance on structured descriptions, see Recording methods. [Recording a structured description](#) .

**Boilerplate: consistent phrasing**

# Restrictions

Well-formed RDA metadata must conform to the semantics of the LRM and RDA

Coherent description: FRBR “primary” elements and cardinality

Minimum description: At least one appellation element

# Coherent description of an information resource

Resource description

A coherent description follows

## Minimum description of a resource entity

A minimum *metadata description set* of a *resource entity* must conform to the requirements and constraints given in [Coherent description of an information resource](#).

- [resource](#)
- [Minimum description of a work](#)
- [Minimum description of an expression](#)
- [Minimum description of a manifestation](#)
- [Minimum description of an item](#)

### Minimum description of a work

A minimum description of a work must include the following set of elements:

- Work: [appellation of work](#)



# Consistency

Semantic conformance allows RDA metadata to interoperate at ‘lowest common denominator’ global level

Via entity and element hierarchies

Interoperability of metadata values requires conformance with local choices for strings

Via “authority” processes

# Application

The new RDA Toolkit is ready for:

The cloud of metadata processing

Smart metadata

Slightly dumber metadata

Multilingual metadata

Local applications in a global network

Individual, institutional, national, and international choice

# Thank you!

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