RDA TOOLKIT 3R PROJECT: INCORPORATING THE 4-FOLD PATH

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RDA Vision / Priorities

From the RDA Board

• Vision
  • RDA: the global standard enabling discovery of content

• Strategic priorities 2015-2020
  • Make RDA an internationally recognized standard
  • Increase the adoption of RDA internationally
  • Develop a sustainable business model
  • Develop a relevant governance structure
RDA Toolkit 3R Project will…

• Redesign
  • Improve user interface
  • Greater flexibility in display
  • Change instruction numbering

• Restructure
  • Simplify instructions, generalizing where possible
  • Group instructions by entity
  • Add/remove content
    • Add new IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM) entities
    • Remove placeholder instructions
    • Implement the 4-fold path

To be revealed in April 2018
What Led to This Point?

• RDA heritage / underpinnings
  • AACR2
  • Statement of International Cataloguing Principles
  • IFLA’s Functional Requirements models (FRBR, FRAD, FRSAD)
    • And soon, their successor, IFLA LRM
• RDA future – inclusion of more communities
  • International
  • Cultural heritage
  • Linked data
• RDA constraints
  • Records/data still need to work in our current environment
  • But, the future is longer than the past…
Who Are the Players?

- RDA Steering Committee (10 members)
- RSC Working Group Chairs (up to 10 members)
- 3R Project Consultant
- Director, ALA Digital Reference
- Other volunteers
  - RSC Working Group members
  - Support from regional communities
    - ALCTS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access Task Force established
What is the 4-Fold Path?

- Four ways to capture information about something in the bibliographic universe
  - Some paths apply only to certain entities
- Three ways already represented in RDA, but not consistently:
  - Unstructured description
  - Structured description
  - Identifier
- The fourth path hinted at in RDA now
  - A Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) for the entity
- Implementing all 4 paths throughout RDA will offer greater flexibility in capturing data
Part of Fulfilling the LRM User Tasks

- **Find**
  - Gather information about the resource(s) by searching on relevant criteria

- **Identify**
  - Clearly understand the nature of the resource(s); distinguish between similar resources

- **Search**
  - Determine the suitability of the resource(s); accept/reject specific resources

- **Obtain**
  - Access the content of the resource

- **Explore**
  - Discover resources using the relationships between them, placing them in a context
Examples of 4-Fold Path Now

- From the April 2017 RDA Toolkit

  Chapter 27 examples

  **EXAMPLE**
  Unstructured Description of the Related Manifestation
  Also issued electronically via World Wide Web in PDF format

  **EXAMPLE**
  Structured Description of the Related Manifestation

  **EXAMPLE**
  Identifier for the Related Manifestation
  Also issued as: ISBN 978-0-06128-533-2

  **EXAMPLE**
  Identifier for the Manifestation
  http://larvatusprodeo.net
  URI for the blog Larvatus prodeo

  Chapter 17 example
4-Fold Path Diagram

Unstructured Description
- Includes:
  - Transcription
  - Modified transcription
  - Info for other catalogers

Structured Description
- Includes:
  - Publication Statement
  - Thesis Information
  - Personal Name Access Point
  - Work Access Point

Identifier
- Assigned by an agency following a pattern
- Includes:
  - ISBN
  - ISSN
  - GTIN-14
  - Music Publisher Number

Actionable Link
- Globally unique
- Includes:
  - URI

Descriptions
- Specific data in a particular sequence

Identifiers
- Keyword indexing
Implementation Scenarios

• Each path supports at least one of the following database implementations
  • Flat-file
    • Includes card catalogs
  • “Linked” authorized access points between bibliographic and authority records
    • Such as OCLC Connexion
  • Relational or object database
    • Fully linked at local level
  • Linked data
    • Fully linked at global level
Unstructured Description

- Includes notes of all kinds, quotes from various sources, and transcribed statements from the manifestation
- The only path that includes transcription (WYSIWYG)
  - Can be mechanically captured
    - A picture, photograph, etc.
  - Or could be manipulated in some way, following particular rules or conventions
    - Capitalization practices
    - Punctuation added for clarity
    - Substitution of text for symbols that can’t be reproduced
    - Letting typography influence what is captured, and in what order
Modified Transcriptions

Straightforward?

[AND STILL I RISE]

Maya Angelou

Random House
New York

Complex?

Strange Unusual Gross & Cool Animals

Charles Ghigna
Modified Transcription - Details

author  
Gigna, Charles, author.

title  
Strange, unusual, gross & cool animals / Charles Ghigna.

description  
128 pages : color illustrations, color maps ; 32 cm

publisher  

copyrighted  
©2016

description  
At head of title: Animal Planet

summary  
Collects facts about strange, gross, and unusual animals from across the globe, including the maleo, ghost octopus, and duck-billed platypus.

notes  
Includes bibliographical references (page 124) and index.

contents  
Strange animals -- Unusual animals -- Gross animals -- Cool animals -- Glossary -- Explore some more.

subjects  
Animals -- Juvenile literature.
Animals -- Miscellanea -- Juvenile literature.
Animals.
Animals -- Miscellanea.
Animals.
Juvenile works.
Miscellanea.

format  
Book
Children’s/Juvenile

ISBN  
9781618931665 (hardcover)
1618931660 (hardcover)
What to do with § in a Title?

• Options
  • Use the symbol as is
  • Replace it with one or more terms
    • “Section sign” ?
    • “Paragraph symbol” ?
      (but then what is ¶ ?)
  • Replace with mark of omission (ellipsis)

• Choice based on
  • Availability in character set
  • Term used for the symbol in
    • Language of your user base
    • Language of the resource
Non-Roman Transcription?

• Parallel title in vernacular:
  The new Crown Japanese-English dictionary = 新クラウン和英辞典

• Romanizing isn’t really transcription; instead it’s a form of recording:
  The new Crown Japanese-English dictionary = Shin Kuraun Wa-Ei jiten
Where does the Title Start?

- Op. 6?
- Introduction and Variations on the Russian Air?
- The Red Sarafan?
- Catalogers
  - Introduction…
- Amazon
  - Opus 6…
Structured Description

• Use transcribed data?
  • Publication statements have a “take what you see” approach to each element, but then combine them in a set order


• Use recorded data?
  • Impose standardization in what is captured
    • Exclude typos, etc.
  • Examples
    • Record content type by selecting a term from a closed list
    • Record a work access point by combining authorized versions of
      • Creator (if applicable) + Preferred title + Other information needed to disambiguate (if applicable)

• Some cataloging communities may use different structured forms of the data
Identifiers & Actionable Links

• Identifiers
  • Recorded
  • Assigned by and unique to a particular agency
    • But… the same ISBN could be assigned to more than one work
    • Need to associate the identifier with the agency
  • Structure, prefixes, etc. may carry meaning to the initiated
    • Identification of publisher, sequence of publication, etc.

• Actionable links (URI / IRI)
  • Designed for linked data environment
  • Identifiers designed for machines – for global use
    • May have strings that humans cannot (easily) interpret
      • http://rdaregistry.info/Elements/e/P20219 = "has duration"
Place Names –
When to Transcribe, When to Record?
Character String Choices

• Bombay (India) [*official name through 1995*]
  • Unstructured description (“Bombay City” transcribed as part of title)
  • Structured description?
    • This form no longer used as subject in Anglo-American practice
• Mumbai (India) [*official form in the Name Authority File*]
  • Structured description (authorized access point for subject)
  • Relies on a character string for unique identification

• Many other variants
  • Kakamuchee, Galajunkja, Manbai, मुंबई, Asumumbay, Numbai, Tana-Maiambu, Mombayn, Bombain, Bombaym, Monbaym, Mombaim, Mombaym, Bambaye, Bombaiim, Bombeye, Bombaim, Bon Bahia, and Boon Bay
• Cataloging agencies may make different decisions
Identifier Choices

• Non-actionable
  • 18°58'30"N, 072°49'33"E [geographic coordinates]
  • n 2012073713 [identifier for the Name Authority File record]
  • 7001518 [identifier in Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names]

• Actionable
  • http://www.geonames.org/1275339 [GeoNames URI]
    • Allows for linking to other descriptions that use this same URI

• More flexible across different cataloging communities
• More language neutral
Capturing a Personal Name

Which Version?

- Alexander Solzhenitsyn
- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
- Alexander Solzhenitsyn
- Alexander Solshenizyn
- Alejandro Solyenitzin
- Alexandre Soljénitsyne
- Alexandr Soljenitsin
- Alexander Solschenitzin
- Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn
- Александр Солженицын
- А. И. Солженицын
- אלכסנדר סולצֶהנסין
- aleksandır solţenitsin

How?

- Unstructured description
  - Transcribe as statement of responsibility
- Structured description
  - Choose one form for the authorized access point, use it consistently
- Identifier
  - ISNI (International Standard Name Identifier): 0000 0001 2144 1946
- Linked data
  - http://isni.org/isni/0000000121441946
Agatha Christie: One Book, Two Titles

Published in New York, Feb. 1945
Published in London, Dec. 1945
Cataloging Question

- Assuming a MARC record environment, which of the four paths would you use to IDENTIFY this work?
  - Structured descriptions:
    - Authorized access point + variant access point
      
      | LC control no.: no 96046640 |
      | Authorized access point: |
      | Christie, Agatha, 1890-1976. Sparkling cyanide |
      | Variant access point: |
      | Christie, Agatha, 1890-1976. Remembered death |

  - Optional unstructured description (a note) in a bibliographic record for Sparkling cyanide
    
    Previously titled Remembered death.
A linked data approach can expand the relationships, perhaps beyond what’s in a library catalog…
Different Formats: What’s the best path for SELECT?

Issued as VHS cassette

Later issued as DVD
How to IDENTIFY Who is Responsible?

**Fantastic beasts and where to find them**
Newt Scamander; special edition with a foreword by Albus Dumbledore.
ISBN: 0758751362, 0439321603, 0439295017, 9780439295017, 043932162x, 9780439321624, 9780758751362, 9780439321600,

**Fantastic beasts & where to find them**
Newt Scamander.
©2001
ISBN: 0545850568, 9780545850568,

**Fantastic beasts & where to find them : Newt Scamander**
by J.K. Rowling.
ISBN: 1408803011, 9781408803011,
Questions to Ponder

• When does transcription work best?
• When is it important to record data, rather than to transcribe it?
• When would it make sense to use an identifier, such as the LC Control Number, or ISNI (International Standard Name Identifier)?
• What are the benefits of using a linked data URI or IRI?
• When should more than one path be taken?
Questions?

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