Accessibility and the new RDA Toolkit

Music Library Association/Theatre Library Association Joint Conference
Session: Meeting the Need for Metadata Accessibility and Usability

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RDA 3R (Restructure & Redesign) Project Goal

• Bring the site into compliance with current accessibility standards
  ▪ Achieve a AA rating according to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 [https://www.w3.org/WAI/GL/WCAG20/](https://www.w3.org/WAI/GL/WCAG20/)
    ▪ Following these guidelines makes content accessible to a wide range of people with disabilities, including blindness and low vision, deafness and hearing loss, learning disabilities, cognitive limitations, limited movement, speech disabilities, photosensitivity and combinations of these
    ▪ In order to meet the needs of different groups and different situations, three levels of conformance are defined: A (lowest), AA, and AAA (highest)
The Approach

• Worked with Design for Context, usability and user experience design consultants
  ▪ Review changes to RDA logo, colors, fonts, and all other components of the site (windows, dropdowns, tabs, navigation), and determine how to manage examples

• Once the beta Toolkit was “stabilized” (April 2019), had an independent consulting firm conduct a full evaluation of the site, returning a list of accessibility issues

• Shared The Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) report summarizing the results

• Remediated those issues (completed Sept. 2019)
Test Results: AA Rating Achieved, with One Exception

Highlights

• All non-text content has text equivalents
• Images of text are not used
• Information and relationships are conveyed through markup
• All elements are in a meaningful sequence
• Page titles describe topic or purpose
• Links are appropriately labeled
• No parsing errors or duplicate IDs
• Language of page is correctly identified
• Error suggestions are accessible

Partially supported (the exception)

• Language of parts: Some of the foreign-language text elements are not marked up with their language
  ▪ Purpose: to assist screen readers with correct pronunciation
  ▪ Problem occurs with examples
  ▪ But ignore proper names, technical terms, and words/phrases that have become part of the vernacular of the surrounding text
  ▪ Decided that language + region code is not necessary (e.g. “en-US” vs. “eng”)
  ▪ Will work on addressing this over time
The Challenge of RDA Examples

• has authorized access point for expression
  ▪ English will apply unless specific language codes added
  ▪ Proper names ignored, so given name will be read as “Jean” not “Jzawn”
  ▪ Only the title needs to be marked up in this string

• has variant title of work
  Ιφιγένεια

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  ▪ The first is straightforward (Greek), but what about transliterated Greek?