RSC in 2021: An Operational Reboot

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Continuing with quarterly, rather than annual, meetings

- Change proposals may be considered at any RSC meeting
  - First three meetings of the year held asynchronously
    - Week-long meetings; no observers can be accommodated
  - Final meeting (October) normally held in person
    - Except during a pandemic, when this is converted to a two-week virtual meeting
      - Using a combination of synchronous and asynchronous meeting styles
    - Complex proposals reserved for this meeting
    - Observers may be accommodated in public session(s) – registration required
      - For the October RSC meeting, there will be one synchronous public session
        - Monday, October 18, 10:00 am-noon EDT, via Zoom
        - Registration details are forthcoming
Considering Changes to RDA

• Formal processes – may be submitted anytime
  ▪ Proposal
    o Formal document submitted to RSC for consideration by an RSC member
    o May come from a regional group (e.g., NARDAC), an RSC Working Group, or an RSC member
    o Shared publicly in advance of the RSC meeting
  ▪ Discussion paper
    o Similar to the proposal process, in terms of formality, point of origin, and sharing
    o Used for complex issues with more than one possible solution
Considering Changes to RDA

• Less formal processes
  ▪ Fast track
    o Suggestions for improving consistency in wording, additions to vocabularies, and other changes without wider impact
    o Capable of inclusion in RDA without negative impact on its users
    o Submitted by an RSC member; discussed by RSC
      • Consultation with regional groups is optional
    o Not publicly posted for comment
  ▪ Editorial changes
    o Corrected by RSC Secretary when identified by RSC member or RDA user – no other review required
Streamlining the Proposal process?

• Learning from the benefits and drawbacks of the previous JSC/RSC process

• Goals to
  ▪ Devote less time and effort in creating responses, and also reducing the formality
  ▪ Encourage collaboration among RSC members, including the possibility of a joint proposal
  ▪ Establish an efficient process that allows the RSC to consider proposals at any RSC meeting, but with the benefits of getting community review
  ▪ Allow enough time to make an informed decision, without delaying difficult decisions because they are too complex
  ▪ Retain transparency in RSC decision-making
RSC Technical Working Group

• Standing group, chaired by RSC’s Technical Team Liaison Officer (currently Damian Iseminger)

• Charged to:
  ▪ Assist the RSC in developing RDA in technical areas such as models, structures, semantics, and standards
  ▪ Assist ALA Publishing in developing and maintaining the RDA Registry
  ▪ Assure technical conformance with the RDA ontology as requested by communities and users
Technical Working Group Responsibilities Include

• Review of all change proposals made to the RSC (formal and fast track)
  ▪ Ensures that the proposed change conforms to the RDA/LRM ontology
  ▪ Ensures that the proposed change does not introduce redundancy in the RDA ontology
  ▪ Advises on generalizing the technical context of a proposed change: can the change be broadened to benefit other areas?

• Coordination and maintenance of mappings and alignments between RDA elements and
  ▪ MARC 21
  ▪ Dublin Core
  ▪ BIBFRAME
  ▪ UNIMARC
  ▪ Relevant ILFA namespaces
  ▪ Wikidata
Managing User Feedback

- Proposed changes may come from users via the Submit Feedback link
  - Triage by Director of ALA Digital Reference
  - For the issues referred to the RSC Secretary...
    - Editorial?
    - Refer to the RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer or other RSC member?
    - Fast track?
    - Refer to proposal or discussion paper process?
      - Requires finding an individual or group to do the work
  - But what about suggestions that fall somewhere in between this referral/resolution process?
RDA Assessment Group

• Formed as an outcome of the RSC April 2021 meeting
• Addresses issues beyond routine editorial decisions, which are often in the territory of broader questions and principles

• Membership
  ▪ RSC Secretary, RSC regional representatives

• Responsibilities
  ▪ Analyzes the issue and then...
    ○ Refers it for action to an appropriate person or group (to create a proposal, fast track, etc.), or
    ○ Determines that the change cannot be accommodated in base RDA
Recent Assessment Group

Topics

• Person: *place of residence*
  ▪ Has scope note that is broader than residence

• Guidance: Resource Description: Minimum description of a resource entity: Minimum description of a manifestation
  ▪ Ambiguous formatting of bullet points

• Manifestation: *statement of responsibility*
  ▪ 2nd option in Prerecording section refers to “expressions”

• 12 unresolved issues in Transcription guidelines

• Use of “RDA” vs. “RDA Toolkit” in Introduction to RDA: Objectives and Principles
RDA User Feedback Flowchart

1. User Feedback submitted
   - ALA Publishing triage
     - RSC Secretary triage
       - Refer to RSC expert(s)
       - Refer to RDA Assessment Group
         - Appropriate for fast track
         - Appropriate for discussion paper or proposal
         - Further investigation needed
         - No change recommended
           - Refer to RSC expert(s)
           - Assign to person/group to prepare
             - Review by Technical WG
               - RSC discussion & vote
                 - YES: RDA updated
                 - NO: No change to RDA
Community Resources (CR)

• Community-based content that conforms to RDA
  ▪ Integrated into RDA Toolkit
  ▪ Too specific for inclusion in base RDA; i.e., not (fully) international in scope
    o May contain instructions, guidance, and/or vocabularies
    o May have attached policy statements
  ▪ Owned, created, and maintained by a language community

• Structure under active development

• English language content moved from base RDA
  ▪ Sept. 2020: Abbreviations, capitalization, initial articles, etc.
  ▪ April 2021: Legacy Anglo-American instructions for pseudo-elements (legal, musical, religious works, and official communications)
  ▪ July 2021: Community refinements content, principally string encoding scheme instructions
CR has Content – Now What?

• Hand off “ownership” from RSC to other groups
  ▪ For English: some Anglo-American community (or group of communities)
    o NARDAC + ORDAC + British Library, etc.? [not yet settled]
  ▪ For Finnish:
    o Ready to translate the English text
    o But can now apply their own approaches

• Communities implementing CR need to
  ▪ Figure out how this part of RDA Toolkit works for them in concert with base RDA, policy statements, application profiles, etc.
  ▪ Commit to regular review and revision
  ▪ Ensure the content remains compatible with RDA
  ▪ Update the CMS, or provide content for someone else to add
Wider Community Engagement Officer (WCEO)

• Position description updated in 2021
  ▪ Engage with and represent RDA users who are not accommodated easily in the existing governance structure
    o Serve as a resource & communication channel for their RDA change proposals
  ▪ Support existing communities’ use and development of the CR section in RDA Toolkit and advise new communities about its use [NEW!]
  ▪ Promote use and understanding of RDA worldwide
  ▪ Serve on appropriate committees (e.g., MARC/RDA Working Group, RDA Board marketing group)

• WCEO-elect appointed: Charlene Chou
  ▪ Now a non-voting member of RSC
  ▪ Official two-year term (as a voting member) will start January 2022
More Information – General

• RDA Steering Committee website: http://www.rda-rsc.org/
  ▪ Including pages for Presentations (by year) and Documents (by year)
    ○ 2021 Presentations: http://www.rda-rsc.org/node/654
    ○ 2021 Documents: http://www.rda-rsc.org/node/653
  ▪ News and Announcements: http://www.rda-rsc.org/news

• Current RDA: https://access.rdatoolkit.org/

• RDA Toolkit website: https://www.rdatoolkit.org

• RDA YouTube channel [free!]:
  https://www.youtube.com/c/RDAToolkitVideo
More Information – Specific

• RSC proposal processes
  ▪ RSC/Operations/4 -- Policy and Procedures for Updating RDA Content
  ▪ RSC/Operations/5 -- Guidelines for Proposals, Discussion Papers, and Responses to Them

• Proposals scheduled for RSC discussion:
  ▪ New RSC Documents 2021: http://rda-rsc.org/node/653

• Community resources:
  ▪ In the RDA FAQ: http://rda-rsc.org/content/rda_faq#24
  ▪ Presentation: RDA and Community Resources (Thomas Brenndorfer, May 2021)

• Wider Community Engagement Officer
  ▪ Job description included in Application form
Questions?
Ask now, or email me:
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