

# Ongoing RDA Development: What's Next for the RSC?

Kathy Glennan

Chair, RDA Steering Committee

Head, Original & Special Collections Cataloging  
University of Maryland Libraries



**R | D | A**  
Resource Description & Access

# 3R Project Nearly Complete

- September RDA Toolkit release
  - More policy statement samples from Library of Congress and British Library
  - Partial translations published in Finnish and Norwegian
    - And the site language too (menus, navigation, searching)
  - Mapping of RDA elements to LRM elements
  - New guidance chapters on Entity boundaries and Well-formed RDA
  - New examples
- December RDA Toolkit release
  - More policy statement examples from Library of Congress and British Library
  - Further refinement of the Community Resources content (Part of improving RDA's international focus)
    - Revision and reorganization of content relating to abbreviations, capitalization, and terms of rank

# Switchover: 15 December 2020

- Beta Toolkit becomes the authorized version of RDA
  - Repurposing the existing URL: [access.rdatoolkit.org](https://access.rdatoolkit.org)
    - Retiring beta.rdatoolkit.org
  - Formal process has already resumed for proposing changes
- Original Toolkit still available
  - Through 2021, and into 2022
  - New URL to be established: original.rdatoolkit.org
    - Content remains frozen
  - Will retire this site eventually
    - A one-year countdown clock will start at a date **yet to be determined** by the RSC, the RDA Board, and the Copyright Holders

# Timeframe for Implementation

- No expectation that anyone will implement on the Switchover date
- Up to communities, based on
  - Availability of their own application profiles, policy statements, best practices, etc.
  - Completion of local training initiatives
  - Possibly: implementation of additional RDA-related content designation in MARC 21, BIBFRAME, or other encoding standard
- There may be a coordinated implementation date among some national libraries world-wide
  - This happened with the original RDA

# Updating RDA Content

- RSC has streamlined the pre-2017 procedures
  - Submissions accepted anytime – no longer an annual cycle
  - Submissions in English; changes applied to other languages after approval
- 3 different types of change recommendations
  - Proposals
    - Formal recommendations to change, enhance, or delete RDA content
  - Discussion papers
    - Topics for RSC consideration before creating a formal proposal
  - Fast track changes
    - Suggestions for improving consistency in wording, additions to vocabularies, and other changes without wider impact

# Who Can Suggest Changes?

- RSC members
- RDA regional representative bodies
- RSC Working Groups
- RDA users
  - Via their regional representative body (e.g., EURIG, NARDAC, ORDAC)
  - Via the RSC Wider Community Engagement Officer, if they are not represented by a regional representative body
- *Note:* Change recommendations must be in harmony with the [Objectives and principles governing RDA](#)

# RSC Operations Post 3R

- Will continue to meet quarterly
  - Three week-long asynchronous meetings (January, April, July)
  - Hoped-for in person meeting in October 2021 in New Zealand
    - Can convert the October meeting to virtual if necessary
  - Agendas include
    - Change proposals and discussion papers
    - Reports from members
    - Action plan updates and/or development
      - See [RSC/Chair/2020/1](#) for the current 3-year rolling plan

# October 2020 RSC Meeting

- October 2020 meeting changed from in-person to virtual
  - Expanded from one week to two weeks
    - 12-15 October and 20-23 October
  - Will be a mix of synchronous and asynchronous meeting styles
    - Will hold 4 two-hour synchronous meetings at different times to accommodate the different time zones of RSC members
    - Investigating how to accommodate observers
    - Agenda items may cross over between both meeting styles
  - Papers, reports, and other documents for this agenda will be posted on the RSC website soon

# Future RSC Work

- Ongoing tasks include
  - Direct RDA development to ensure continued alignment with the governing objectives
    - Responsiveness to user needs, cost efficiency, flexibility, continuity, and internationalization
  - Ensure an international focus for RDA instructions and examples
  - Provide content updates for four releases of RDA Toolkit per year
  - Be responsive to user feedback
  - Continue editorial cleanup and development of guidance chapters
  - Review membership, tasks, and progress of all working groups
  - Provide expertise and support for RDA orientation and training

# Future RSC work: 2020-2021

- Continued collaboration with MARC/RDA Working Group
  - More proposals and discussion papers related to new RDA elements expected for MARC Advisory Committee meeting in January 2021
- Implement decisions on
  - String Encoding Schemes
  - Expression excerpts issues
  - Community resources section of the Toolkit
- Create a self-service checklist of conformance conditions
- Consider proposals from RDA communities as they arise
- Investigate issues raised in user feedback
- Begin BIBFRAME mapping

# Future RSC work: 2020-2021

- Receive and act on initial recommendations from RSC's Application Profiles Working Group
- Create working groups to work on
  - Extent
  - Place/Jurisdiction
  - Collective agent
  - Official language
  - Religious works
- Recruit or reappoint the following RSC position holders
  - Examples Editor, Secretary, Translations Team Officer, Wider Community Engagement Officer
- Support new RSC member representing Latin America and the Caribbean (anticipated in 2021)

# RSC work in 2022

- Anticipate working on
  - Implementation of final recommendations from the Application Profiles Working Group
  - Further development of Nomen and Timespan instructions
  - Tracking changes to the ISSN and ISBN standards and their impact on harmonization with RDA
  - Treatment of archival resources in RDA
    - Form an Archives Working Group

# Task & Finish Working Groups

- Membership

- Goal: 7-15 members, with representatives from each region
- Members nominated by RSC based on the individual's knowledge, expertise, and the contribution they can make to the group
  - May include RSC members, RSC community members, representatives of external groups, or individuals from other communities
- RSC approves final membership
- RSC normally selects Chair from among the membership

- Tasks

- Specific set given, with deadlines

- Duration

- Normally 2 years
- Possibility of extension, if needed

# Stay Informed

- RSC website: <http://rda-rsc.org/>
  - News and announcements: <http://rda-rsc.org/news>
  - Documents released, by year: <http://rda-rsc.org/documents>
    - Minutes: <http://rda-rsc.org/RSCminutes>
  - RSC presentations, by year: <http://www.rda-rsc.org/rscpresentations>
- RDA Toolkit site: <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/>
  - Toolkit news: <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news>
- RDA Toolkit YouTube channel
  - <https://www.youtube.com/c/RDAToolkitVideo>  
(contains instructional videos on how to use the RDA Toolkit and recordings of RDA-related presentations)



**Questions?**  
*Ask now, or email me at:*  
**[RSCChair@rdatoolkit.org](mailto:RSCChair@rdatoolkit.org)**