The New Normal of RDA

An Overview of Structure and Concepts

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Some Good News

- The new normal of RDA is much better than other “new normals” of 2020
- You can often get the same results with new RDA that you did with original RDA
  - Some notable exceptions like the definition of Person
  - Assuming you still want the same results, but if you don’t, there are many options
- New RDA incorporates a linked open data implementation of RDA for your metadata’s future
New RDA Toolkit Status

- **Beta site became official on Dec. 15, 2020**
  - End of the RDA Restructure and Redesign (3R) Project
  - Address changed to access.rdatoolkit.org
  - Contains the official version of the RDA standard

- **Original RDA Toolkit**
  - Currently available through link in new Toolkit or at original.rdatoolkit.org
  - Contains the original version of RDA (last updated 2017)
  - No determination has been made yet about when the original RDA Toolkit will be removed
When to Implement?

- Cataloging communities are determining their own implementation timelines for new RDA
  - PCC will not be implementing new RDA before June 2022
- MARC/RDA Working Group writing proposals and discussion papers to update MARC 21 for new RDA
  - See new field 881 (Manifestation Statements)
  - Work expected to continue through January 2022
Foundation and Structure
RDA and LRM

- Original RDA was based on 3 models: FRBR, FRAD, and FRSAD
- Those three models were consolidated into the IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM)
- New RDA is based on LRM
- LRM is an entity-relationship model
Entity-Relationship Model

▪ “An entity-relationship model (or ER model) describes interrelated things of interest in a specific domain of knowledge. A basic ER model is composed of entity types (which classify the things of interest) and specifies relationships that can exist between entities (instances of those entity types)” —Wikipedia

▪ RDA consists of entities that are described by elements
  • Relationship elements relate two RDA entities
  • Attribute elements provide characteristics of an RDA entity
RDA Toolkit Content Organization

RDA is found in these three tabs. Resources contains a mixture of RDA content (e.g., Glossary) and other content (e.g., Revision History and Community Resources).
RDA Structure

- Content is chiefly organized around RDA entities
- Each entity has its own page with elements listed
- Each element has its own page
  - Related Elements section links to inverse elements and broader and narrower elements in the element hierarchy
- Guidance area contains instructions that apply to several parts of RDA and background information
- Resources contains Glossary and Vocabulary Encoding Schemes
RDA Entities

- RDA Entity
  - Note capital “E”
- Work
- Expression
- Manifestation
- Item
- Place

- Agent
- Person
- Collective Agent
- Corporate Body
- Family
- Nomen
- Timespan
Entity Hierarchies

- **entity subtype**: A narrower category of an entity.
- **entity supertype**: A broader category of an entity.
- RDA Entity is an **entity supertype** of every other type of RDA entity
  - Work, Agent, etc. are **entity subtypes** of RDA Entity
- Agent has multiple levels of hierarchy
  - Person
  - Collective Agent
    - Corporate Body
    - Family
  - Agent is an **entity supertype** of Person and Collective Agent (and its subtypes)
  - Person, Collective Agent (and its subtypes) are **entity subtypes** of Agent
Characteristics of Entity Hierarchies

- An *entity subtype* can automatically be described as its *entity supertype*
  - Every Manifestation is an RDA Entity
  - Every Person is an Agent

- An *entity supertype* cannot automatically be described as its *entity subtype*
  - Every RDA Entity is not a Manifestation
  - Every Agent is not a Person
Example of Entity Subtypes: Cutter
Element Hierarchies

- **element subtype:** A narrower category of an element.
- **element supertype:** A broader category of an element.
- Element subtype may be a more specific type of relationship/attribute
  - **Example:** *Manifestation: title proper* is an element subtype of *Manifestation: title of manifestation*
- Element subtype may describe an entity subtype
  - **Example:** *Person: related work of person* is an element subtype of *Agent: related work of agent*
**Item: related item of item** in Toolkit

**Related Elements**

For broader elements, see

- Item: related RDA entity of item
- RDA Entity: related item of RDA entity

For narrower elements, see

- Item: accompanied by item
- Item: contained in item
- Item: container of item
- Item: equivalent item

For the inverse of this element, see Item: related item of item.
Why Have Hierarchies?

- Provides choices for agencies about the level of specificity in which to record metadata
- Data is inherited up a hierarchy from subtype to supertype, allowing for automatic description at higher level
  - May provide easier conversion of data to another standard like Dublin Core
  - Maybe useful for reusing data in other applications outside ILS
- Helps organize elements for catalogers navigating the Toolkit
Key Concepts
Overview

- Domain and Range
- Recording Methods
- Vocabulary Encoding Scheme
- Application Profile

*Note: There are many more important concepts, so these are just a starting place.*
Domain and Range
Overview

- **domain**: The RDA entity that is described by an element.
- **range**: The RDA entity that is the value of a relationship element.
- Every element in RDA has a **Domain** but only **relationship elements** have a **Range**
- Domain-element-Range works like an RDF triple (subject-predicate-object)
Element Reference Box

related place of corporate body

Definition and Scope
A place that is associated with a corporate body.

Element Reference

IRI
http://rdaregistry.info/Elements/a/P50350

Domain
Corporate Body

Range
Place

Alternate labels
has related place of corporate body
place associated with corporate body
other place associated with corporate body

RDA entity that is described by an element

RDA entity that is the value of a relationship element
Relationship Element Example

Domain: Corporate Body

```
“Trinity College”
```

Range: Place

```
“Connecticut”
```

(has related place of corporate body)
Attribute Element Example

Domain: Corporate Body

"Trinity College"

Range: none
Not an RDA entity

has language of corporate body

"English"
Overview

- 4 methods for recording element values:
  - Unstructured description
  - Structured description
  - Identifier
  - IRI

- Element instructions tell you which methods are allowed for that element

*Guidance: Recording methods provides an overview*
Unstructured Description

- Good for keyword searching, but not other types
- Data transcribed from a manifestation
- A note written by a cataloger
- Uncontrolled terms
- Examples:
  - The tragedy of Hamlet
  - Title devised by cataloger
  - knitting
Structured Description

▪ Data recorded according to a particular encoding scheme with string order and punctuation rules (e.g., access point)
▪ Controlled terms taken from a thesaurus
▪ Examples:
  • Gilman, Charlotte Perkins, 1860-1935. Herland
  • Pool (Game)
  • Oxford ; New York : Oxford University Press, 1996
Identifier

- Machine-readable string
- Identifiers assigned by agencies to represent concepts, persons, etc.
- Unique within a local domain
- Examples:
  - 1-57061-381-8
    - ISBN for 2003 Sasquatch Books publication of “Book lust”
  - Q5294
    - Wikidata identifier for “DVD”
  - K. 38
    - Thematic index number for Mozart’s opera “Apollo et Hyacinthus”
IRI

- **IRI=Internationalized Resource Identifier**
- **All URIs are IRIs**
  - IRIs may include non-ASCII characters so they are broader
- **Globally unique**
- **Only an IRI can be recorded for a real-world object (rwo)**
- **Examples:**
  - [http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500303557](http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500303557)
    - IRI for the Yale Center for British Art
  - [http://rdaregistry.info/termList/RDACContentType/1020](http://rdaregistry.info/termList/RDACContentType/1020)
    - IRI for content type “text”
Vocabulary Encoding Schemes
Overview

- **vocabulary encoding scheme:** A named structured list of representations of controlled values for elements.
  - also called “VES”

- Provides values that may be recorded with structured description, identifier, and/or IRI

- Examples include Getty Art & Architecture Thesaurus (AAT), ISO 639-3, LC/NACO Authority File, Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), and MARC Code List for Countries
VES Examples

- **layout**: 300404422  
  - Identifier from Getty for term “long-line format”  
  - Attribute element

- **content type**: text  
  - RDA Content Type VES term  
  - Attribute element

- **place of publication**: gr  
  - MARC Country Code for Greece  
  - Relationship element (Range: Place)

- **printer person**: [http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500093929](http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500093929)  
  - IRI for William Caxton from Getty ULAN  
  - Relationship element (Range: Person)
Currently 43 RDA VESs
Every RDA VES contains terms, identifiers, and IRIs
Terms in the RDA Toolkit in 3 places:
  • Element page
  • Glossary
  • VES page
VES pages contains additional information not found in other 2 places
Example: Term on Carrier Type Page

preferred label

definition

alternate label

Identifier and IRI are not currently available on element page
Example: Term in Glossary

**preferred label**: audio disc

**definition**: A carrier type that consists of a disc on which sound waves, recorded as modulations, pulses, etc., are incised or indented in a continuous spiral groove.

*Use for*: sound disc

**alternate label**

Identifier and IRI are not currently available in Glossary
Example: Term on VES Page

preferred label

audio disc

http://rdaregistry.info/termList/RDACarrierType/1004
(Notation 1004)

A carrier type that consists of a disc on which sound waves, recorded as modulations, pulses, etc., are incised or indented in a continuous spiral groove.

Synonyms
sound disc

“stringified IRI”; record as active to use as IRI

definition

alternate label

May 14, 2021
The New Normal of RDA
Application Profiles

Consider this a cataloging community’s “user manual” for new RDA
Overview

- **application profile**: A specification of the metadata that is used in an application.
- Tells you ...
  - What entities to describe
  - Which elements to use and how many occurrences to include in description
  - Recording methods for elements
  - VESs to use for element values
- Because new RDA has so many element and options for recording those elements, it should be used with an application profile
- Examples:
  - CONSER Standard Record (CSR) RDA Metadata Application Profile
  - NLM RDA Metadata Application Profile
  - RDA Lab Series Application profiles (designed for use with webinars)
### Example: Partial Application Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entity</th>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Min.</th>
<th>Max.</th>
<th>Recording method</th>
<th>Transcription gui VES</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manifestation</td>
<td>title proper</td>
<td>Nomen</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Unstructured</td>
<td>Normalized</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manifestation</td>
<td>other title information</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>Unstructured</td>
<td>Normalized</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manifestation</td>
<td>statement of responsibility relating to title proper</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>Unstructured</td>
<td>Normalized</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manifestation</td>
<td>place of publication</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Structured</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>LC NAF - Record first listed on source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manifestation</td>
<td>publisher agent</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Structured</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>LC NAF - Record first listed on source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manifestation</td>
<td>date of publication</td>
<td>Timespan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>Structured</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Wikidata - Record first listed on source</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manifestation</td>
<td>copyright date</td>
<td>Timespan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Unstructured</td>
<td>Normalized</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manifestation</td>
<td>extent of manifestation</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Unstructured</td>
<td>Normalized</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manifestation</td>
<td>carrier type</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Identifier</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>RDA Carrier   - Record predominant carrier type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manifestation</td>
<td>work manifested</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Structured</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>LC NAF - Record predominant work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manifestation</td>
<td>manifestation statement</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>Unstructured</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>n/a - Cataloger judgment to record this or subtype</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example: Pride and Prejudice

No other title information to record

Only record first place of publication

Three statements of responsibility relating to title proper; one required
Applying AP to Pride and Prejudice

- **title proper**: Pride and prejudice
- **statement of responsibility relating to title proper**: by Jane Austin
- **statement of responsibility relating to title proper**: illustrated by Charles E. Brock
- **statement of responsibility relating to title proper**: with an introduction by Austin Dobson
- **place of publication**: London (England)
- **publisher agent**: Macmillan & Co.
- **date of publication**: 1901
- **extent of manifestation**: 351 pages
- **carrier type**: 1049
- **work manifested**: Austen, Jane, 1775-1817. Pride and prejudice
- **manifestation publication statement**: London MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED NEW YORK: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY 1901
Acknowledgements

▪ Slide 3. RDA Toolkit status information from RSC page (http://rda-rsc.org/content/rda_faq)
▪ Slides 8, 10, 15, 21, 34-36. Modified screenshots of new RDA Toolkit.
▪ Slides 22 and 23. Downes Memorial Clock Tower on Trinity’s College campus in Hartford, Connecticut by Paul Keleher is licensed under CC Attribution 2.0 Generic
▪ Slide 22. 1894 Map of Connecticut by Dodd, Mead, and Company is public domain
▪ Slide 40. Pride and Prejudice, Google-digitized, courtesy of HathiTrust, is public domain
For More Information...

- **RDA Toolkit YouTube channel videos**
  - [RDA Concepts](#) playlist (10 videos)
  - [BetaSite – Toolkit Training](#) playlist (15 videos)
  - [NARDAC Forum, March 29, 2021](#)
  - [RDA Toolkit Demo, January 26, 2021](#)

- **RDA Toolkit Workshop**, Midwinter 2020, PDFs of presentations and exercises with answers

- **RSC Presentations 2021**
RDA Toolkit Subscriptions

- If you are a current Toolkit subscriber, you have access to the original and new Toolkits
- If you are interested in a free trial, go to http://original.rdatoolkit.org/freetrial
- For more information, see https://www.rdatoolkit.org
Questions?

- Contact me:
  - kjam@rdatoolkit.org
  - Please mention that you attended this presentation