RDA past
RDA future

RDA 2019
IFLA satellite
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Chair, RDA Board
A quick glance at:

- where does RDA come from
- where is RDA going?

- has the direction changed?
- how surprised should we be?
In the beginning

Statement of purpose – *JSC Strategic Plan for RDA, 2005-2009*

- a new standard ... designed for the digital world.
- built on foundations established by the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules* (AACR)
AACR2

stones plus framework
AACR2 deconstructed

without the framework
RDA

stones + new framework
RDA 2010:

- forward-looking vision
- compatibility with new technological environments
- closely tied to the internationally accepted bibliographic conceptual models: FRBR + FRAD
- radical break in the approach to cataloguing information:
  - from: strings of information designed for humans
  - to: data elements – designed for humans and computers
RDA 2010:

- new elements + re-use of the content of AACR2 instructions
- at the moment of publication – still outstanding issues
- enough to start especially since almost everyone was still operating in a MARC environment
RDA in 2010 → RDA in 2019

→ advancing the original vision for RDA

And ...

➢ technological environment keeps changing
➢ maintaining alignment with IFLA’s bibliographic conceptual models
➢ our experience using RDA and the Toolkit
➢ RDA becoming a global standard
RDA in 2010

a major change in direction

beginning on a new track

Alan Levine. Switching up.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/cogdog/15732486373
RDA in 2019

continuing along the track taken in 2010

continuing to the next logical steps
How much change?

new look → it does look different

- impact of the redesign of the technical infrastructure
- impact of alignment with IFLA LRM
- impact of internationalization
3R Project

1\textsuperscript{st} R = RDA

2\textsuperscript{nd} R = Restructure = upgrade the infrastructure to current standards

3\textsuperscript{rd} R = Redesign = improve user experience with the Toolkit

+ stay aligned with international models

Not just a “new release”  A big renovation project
3R Project: updated infrastructure

- update the software
- rebuild how the instructions are stored: more modular and dynamic
- compliance with accessibility standards for web content according to the W3C guidelines (WCAG)
- better support for translations
3R Project: more web, less book-like

- take features that were there and make them work better:
  - instruction and policy statement aligned together on the same screen

  designed so update once rather than in many places

  - controlled vocabulary, definitions, scope notes -- in the RDA Registry

  this Registry content automatically feeds into the Toolkit text
3R Project: more web, *less book-like*

- change how the instructions are stored
  - “data dictionary” approach
    - general guidance chapters
    - entities organized as “data dictionary”
  - from chapters (some huge) to files for each data element

- new level of flexibility – can absorb major content changes, such as new entities
3R : stay aligned with IFLA models

**RDA 2010**: alignment with IFLA’s FRBR and FRAD conceptual models

**RDA 2015**: alignment with all 3 of IFLA’s conceptual models: FRBR/FRAD/FRSAD

**2010-2017**: IFLA consolidation of FRBR/FRAD/FRSAD = **IFLA LRM**
(IFLA Library Reference Model, published in 2017)
FRBR/FRAD/FRSAD are now **obsolete**

**RDA 2019**: alignment with IFLA LRM
3R – fuller achievement of original vision

- designed for the digital environment
  - the content of the standard delivered as a web tool
  - bibliographic information as data --- data about entities and relationships
  - recording precise and unambiguous data for the digital environment
  - data produced is optimized for use in the semantic web
3R – fuller achievement of original vision

- interoperability of data
  - interoperable with data of other cultural heritage communities
  - designed to encourage the cooperative use and re-use of data on the web
    - data and controlled vocabularies
    - data elements – as a whole set or parts
3R – fuller achievement of original vision

- a standard based on a robust theoretical framework – the IFLA bibliographic conceptual models
  - alignment with the IFLA model that is currently valid – IFLA LRM
  - internal consistency
  - international compatibility
3R – fuller achievement of original vision

- internationalization

**RDA** = an international standard
- a goal and a reality
- in step with internationally accepted cataloguing principles and bibliographic conceptual models
- adopted and implemented around the world
3R – fuller achievement of original vision

**RDA** = an international standard

- a standard that places equal value on all its language versions
- a standard to be used, maintained and developed jointly with representatives from all areas of the globe
3R – fuller achievement of original vision

**RDA** = an international standard

- a standard that places equal value on all its language versions
  - seamless integration of different language versions within one Toolkit
  - visibility of the different language communities using RDA
  - a sense of participating in a shared international cataloguing community that stretches across language boundaries
  - infrastructure changes necessary to improve the translation process
RDA = an international standard

- a standard to be used, maintained and developed jointly with representation from all areas of the globe
  - attuned to a diversity of needs
  - build in flexibility around the common ground we share
  - implement a governance structure that values the participation of all and accurately reflects the international nature of RDA
    - completed for the RDA Board in 2018
    - progressing well for the RDA Steering Committee
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Thank you!

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