To: RDA Steering Committee (RSC)

From: Kathy Glennan, Chair

Subject: Stabilization of the English Text of RDA Achieved

Related document: RSC/Chair/21

With the 30 April 2019 release of the RDA Toolkit beta site, the RSC has achieved its goal of stabilizing the English text of RDA. This is a significant milestone in the 3R Project, as the stabilized RDA (value vocabularies, element sets, entity and element chapters, and guidance and resource chapters) will now serve as the baseline for further work to be done by:

- Translators
- Policy Statement writers
- Application Profile developers
- RDA Examples Editor
- Writers of supplementary materials.

The examples that are found in the stabilized text, however, should not be considered stable. Current examples will be reviewed for content and placement, and more examples will be added.

Translators and policy statement writers will be contacted in the coming weeks with details about processes and timelines.

This announcement does not mean that the 3R Project has been completed nor that the "countdown clock" for transition to the new Toolkit has begun. The standard found in the original RDA Toolkit remains the official version of RDA.

The stabilization of the English text marks the beginning of a new phase of the 3R Project, which will last until the beta site becomes the official site. Documentation of additions/deletions/revisions of the RDA text will resume. The development focus now shifts from restructuring and revising RDA to the creation of translations, policy statements, etc.

During this phase of the 3R Project, the following types of changes may be made to RDA, based on the stabilized text:
- Minor editorial changes: correction of typos and obvious errors, edits to improve consistency
- Additional changes, if:

- o They will not have a significant impact on translators and policy statement writers, e.g., additional conditions/options within an existing element, modifications of value vocabularies
  - o They do not affect the outcome of applying the instructions
- New/revised examples
- RDA Toolkit interface enhancements.

The RSC would like to thank the many individuals and groups who responded with feedback on the beta site. These contributions were carefully considered and many have been implemented with this Toolkit release. The RSC will continue to accept feedback on the stabilized text via the feedback link available on the RDA Toolkit beta site.

The RSC will soon develop new procedures for considering change proposals to RDA and will share these procedures once they are approved. During the current 3R Project phase, change proposals must be based on the stabilized text. Only those approved changes falling into the categories above will be implemented before the beta site becomes the official site.

As a reminder, the now-beta Toolkit will not become the official version of RDA until several additional steps are taken:

> "The beta site will remain in beta status until the RDA Steering Committee, the RDA Board, and the RDA Co-Publishers have unanimously agreed that the redesign of the site is complete, the RDA standard text is stable, and the full site content (translations and policy statements) is available. Shortly after that decision, public notice will be given and the beta site will become the official RDA site. The current site will remain available for one year following that notice to allow for a smooth transition." [Text from the blog post "What to expect from the RDA Toolkit Beta Site," June 6, 2018, https://www.rdatoolkit.org/3Rproject/Beta]