

MINUTES OF JANUARY 2021 MEETING  
RDA Steering Committee  
Asynchronous Meeting  
11-14 January 2021

**Attending:** Linda Barnhart, RSC Secretary  
Renate Behrens, Europe representative  
Thomas Brenndorfer, North America representative  
Ahava Cohen, Europe back-up representative  
Kathy Glennan, RSC Chair  
James Hennelly, Director, ALA Digital Reference  
Damian Iseminger, Technical Team Liaison Officer-Elect  
Ebe Kartus, Wider Community Engagement Officer  
Honor Moody, RDA Examples Editor  
Daniel Paradis, Translations Team Liaison Officer  
Melissa Parent, Oceania representative

Table of Contents

Executive Session

[261 Catching up](#)

[262 Review and approval of 2021-2023 Action Plan](#)

[263 Review of Operations documents](#)

[264 Communicating about Community resources](#)

Public Session

RDA Discussion Topics

[265 Pseudo-elements](#)

[266 Application profile from DACH](#)

RSC Administrative Topics

[267 Review of previous action items](#)

[268 Other business](#)

[269 Review of Meeting 2021 January](#)

---

## Appendix to the Restricted Minutes

[Agenda item 262: Review and approval of 2021-2023 Action Plan](#)

## Appendix to the Public Minutes

[Agenda item 265: Pseudo-elements](#)

---

### Executive Session

- 261 Catching up**
- 262 Review and approval of 2021-2023 Action Plan**
- 263 Review of Operations documents**
- 264 Communicating about Community resources**

### Public Session

#### RDA Discussion Topics

#### **265 Pseudo-elements**

265.1 This [briefing paper](#), prepared by Iseminger, proposed that the 14 pseudo-elements (which are not part of RDA Reference, hence “pseudo”) be moved from base RDA to the Community resources area of RDA Toolkit as community refinements. The pseudo-elements primarily relate to authorized access points and preferred title of works for legal, musical, official communications, and religious works and have been carried forward from original RDA and AACR. These files are outliers in processing that cause difficulty for scripts that process RDA files. The RSC was asked to address three recommendations.

265.2 **Recommendation #1:** Move existing pages for pseudo-elements from base RDA to Community resources as community refinements of existing RDA elements.

The RSC had a mixed response. All members agreed upon moving access point instructions into the Community resources area. Paradis raised some concerns about moving pseudo-elements related to specific types of preferred titles and related agents. These pseudo-elements might benefit from a hybrid approach to

re-location, with some instructions retained in base RDA and others moved to Community resources. It was noted that many of these instructions arise from Anglo-American practices (especially in law and religion) and are likely insufficiently international in scope to be appropriate in base RDA. Some members wondered whether it would be better to wait for RSC working groups to complete some work (for example, music or religion) before re-locating the pseudo-elements, but there was concern that this could take too long and delay RDA implementation for those specialized communities.

Brenndorfer observed that choice of values for RDA elements that are also used in access points should be part of base RDA; construction of those access points should be part of Community resources. He stressed the need for clarity of the boundary between base RDA and Community resources, as well as the need for ease of navigation between them.

Barnhart suggested forming a small subgroup to work on the hybrid issues, to include Brenndorfer and Paradis.

**ACTION ITEM:** Barnhart will convene a subgroup to work out details for the location of specific pseudo-element instructions and bring information back to the RSC.

- 265.3 **Recommendation #2:** Remove all text from base RDA that references pseudo-elements.

The RSC agreed with this recommendation. The group had agreed on an earlier phone call that it was not appropriate for base RDA to include text to link to information in Community resources. In addition to a relationship issue (an implied endorsement), this is also a volume/sustainability issue (references to a large number of Community resources within an element/topic could become untenable) and a maintenance issue (awareness of when resources are added/deleted/updated). Links to these resources will be made through policy statements.

**ACTION ITEM:** Barnhart will remove these references as part of the larger project to re-locate the pseudo-elements.

- 265.4 **Recommendation #3:** Create a new area in Community resources for community refinements. Organize content by entity and element, and then by community.

The RSC agreed in principle. Moody suggested labeling the current pseudo-elements so they include the name of the legacy community originally responsible and raised questions about how those communities will “claim” this text and take ownership of its updating and maintenance moving forward. She suggested a countdown clock for these legacy instructions, should they go unclaimed. There was additional discussion of the organizational structure, for example, for accommodating multiple Community resources on a single “topic.”

Moody further noted that there is value in re-locating the pseudo-elements now as community refinements to offer models for future refinements. She suggested that the RSC prepare a paper or public presentation on how the pseudo-elements function as community refinements and also clarify the distinction between base RDA and Community resources. This could give communities a sense of how they might develop additional refinements depending on community need.

## **266 Application profile from DACH**

266.1 This agenda item was an information item brought to the RSC. Renate Behrens shared the first application profile for manifestation from the DACH libraries (the national libraries of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland). The draft application profile was not shared publicly due to the very preliminary nature of the content. Behrens explained that this “Excel sheet is a first draft of the working group of the national libraries in DACH. It is the compilation of a minimal set for the cataloguing of a simple monograph. It is still under discussion. Next, we will determine how technical, i.e., format-dependent, it should be... Starting from this minimum set (as the mother of all [application profiles] APs), the AP will be continuously expanded and it will be supplemented by special AP sets (e.g., for series, AV media or old books). The group of the national libraries will therefore continue to work on it.” Behrens was warmly thanked for providing this application profile, which is very helpful in getting a better picture of how application profiles could work.

## RSC Administrative Topics

**267 Review of previous action items**

**268 Other business**

**269 Review of Meeting 2021 January**

Approved by the RSC  
31 March 2021

## Appendix to the Restricted Minutes

## Appendix to the Public Minutes

### Agenda item 265: Pseudo-elements

#### Pseudo-Elements

Damian Iseminger, Technical Team Liaison Officer-Elect, 18 December 2020

#### **Introduction**

This paper proposes that community-based pseudo-elements be moved from the base RDA Toolkit instructions to the Community resources area of the RDA Toolkit as Community refinements of base RDA elements.

#### **Background**

At the start of the 3R Project, the RSC agreed that unless there was a conflict with the IFLA-LRM conceptual model, most instructions would be brought from the classic Toolkit into the new Toolkit. The classic Toolkit contained many instructions for recording titles and access points for legal, musical, and religious works and expressions, and for official communications and their expressions. It also contained special instructions for agents related to legal and religious works.

During the development of the new Toolkit, all of the instructions relating to variant titles and variant access points were able to be placed into the element pages for variant access point for work, variant access point for expression, and variant title of work without adversely affecting length or readability of these element instructions.

The length of the element pages for authorized access point for work, authorized access point for expression, preferred title of work, and related agent of work was a problem encountered early on in the 3R project. After testing several approaches for resolving the problem, the decision was made by the Core team to link to separate "pseudo-element" pages for the legal, music, official communications, and religious content. While helping to solve the immediate problem of long page lengths, this solution was always recognized by the Core team as temporary.

#### **Discussion**

##### **Pseudo-element problems**

As implied by the name, the pseudo-elements are not true RDA elements and are not a part of RDA Reference. Because of this, the following content related to the pseudo-elements cannot be generated using the operational script:

- Element reference
- Glossary entries
- Broader and narrower elements

Additionally, pseudo-elements cannot be found using the element search box located at the bottom of each entity page. The only access to the pseudo-element pages is from the general search box in the Toolkit header or from a link on the element pages for preferred title of work, authorized access point for work, and authorized access point for expression.

In short, while having the appearance of element pages, the pseudo-element pages do not behave as other element pages and could potentially frustrate Toolkit users who are familiar with how the other element pages function.

## Community resources

RSC decided at its October 2020 meeting that content related to specific communities should be removed from the base RDA instructions and placed in the Community resources area of the Toolkit. This decision provides a way forward for treating the pseudo-elements as community-based refinements of base RDA instructions.

### **Recommendation 1: Move the existing pages for pseudo-elements from base RDA to Community resources as Community refinements of existing RDA elements.**

Late in the 3R Project, the Core team adopted and implemented the policy that references to community resources within base RDA should be removed. The same would apply to references in base RDA to the pseudo-elements.

### **Recommendation 2: Remove all text from base RDA that references pseudo-elements.**

Policy writers should be able to use the existing functionality in the Toolkit to provide a policy statement that links to a community refinement page in Community resources. Policy writers could also decide to present community refinements as policies that could be viewed in-line with the base RDA text.

A community refinement may also be annotated with policy statements using the existing functionality of the Toolkit, as can be done for any of the RDA elements or RDA guidance.

## Building out community resources

If recommendation 1 is accepted, this would mean that a new type of resource would be added to Community resources: a community-based refinement of an existing RDA element.

### **Recommendation 3: Create a new area in Community resources for Community refinements. Organize content by entity and element, and then by community.**

#### **Example:**

- Community resources
  - Community vocabularies
  - Community refinements
    - Expression
      - authorized access point for expression
        - Legal
        - Music
        - Official Communication
        - Religious
      - [other elements]

- Work
  - authorized access point for work
    - Legal
    - Music
    - Official Communication
    - Religious
  - [other elements]

Adopting this structure mirrors the Toolkit organization of base RDA.

## Impact

None of the recommendations require changes to RDA Reference.

If all of the recommendations are accepted, most of the impact would be on the structure of the Toolkit and the file structure of the CMS. 14 pseudo-elements would be moved from base RDA to Community resources:

- authorized access point for expression of legal work
- authorized access point for expression of musical work
- authorized access point for expression for official communication
- authorized access point for expression of religious work
- authorized access point for legal work
- authorized access point for musical work
- authorized access point for official communication
- authorized access point for religious work
- preferred title of legal work
- preferred title of musical work
- preferred title of official communication
- preferred title of religious work
- related agent of legal work
- related agent of religious work

The following text would be removed from the Prerecording section of Expression: authorized access point for expression:

For instructions on constructing an authorized access point for an expression of a special kind of work, see:

- Expression: authorized access point for expression of legal work
- Expression: authorized access point for expression of musical work
- Expression: authorized access point for expression for official communication
- Expression: authorized access point for expression of religious work

The following text would be removed from the Prerecording section of Work: authorized access point for work:

For instructions on constructing an authorized access point for a special kind of work, see:

- Expression: authorized access point for legal work

- Expression: authorized access point for musical work
- Expression: authorized access point for official communication
- Expression: authorized access point for religious work

The following text would be removed from the Prerecording section of Work: preferred title of work:

For instructions on constructing a preferred title for a special kind of work, see:

- Expression: preferred title of legal work
- Expression: preferred title of musical work
- Expression: preferred title of official communication
- Expression: preferred title of religious work

The following text would be removed from the Prerecording section of Work: related agent of work:

For instructions on agents associated with special kinds of works, see:

- Work: related agent of legal work
- Work: related agent of religious work

## **Recommendations**

**Recommendation 1: Move existing pages for pseudo-elements from base RDA to Community resources as Community refinements of existing RDA elements.**

**Recommendation 2: Remove all text from base RDA that references pseudo-elements.**

**Recommendation 3: Create a new area in Community resources for Community refinements. Organize content by entity and element, and then by community.**