Implementing the Collections Model in RDA

Part 4: Agents Related to Collections and Their Descriptions

Prepared by the Technical Working Group for the October 2021 Meeting of the RDA Steering Committee

Abstract

This proposal set is the 4th and final in a series to address the coverage of the concept of "collections" and "collection level description" (CLD) in RDA. This set focuses on the existing agent elements related to the creation of collection works and collection descriptions.

Background

The implementation of the IFLA-LRM (LRM) treatment of aggregates in RDA during the 3R project identified a requirement that RDA should also develop a treatment for "collections." This requirement is important for realizing the strategy of increasing adoption of RDA by cultural heritage institutions who have as their focus the description and access of collections.

Collection works and collection descriptions are created by agents. This proposal examines the existing agent elements related to these concepts and proposes deprecations, additions, and amendments to reflect the concepts found in the earlier proposals related to collections and collection descriptions.

Structure

Recommendations for changes to RDA are provided in the Justifications section. The impact of changes to the Toolkit text are provided in Appendix 1. Templates of standard Toolkit text are provided in Appendix 2.

Justifications

Collectors and curators

The current definition of collector agent is "An agent who is a curator who brings together items from various sources that are arranged, described, or catalogued as a collection."

The current definition of curator agent is "An agent who conceives or manages the aggregation of an item in an exhibition or collection."

Both have domain Item and range Agent.

The proposed treatment of collections and collection descriptions in the previous proposals, if accepted, render the semantics of these elements nearly identical. It is also clear that collectors/curators are

responsible for the *collection work*, the plan for gathering items held by a *collection manifestation*. Both of these elements have incorrect domains.

Both of these elements, their inverses, and subtypes should be deprecated. Only one new element, its inverses, and their subtypes are required for the relationship to a collector/curator. The label for the new element should use "collector," as this is more consistent with the other labels related to collections.

Recommendation 1: Deprecate "collector agent," its element subtypes, and their inverses.

Recommendation 2: Deprecate "curator agent," its element subtypes, and their inverses.

Recommendation 3: Add new elements with the label of "collector agent" and its agent subtypes with a domain of Work and a range of Agent and its entity subtypes as an element subtype of "creator agent of work" and its agent subtypes to relate a collection work to an agent responsible for it.

Recommendation 4: Add new elements with the label of "collector agent of" and its agent subtypes with a domain of Agent and its entity subtypes and a range of Work as an element subtype of "creator agent of work of" and its agent subtypes to relate an agent responsible for a collection work to a collection work.

Collection registrar

The current definition of collection registrar agent is "An agent who is a curator who lists or inventories items in a collection aggregate", with domain Item and range Agent.

This definition is incoherent with the treatment of aggregates because there are no items in an aggregate, only expressions. The definition conflates "collection" and "collection aggregate."

The proposed treatment of collections and collection descriptions in the previous proposals, if accepted, make it clear that a collection registrar is an agent responsible for the creation of an analytic finding aid. An analytic finding aid is a type of aggregating work (it is a plan for ordering and aggregating metadata statements), so a collection registrar agent is a type of aggregator. See recommendations 10 and 11 for the proposed element it is a subtype of.

Given the above, the existing element and its subtypes for "collection registar agent" should be deprecated. A new element, its subtypes, and inverses should be added with a domain of Work and range of Agent or vice versa for inverses.

Recommendation 5: Deprecate "collection registrar agent," its element subtypes, and their inverses.

Recommendation 6: Add new elements with the label of "collection registrar agent" and its agent subtypes with a domain of Work and a range of Agent and its entity subtypes to relate an analytic finding aid to an agent responsible for it.

Recommendation 7: Add new elements with the label of "collection registrar agent of" and its agent subtypes with a domain of Agent and its entity subtypes and a range of Work to relate an agent responsible for an analytic finding aid to an analytic finding aid.

Compiler

The current definition of compiler agent is "An agent who is responsible for creating a new work such as a bibliography or a directory by selecting, arranging, aggregating, and editing data, information, etc." with domain Work and range Agent.

The scope note narrows the definition: "Revising or clarifying the content of an expression of a work and selecting and putting together expressions of works or parts of works are excluded". The scope note is intended to differentiate the element from 'compiler as creator of an aggregating work' and 'compiler as editor of expression'.

Like a "collection registar agent," a compiler is a type of aggregator. A compiler is also responsible for *metadata description sets* that are descriptions that cover other kinds of descriptions, not just an analytic finding aid.

This element should be retained, but its definitions should be amended to reflect the proposed treatment of collection descriptions. A compiler is a type of aggregator, so it should be an element subtype of "aggregator agent."

A "collection registrar agent" is an element subtype of "compiler agent."

Recommendation 8: Amend the definitions of "compiler agent" and its agent subtypes for clarity and consistency and make it an element subtype of "aggregator agent" and its related agent elements.

Recommendation 9: Amend the definitions of "compiler agent of" and its agent subtypes for clarity and consistency and make it an element subtype of "aggregator agent of" and its related agent elements.

Recommendation 10: Add an element subtype of "compiler agent" and its agent subtypes to "collection registrar agent" and its related agent elements.

Recommendation 11: Add an element subtype of "compiler agent of" and its agent subtypes to "collection registrar agent of" and its related agent elements.

Impact

These changes clarify the roles of agents related to collections and their descriptions, based on the earlier proposals for these concepts. The changes should allow for the resolution of proposals submitted by NARDAC regarding agents responsible for exhibitions and exhibition descriptions. An analysis is provided in Appendix 3.

Summary of recommendations

Recommendation 1: Deprecate "collector agent," its element subtypes, and their inverses.

Recommendation 2: Deprecate "curator agent," its element subtypes, and their inverses.

Recommendation 3: Add new elements with the label of "collector agent" and its agent subtypes with a domain of Work and a range of Agent and its entity subtypes as an element subtype of "creator agent of work" and its agent subtypes to relate a collection work to an agent responsible for it.

Recommendation 4: Add new elements with the label of "collector agent of" and its agent subtypes with a domain of Agent and its entity subtypes and a range of Work as an element subtype of "creator agent of work of" and its agent subtypes to relate an agent responsible for a collection work to a collection work.

Recommendation 5: Deprecate "collection registrar agent," its element subtypes, and their inverses.

Recommendation 6: Add new elements with the label of "collection registrar agent" and its agent subtypes with a domain of Work and a range of Agent and its entity subtypes to relate an analytic finding aid to an agent responsible for it.

Recommendation 7: Add new elements with the label of "collection registrar agent of" and its agent subtypes with a domain of Agent and its entity subtypes and a range of Work to relate an agent responsible for an analytic finding aid to an analytic finding aid.

Recommendation 8: Amend the definitions of "compiler agent" and its agent subtypes for clarity and consistency and make it an element subtype of "aggregator agent" and its related agent elements.

Recommendation 9: Amend the definitions of "compiler agent of" and its agent subtypes for clarity and consistency and make it an element subtype of "aggregator agent of" and its related agent elements.

Recommendation 10: Add an element subtype of "compiler agent" and its agent subtypes to "collection registrar agent" and its related agent elements.

RSC/TechnicalWG/2021/2 02 August 2021 Part 4 - Page 5 of 21

Recommendation 11: Add an element subtype of "compiler agent of" and its agent subtypes to "collection registrar agent of" and its related agent elements.

Appendix 1: Recommendations in Toolkit

Recommendation 3: Add new elements with the label of "collector agent" and its agent subtypes with a domain of Work and a range of Agent and its entity subtypes as an element subtype of "creator agent of work" and its agent subtypes to relate a collection work to an agent responsible for it.

Toolkit label	collector agent
Toolkit definition	An agent who is responsible for creating a collection work by selecting and arranging items that exemplify the embodiment of other works.
Domain	Work
Range	Agent
subtype of	creator agent of work
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Toolkit label	collector collective agent
Toolkit definition	A collective agent who is responsible for creating a collection work by selecting and arranging items that exemplify the embodiment of other works.
Domain	Work
Range	Collective Agent
subtype of	creator collective agent of work
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Toolkit label	collector corporate body
Toolkit definition	A corporate body who is responsible for creating a collection work by selecting and arranging items that exemplify the embodiment of other works.
Domain	Work
Range	Corporate Body
subtype of	creator corporate body of work

Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.
--------------	--

Toolkit label	collector family
Toolkit definition	A family who is responsible for creating a collection work by selecting and arranging items that exemplify the embodiment of other works.
Domain	Work
Range	Agent
subtype of	creator family of work
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Toolkit label	collector person
Toolkit definition	A person who is responsible for creating a collection work by selecting and arranging items that exemplify the embodiment of other works.
Domain	Work
Range	Agent
subtype of	creator person of work
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Recommendation 4: Add new elements with the label of "collector agent of" and its agent subtypes with a domain of Agent and its entity subtypes and a range of Work as an element subtype of "creator agent of work of" and its agent subtypes to relate an agent responsible for a collection work to a collection work.

Toolkit label	collector agent of
Toolkit definition	A work that involves a responsibility of an agent for collecting by selecting and arranging items that exemplify the embodiment of other works.
Domain	Agent
Range	Work
subtype of	creator agent of work of

Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.
--------------	--

Toolkit label	collector collective agent of
Toolkit definition	A work that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for collecting by selecting and arranging items that exemplify the embodiment of other works.
Domain	Collective Agent
Range	Work
subtype of	creator collective agent of work of
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Toolkit label	collector corporate body of
Toolkit definition	A work that involves a responsibility of a corporate body for collecting by selecting and arranging items that exemplify the embodiment of other works.
Domain	Corporate Body
Range	Work
subtype of	creator corporate body of work of
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Toolkit label	collector family of
Toolkit definition	A work that involves a responsibility of a family for collecting by selecting and arranging items that exemplify the embodiment of other works.
Domain	Family
Range	Work
subtype of	creator family of work of
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Toolkit label	collector person of
Toolkit definition	A work that involves a responsibility of a person for collecting by selecting and arranging items that exemplify the embodiment of other works.
Domain	Person
Range	Work
subtype of	creator person of work of
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Recommendation 6: Add new elements with the label of "collection registrar agent" and its agent subtypes with a domain of Work and a range of Agent and its entity subtypes to relate an analytic finding aid to an agent responsible for it.

Recommendation 10: Add an element subtype of "compiler agent" and its agent subtypes to "collection registrar agent" and its related agent elements.

Toolkit label	collection registrar agent
Toolkit definition	An agent who is responsible for creating an analytic finding aid.
Domain	Work
Range	Agent
subtype of	compiler agent
alternate label	cataloguer agent
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Toolkit label	collection registrar collective agent
Toolkit definition	A collective agent who is responsible for creating an analytic finding aid.
Domain	Work
Range	Collective Agent
subtype of	compiler collective agent

alternate label	cataloguer collective agent
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Toolkit label	collection registrar corporate body
Toolkit definition	A corporate body who is responsible for creating an analytic finding aid.
Domain	Work
Range	Corporate Body
subtype of	compiler corporate body
alternate label	cataloguer corporate body
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Toolkit label	collection registrar family
Toolkit definition	A family who is responsible for creating an analytic finding aid.
Domain	Work
Range	Family
subtype of	compiler family
alternate label	cataloguer family
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Toolkit label	collection registrar person
Toolkit definition	A person who is responsible for creating an analytic finding aid.
Domain	Work
Range	Person
subtype of	compiler person
alternate label	cataloguer person

Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.
--------------	--

Recommendation 7: Add new elements with the label of "collection registrar agent of" and its agent subtypes with a domain of Agent and its entity subtypes and a range of Work to relate an agent responsible for an analytic finding aid to an analytic finding aid.

Recommendation 11: Add an element subtype of "compiler agent of" and its agent subtypes to "collection registrar agent of" and its related agent elements.

Toolkit label	collection registrar agent of
Toolkit definition	A work that involves a responsibility of an agent for creating a metadata work.
Domain	Agent
Range	Work
subtype of	compiler agent of
alternate label	cataloguer agent of
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Toolkit label	collection registrar collective agent of
Toolkit definition	A work that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for creating a metadata work.
Domain	Collective Agent
Range	Work
subtype of	compiler collective agent of
alternate label	cataloguer collective agent of
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Toolkit label	collection registrar corporate body of
---------------	--

Toolkit definition	A work that involves a responsibility of a corporate body for creating a metadata work.
Domain	Corporate Body
Range	Work
subtype of	compiler corporate body of
alternate label	cataloguer corporate body of
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Toolkit label	collection registrar family of
Toolkit definition	A work that involves a responsibility of a family for creating a metadata work.
Domain	Family
Range	Work
subtype of	compiler family of
alternate label	cataloguer family of
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Toolkit label	collection registrar person of
Toolkit definition	A work that involves a responsibility of a person for creating a metadata work.
Domain	Person
Range	Work
subtype of	compiler person of
alternate label	cataloguer person of
Toolkit text	Standard text for relationship elements. See template.

Recommendation 8: Amend the definitions of "compiler agent" and its agent subtypes for clarity and consistency and make it an element subtype of "aggregator agent" and its related agent elements.

	Current	New
Toolkit label	compiler agent	
Toolkit definition	An agent who is responsible for creating a new work such as a bibliography or a directory by selecting, arranging, aggregating, and editing data, information, etc.	An agent who is responsible for creating a metadata description set.
Scope note	Revising or clarifying the content of an expression of a work and selecting and putting together expressions of works or parts of works are excluded.	A metadata description set includes a bibliography of works, expressions, or manifestations, a directory of agents and places, and an analytic finding aid.
Element subtype of	creator agent of work	aggregator agent

	Current	New
Toolkit label	compiler collective agent	
Toolkit definition	A collective agent who is responsible for creating a new work such as a bibliography or a directory by selecting, arranging, aggregating, and editing data, information, etc.	A collective agent who is responsible for creating a metadata description set.
Scope note	Revising or clarifying the content of an expression of a work and selecting and putting together expressions of works or parts of works are excluded.	A metadata description set includes a bibliography of works, expressions, or manifestations, a directory of agents and places, and an analytic finding aid.
Element subtype of	creator collective agent of work	aggregator collective agent

	Current	New
Toolkit label	compiler corporate body	

Toolkit definition	A corporate body who is responsible for creating a new work such as a bibliography or a directory by selecting, arranging, aggregating, and editing data, information, etc.	A corporate body who is responsible for creating a metadata description set.
Scope note	Revising or clarifying the content of an expression of a work and selecting and putting together expressions of works or parts of works are excluded.	A metadata description set includes a bibliography of works, expressions, or manifestations, a directory of agents and places, and an analytic finding aid.
Element subtype of	creator corporate body of work	aggregator corporate body

	Current	New
Toolkit label	compiler family	
Toolkit definition	A family who is responsible for creating a new work such as a bibliography or a directory by selecting, arranging, aggregating, and editing data, information, etc.	A family who is responsible for creating a metadata description set.
Scope note	Revising or clarifying the content of an expression of a work and selecting and putting together expressions of works or parts of works are excluded.	A metadata description set includes a bibliography of works, expressions, or manifestations, a directory of agents and places, and an analytic finding aid.
Element subtype of	creator family of work	aggregator family

	Current	New
Toolkit label	compiler person	
Toolkit definition	A person who is responsible for creating a new work such as a bibliography or a directory by selecting, arranging, aggregating,	A person who is responsible for creating a metadata description set.

	and editing data, information, etc.	
Scope note	Revising or clarifying the content of an expression of a work and selecting and putting together expressions of works or parts of works are excluded.	A metadata description set includes a bibliography of works, expressions, or manifestations, a directory of persons and places, and an analytic finding aid.
Element subtype of	creator person of work	aggregator person

Recommendation 9: Amend the definitions of "compiler agent of" and its agent subtypes for clarity and consistency and make it an element subtype of "aggregator agent of" and its related agent elements.

	Current	New
Toolkit label	compiler agent of	
Toolkit definition	A work that involves a responsibility of an agent for selecting, arranging, aggregating, and editing data and information for a work such as a bibliography or a directory.	A work that involves a responsibility of an agent for creating a metadata description set.
Scope note	Revising or clarifying the content of an expression of a work and selecting and putting together expressions of works or parts of works are excluded.	A metadata description set includes a bibliography of works, expressions, or manifestation, a directory of agents and places, and an analytic finding aid.
Element subtype of	creator agent of work	aggregator agent of

	Current	New
Toolkit label	compiler collective agent of	
Toolkit definition	A work that involves a responsibility of a collective	A work that involves a responsibility of a collective agent for creating a

	agent for selecting, arranging, aggregating, and editing data and information for a work such as a bibliography or a directory.	metadata description set.
Scope note	Revising or clarifying the content of an expression of a work and selecting and putting together expressions of works or parts of works are excluded.	A metadata description set includes a bibliography of works, expressions, or manifestation, a directory of agents and places, and an analytic finding aid.
Element subtype of	creator collective agent of work	aggregator collective agent of

	Current	New
Toolkit label	compiler corporate body of	
Toolkit definition	A work that involves a responsibility of a corporate body for selecting, arranging, aggregating, and editing data and information for a work such as a bibliography or a directory.	A work that involves a responsibility of a corporate body for creating a metadata description set.
Scope note	Revising or clarifying the content of an expression of a work and selecting and putting together expressions of works or parts of works are excluded.	A metadata description set includes a bibliography of works, expressions, or manifestation, a directory of agents and places, and an analytic finding aid.
Element subtype of	creator corporate body of work	aggregator corporate body of

	Current	New
Toolkit label	compiler family of	
Toolkit definition	A work that involves a responsibility of a family for selecting, arranging, aggregating, and editing data and information for a work such as a bibliography or a directory.	A work that involves a responsibility of a family for creating a metadata description set.

Scope note	Revising or clarifying the content of an expression of a work and selecting and putting together expressions of works or parts of works are excluded.	A metadata description set includes a bibliography of works, expressions, or manifestation, a directory of agents and places, and an analytic finding aid.
Element subtype of	creator family of work	aggregator family of

	Current	New
Toolkit label	compiler person of	
Toolkit definition	A work that involves a responsibility of a person for selecting, arranging, aggregating, and editing data and information for a work such as a bibliography or a directory.	A work that involves a responsibility of a person for creating a metadata description set.
Scope note	Revising or clarifying the content of an expression of a work and selecting and putting together expressions of works or parts of works are excluded.	A metadata description set includes a bibliography of works, expressions, or manifestation, a directory of agents and places, and an analytic finding aid.
Element subtype of	creator person of work	aggregator person of

Appendix 2: Toolkit Templates

<relationship element>

Definition and Scope

<Auto-generated from RDA Vocabularies>

Element Reference

<Auto-generated from RDA Vocabularies>

Prerecording

Recording

Record this element as a value of <Domain entity>: <appellation of entity label> or as an IRI.

Recording an unstructured description

Record an unstructured description for a related <domain entity> as a value of <Domain entity>: <title or name of entity label>.

For general guidance on unstructured descriptions, see Guidance: Recording methods. Recording an unstructured description.

Recording a structured description

Record a structured description for a related <domain entity> as a value of <Domain entity>: <access point for entity label>.

For general guidance on structured descriptions, see Guidance: Recording methods. Recording a structured description.

Recording an identifier

Record an identifier for a related <domain entity> as a value of <Domain entity>: <identifier for entity label>.

For general guidance on identifiers, see Guidance: Recording methods. Recording an identifier.

Recording an IRI

Record an IRI for a related expression as a real-world object.

For general guidance on IRIs, see Guidance: Recording methods. Recording an IRI.

RSC/TechnicalWG/2021/2 02 August 2021 Part 4 - Page 19 of 21

Related Elements

<Auto-generated from RDA Vocabularies>

Appendix 3: Resolution of NARDAC Issues

The proposals in this analysis resolve the issues raised in NARDAC/2020/2.

The use case is in the scope of RDA if it focuses on an exhibition catalogue as the main resource (WEMI) that is being described.

An exhibition is a *collection manifestation*. It embodies the work/expression that is the selection criteria, extension plan, etc. of the exhibition/collection work.

An exhibition catalogue is a metadata work: a metadata description set for the items that are selected for the exhibition; an analytic collection finding aid. Some 'catalogues' may follow archival description; a hierarchic collection finding aid.

An exhibition catalogue is embodied as an aggregate. The expressions that are embodied in the aggregate are the aggregating expression, expressions of metadata description sets for some or all of the items in the exhibition, expressions of metadata description sets for some or all of the subcollections in the exhibition, and expressions of augmenting works such as an introduction.

(exhibition catalogue/metadata/aggregating) <Work>

(has) expression of work (exhibition catalogue/metadata/aggregating) <Expression>

(is) catalogue of (exhibition/collection) <Manifestation>

[(is) *hierarchic finding aid for* exhibition/collection) <Manifestation>]

(has) collection registrar agent (exhibition cataloguer/aggregator) <Agent>

(exhibition catalogue/metadata/aggregating) < Expression >

(has) work expressed (exhibition catalogue/metadata/aggregating) < Work>

(has) *manifestation of expression* (exhibition catalogue/metadata/aggregate) <Manifestation> *aggregates* (exhibition item metadata description set) <Expression>

(exhibition catalogue/metadata/aggregate) < Manifestation>

(has) expression manifested (exhibition catalogue/metadata/aggregating) <Expression>

(has) expression manifested (exhibition item metadata description set) <Expression>

[(has) work manifested (exhibition catalogue introduction)] <Work>]

(exhibition catalogue introduction)] <Work>
(has) author agent (writer of introduction) <Agent>

(exhibition item metadata description set) <Expression>

(has) work expressed (exhibition item metadata description set) <Work>

(is) aggregated by (exhibition catalogue/metadata/aggregating) <Expression>

(exhibition item metadata description set) <Work>

(has) *author agent* (exhibition item cataloguer) <Agent>

(is) metadata description of item (exhibition) < Item>

(exhibition/collection) < Manifestation>

(has) work manifested (exhibition/collection) <Work>

(has) *holding* (exhibition) < Item>

(has) catalogue (exhibition catalogue/metadata) < Work>

(has) location of collection (exhibition venue) <Place>

(exhibition/collection) < Work>

(has) manifestation of work (exhibition/collection) < Manifestation>

(has) collector agent (exhibition collector) <Agent>

In the case of an exhibition that is put together by the same agent who creates the exhibition catalogue that describes some or all of the items selected for the exhibition, with an introduction, etc., then the same instance of Agent is the exhibition cataloguer/aggregator, exhibition item cataloguer, writer of introduction, and exhibition collector agent.