The US RDA Test

For the European RDA Interest Group/JSC Seminar
Copenhagen, Denmark, August 8, 2010

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Background

- LC Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control
- On the Record
  - “Suspend work on RDA”
- LC worked with National Agricultural Library (NAL) and National Library of Medicine (NLM) to plan for U.S. testing
Test methodology

- Assumptions—
  - Test plans, training documentation, and results will be shared
  - Final version of *RDA* will be tested (*RDA Toolkit*)
  - *RDA* will be tested in existing systems
  - *RDA* data created during test will be made available for use, reuse, testing, research
  - Non-formal testers will be invited to share *RDA* created data
Test partners

- 27 formal test partners, including LC, NAL, NLM

- Partners include cross-section:
  - Types, sizes, formats, content, content codes used
  - Libraries, consortia, educators, vendors
  - Program for Cooperative Cataloging libraries
  - OCLC
Test timeline

- Test days 1-90 (July – September 2010)
  - Familiarization with *RDA* content & online functionality
- Test days 91-180 (October – December 2010)
  - Partners produce records using *RDA*
- Post-test days 181-270 (January – March 2011)
  - LC/NAL/NLM complete analyses
- Post-test days 271-360 (April – June 2011)
  - U.S. national libraries make decisions on whether to adopt *RDA*
Materials to be tested

- Common original set
- Common copy set
- Extra set
Common original set test materials

- 25 titles to be cataloged twice by all:
  - 1) using *RDA*
  - 2) using current content code

- Range of analog and digital:
  - Textual monographs (10)
  - AV materials (5)
  - Serials (5—print & other)
  - Integrating resources (5)
Common copy set test materials

- 5 resources to be copy cataloged
  - Printed text, in English:
    - Monograph
    - Serial
    - Translation
    - Compilation
    - Novel
Extra set test materials

- Test partners to catalog regular receipts using *RDA* (at least 25 items)
  - Foreign languages
  - Cartographic materials
  - Music scores
  - Law materials
- Authority data to be created if normally done for both common and regular titles
RDA choices & options

- RDA Core/core if
- Alternatives and options
- “or” instructions
- “agency preparing …” instructions
- Decision on choices for RDA Test:
  - agency policy for all; agency policy for some, cataloger’s judgment, etc.
  - LC is sharing its decisions
RDA choices & options--
documentation

- LC worked with Program for Cooperative Cataloging to review former LC Rule Interpretations (LCRIs)
  - Almost 500 LCRIs
  - Reduced to less than 200
  - Some incorporated into RDA Toolkit
  - Now called LC Policy Statements
Feedback on creating *RDA* data—formal testers

- Mechanisms being set up for submission of test data by formal testers to LC
  - Records for both common set and extra set titles
  - Records will be made publicly accessible
  - Responses from testers using
    - Survey Monkey
    - Basecamp
Feedback on creating *RDA* data—informal testers

- Informal testers also invited to submit test data
- Invitation issued this past week
- Single survey being developed to elicit test data
Evaluative factors: What we want to learn

- Questions to be answered
  - 7 survey instruments to address:
    - Level of personnel
    - Source of answers
  - Type of answers/data, e.g.,
    - Objective
    - Subjective
    - Local management decision
Evaluative factors: What we want to learn

- Record creation
- Record use
- Training & documentation
- Using an online tool
- Systems & metadata
- Technical feasibility
- Workflows
- Costs & benefits
LC’s internal plans

- Preparing training materials
- Preparing documentation
- Posting training materials & documentation to U.S. Test Site and LC Cataloging Policy Site
- Training/practice for staff who will participate
  - 50 staff to be involved
LC’s internal plans (continued)

- System changes, e.g., for *RDA* associated *MARC 21* updates
- Distribution of LC *RDA* records
- Site to host *RDA* test records from all testers
- Help desk: for content questions
  - [LChelp4rda@loc.gov](mailto:LChelp4rda@loc.gov)
Contact/ more information

- LC Policy Decisions
  - Email: policy@loc.gov

- MARC 21 standards
  - http://www.loc.gov/marc/

- RDA—Resource Description and Access

- Joint Steering Committee for the Development of RDA
  - http://www.rda-jsc.org/
Contact/ more information (continued)

- U.S. Testing Resource Description and Access (RDA)
  http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/rda/

- Beacher Wiggins
  - Director for Acquisitions & Bibliographic Access
  - Library of Congress
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LC Webcasts

- Resource Description and Access: Background/Overview (May 14, 2008. 67 minutes)  

- Cataloging Principles and RDA: Resource Description and Access. (June 10, 2008. 49 minutes)  

- FRBR: Things You Should Know but Were Afraid to Ask. (March 4, 2009. 57 minutes)  
  http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=4554
Thank you!

Questions/comments?