EURIG statement after the release of the Beta-version of the RDA Toolkit

Following the first release of the Beta-version of the RDA Toolkit, the EURIG community would like to thank all members of the RSC, the RDA Board, the chairs of the RSC working groups and last but not least James Hennelly and his colleagues from ALA for their work over the past months.

RDA has become a standard used in many national or language-based communities across the world and Europe has become a reliable and stable partner in the “RDA family”.

The European RDA Interest Group (EURIG) had its annual meeting on May 24th and 25th, 2018, in Copenhagen, Denmark. During the meeting an agreement on the course of action following the first 3R Toolkit release in June was reached; the members of EURIG expect to work together closely in the post-3R phase over the next years. EURIG members have agreed to greater cooperation and to the establishment of European working groups when suitable but also to prioritise participation directly in the international RSC working groups.

For the first time a substantial part of the EURIG meeting was given over to a workshop on the further work based on the 3R project plan. The unanimous view of all members of EURIG was that it would be difficult to plan the local, national and language-based 3R projects in the current situation. This has been confirmed by the beta-version released, where both text parts and examples are missing. In the meantime, between the release of the beta-version of the RDA Toolkit and the official end of the 3R project changes to the text are possible. This has implications for all our planning, for translations as well as for the adaption of policy statements and application profiles.

A separate meeting of the translators preceded the EURIG meeting and was, once again, an ideal platform for discussion, exchange and support for all who are engaged in translating RDA texts, whether in full or as partial translations.

Among other implications of the 3R project, RDA will provide more flexibility, which we estimate to be, in many cases, progress towards a more modern way of cataloguing. Simultaneously, this process needs to be well planned, organised and executed, as it is a real change of paradigm in nearly all our communities. We suggest that RDA should include a guiding general application profile for libraries, which might evolve over time due to the technological development in the libraries. This might also help on the lack of numbering. The lack of numbering makes the user uncertain whether every part of RDA has been consulted and taken into consideration. Also we need to evaluate whether the new RDA still can work as a practical cataloguing code for cataloguers needing guidance in their everyday work and not just a framework. The evaluation of the content from that angle is difficult when parts and examples are missing.

All of our communities are under intense economic pressure, and duplications of effort must be avoided in any case. Nevertheless, most of our communities have to develop their strategic plans for the near future as soon as possible.

To get input from our community concerning their implementation plans after the release of the beta-version of the RDA Toolkit in June 2018, a EURIG working group will conduct a survey about the use of the RDA Toolkit beta version until the beginning of September. The results of this survey will be part of the general feed-back from EURIG. The Editorial Committee of EURIG will have several telephone conferences on this topic through the summer and will provide, together with the EURIG Executive Committee, a final statement in September.

Therefore, we kindly ask:

When is a full and stable text of the RDA Toolkit anticipated?

When are examples included?

At which point does RSC expect feedback from the community (it is difficult to evaluate when a full text including examples is not available)?

When does the RSC recommend starting the adaption process, especially for those communities which need translations?

We would be very pleased to receive your answers.

The Executive Committee of EURIG

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