EURIG Editorial Committee

Report to the annual General Meeting of the Members, 2020

8th May 2020
Szabolcs Dancs, National Széchényi Library
Christian Aliverti, Bibliothèque nationale suisse

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1. Duties of the Editorial Committee

(EURIG Cooperation Agreement, 3rd May, 2019)
- Execute the objectives as agreed by the General Meeting of the Members;
- Discuss issues referred by the Executive Committee and to propose recommendations to be communicated to the RSC;
- Prepare RDA proposals and discussion papers, taking account of EURIG members' recommendations;
- Respond to RDA proposals and discussion papers, taking account of EURIG members' comments.

2. Members of the Editorial Committee

- Renate Behrens (Chair), German National Library, Europe Region Representative to the RSC
- Ahava Cohen, National Library of Israel, EURIG Chair
- Hanne Hørl Hansen, Danish Bibliographic Agency, EURIG Vice Chair
- Jenny Wright, CILIP, EURIG Secretary
- Christian Aliverti, Swiss National Library
- Stefano Bargioni, URBE Consortium
- Thierry Clavel. RERO Library Network of Western Switzerland
- Szabolcs Dancs, National Library of Hungary
- Alan Danskin, British Library
- Marja-Liisa Seppälä, National Library of Finland
- Christoph Steiger, University Library of Vienna

3. Activities

The committee works in the Wiki of the German National Library and via video conferences. The main topics discussed last year were:

Application Profile AP for RDA
Based on the existing application profile of the German-speaking countries (DACH) the discussions for a European application profile started. The development of a European application profile is put on hold because the RSC established a worldwide working group on this topic. This working group should develop a model for application profiles. However, no model is available yet. Therefore, the question arises whether EURIG should create an application profile independent of the worldwide working group.

Respond to RDA proposals and discussion papers
- RDA content elements and Expression excerpts
- EURIG Feedback on 3R English Text
- Collective Agent, ORDAC Review
- RSC Asynchron Meetings (September 2019, January 2020 and April 2020), support the Chair in the RSC topics

4. Personal note Christian Aliverti

The Swiss National Library has a national mandate. This includes presenting its catalogues to the public in the four national languages (German, French, Italian and Romansh). We apply RDA because it is designed for use in an international context, which includes multilingualism. The Swiss National Library wants to apply international standards. We hope that this will lead to user-friendly data, data sharing and cost efficiency.

With our participation in the Editorial Committee, we want to contribute to the development of the RDA. The following topics are important to us: User-friendly rules (user means the users of the data), standard for the whole collection of our library (not only books), authority data, multilingualism, interoperability of data, data that can be processed by machine.

RSC requests often come unexpectedly and the response times are short. To give good high-quality answers, we would need more time.

The members of the EURIG and the Committee all come from different cultural and linguistic areas. Very different cataloguing traditions come together. The will to work together on an international standard and to apply this standard in their own network is unifying. Therefore, each member puts its own topics on the agenda. The needs in the different language and cultural areas are simply different... This makes finding common solutions in EURIG complex. However, it is a great opportunity to learn from each other and to make the RDA truly international.

5. Personal note Szabolcs Dancs

For a quite long period Hungary had a passive approach to international library standardization, trying to keep up with developments and accepting changes without providing any feedback, however there are many language/culture specific issues to raise.

So in the last years we decided to move towards activity from passivity.

As a typical Hungary-specific issue I can mention handling name data, i.e. we have the so called Eastern name order which is an inverse name order from the viewpoint of most of the countries: we place surname before first name. (Of course first name sounds ridicule here, given name is much better.) In our national data exchange format for bibliographic data we used a distinct subfield for given name in fields 100, 600, and 700. When converting our data to MARC 21 we put a comma between surname and given name, but, in display level, we use comma only for foreign names, in case of Hungarian names we display capitalized characters in order to help users to distinct between surname and given name when one of them or both consist of more than one components:

name	format for storage/exchange	display format
Tamás Gáspár Miklós	100 $aTamás, Gáspár Miklós	TAMÁS Gáspár Miklós

(In some cases, such as in this one, it is not obvious to tell which name components belong to the family name (surname) and which ones to the given name.)

This sort of problems, and others falling into this category, have not been discussed yet on an international level. We might be quite lonely with that one, but we already came across language-specific issues which were pretty similar to those of ours.

RDA-HU WG → EURIG EC

Another problem we faced: we finished the translation of RDA Terms a long time ago…
Actually, we almost finished it. Then we came across the quite controversial definition of
series and we simply could not go on.

	B	C	D	E
	*preferred label[0]_en	*preferred label[0]_hu	alternative label[0]_en	alternative label[0]_hu
1	running title	szalagcím		
2	scroll	tekercs		
3	self-describing manifestation	önleíró megjelenési forma		
4	series	sorozat	Ilácsa Szabina: Itt az egész angol megnevezés sántít. Ez a definíció teljesen ellentmond az extension plan értékszótárnak	
5	short title of a legal work	jogi mű rövid címe		
6	sign language	jelnyelv		
7	source of information	adatforrás		

So the only term remained highlighted with red color is 'series'. The note by my colleague,
Szabina, is: "The whole English name is problematic. The definition contradicts to the
extension plan value vocabulary." The definition is:

> "A set of manifestations that embody the parts of a work, the issues of a serial work, or
> the units of a multiunit manifestation"

We are preparing a proposal, so I won't go into details now. I just mention (very briefly) some
of our recommendations to developers:

1. Definition of series needs to be reconsidered and rephrased by identifying common
attribute(s) of resources falling into the category of 'series' (or 'manifestation group', see
below). (Collective title or common title cannot be identified as common attribute, for details
see our future proposal.)

2. A more exact definition and clear arguments are needed in order to take the possibility of extending the scope of 'series' under consideration. Even in that case in some languages (like Hungarian) a new term should be created because of the fixed semantic field of the original term.

3. Term 'manifestation group' should be used instead of 'series'.

4. 'Series' is used both in a broad and a narrow meaning in Toolkit. A new term should be introduced as a solution for one of the meanings.

My hopes are high. Beyond finding solutions for translation and implementation problems, identifying effective ways to represent European interests and building an application profile highly acceptable and respectable in the international library arena, I hope we can provide help each other not just by sharing best practices but also by sharing bad experiences and mistakes. Not to let 'series' problems grow into 'serious' problems. ☺

As my colleague, Szabina put it in one of her articles:

"We are all understaffed and overworked and generally just focused on trying to get the job done in time and the first thing we neglect to do is sharing information with others. Often because we think: "I will show my project once I am ready, when I have results". But the journey is every bit as interesting to others as the results. Communicating our unanswered questions, our bad turns on the road are very important as well. That is where we can realize that we are not alone with our questions and we can start thinking together."