RSC in 2021:
An Operational Reboot

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RSC Meeting Frequency

- Continuing with quarterly, rather than annual, meetings
  - Change proposals may be considered at any RSC meeting
    - First three meetings of the year held asynchronously
      - Week-long meetings; no observers can be accommodated
    - Final meeting (October) normally held in person
      - Except during a pandemic, when this is converted to a two-week virtual meeting
        - Using a combination of synchronous and asynchronous meeting styles
      - Complex proposals reserved for this meeting
      - Observers may be accommodated in public session(s) – registration required
        - For the October RSC meeting, there will be one synchronous public session Monday, October 18, 10:00 am-noon EDT, via Zoom
        - Registration details are forthcoming

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Considering Changes to RDA

- Formal processes – may be submitted anytime
  - Proposal
    - Formal document submitted to RSC for consideration by an RSC member
    - May come from a regional group (e.g., NARDAC), an RSC Working Group, or an RSC member
    - Shared publicly in advance of the RSC meeting
  - Discussion paper
    - Similar to the proposal process, in terms of formality, point of origin, and sharing
    - Used for complex issues with more than one possible solution

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Considering Changes to RDA

- Less formal processes
  - Fast track
    - Suggestions for improving consistency in wording, additions to vocabularies, and other changes without wider impact
    - Capable of inclusion in RDA without negative impact on its users
    - Submitted by an RSC member; discussed by RSC
      - Consultation with regional groups is optional
    - Not publicly posted for comment
    - Considered at any time
  - Editorial changes
    - Corrected by RSC Secretary when identified by RSC member or RDA user – no other review required

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Streamlining the Proposal process?

- Learning from the benefits and drawbacks of the previous JSC/RSC process

- Goals to
  - Devote less time and effort in creating responses, and also reducing the formality
  - Encourage collaboration among RSC members, including the possibility of a joint proposal
  - Establish an efficient process that allows the RSC to consider proposals at any RSC meeting, but with the benefits of getting community review
  - Allow enough time to make an informed decision, without delaying difficult decisions because they are too complex
  - Retain transparency in RSC decision-making

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RSC Technical Working Group

- Standing group, chaired by RSC's Technical Team Liaison Officer (currently Damian Iseminger)

- Charged to:
  - Assist the RSC in developing RDA in technical areas such as models, structures, semantics, and standards
  - Assist ALA Publishing in developing and maintaining the RDA Registry
  - Assure technical conformance with the RDA ontology as requested by communities and users

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Technical Working Group Responsibilities Include

- Review of all change proposals made to the RSC (formal and fast track)
  - Ensures that the proposed change conforms to the RDA/LRM ontology
  - Ensures that the proposed change does not introduce redundancy in the RDA ontology
  - Advises on generalizing the technical context of a proposed change: can the change be broadened to benefit other areas?

- Coordination and maintenance of mappings and alignments between RDA elements and
  - MARC 21
  - Dublin Core
  - BIBFRAME
  - UNIMARC
  - Relevant ILFA namespaces
  - Wikidata

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Managing User Feedback

- Proposed changes may come from users via the [Submit Feedback link](#)
  - Triage by Director of ALA Digital Reference
  - For the issues referred to the RSC Secretary…
    - Editorial?
    - Refer to the RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer or other RSC member?
    - Fast track?
    - Refer to proposal or discussion paper process?
      - Requires finding an individual or group to do the work
  - But what about suggestions that fall somewhere in between this referral/resolution process?
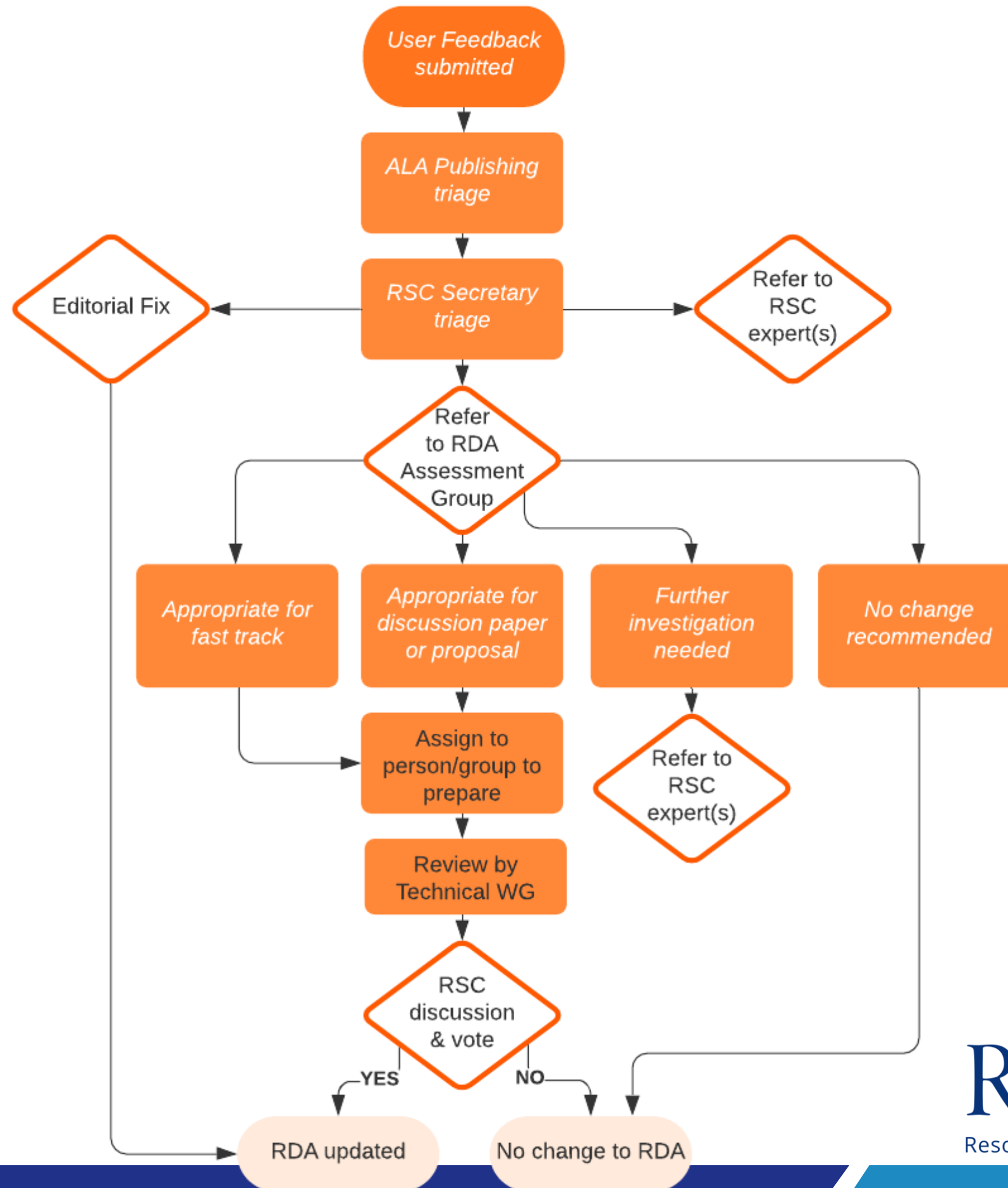
RDA Assessment Group

- Formed as an outcome of the RSC April 2021 meeting
- Addresses issues beyond routine editorial decisions, which are often in the territory of broader questions and principles
- Membership
  - RSC Secretary, RSC regional representatives
- Responsibilities
  - Analyzes the issue and then…
    - Refers it for action to an appropriate person or group (to create a proposal, fast track, etc.), *or*
    - Determines that the change cannot be accommodated in base RDA

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Recent Assessment Group Topics

- Person: *place of residence*
  - Has scope note that is broader than residence
- Guidance: Resource Description: Minimum description of a resource entity: Minimum description of a manifestation
  - Ambiguous formatting of bullet points
- Manifestation: *statement of responsibility*
  - 2nd option in Prerecording section refers to "expressions"
- 12 unresolved issues in Transcription guidelines
- Use of "RDA" vs. "RDA Toolkit" in Introduction to RDA: Objectives and Principles

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RDA User Feedback Flowchart

Community Resources (CR)

- Community-based content that conforms to RDA
  - Integrated into RDA Toolkit
  - Too specific for inclusion in base RDA; i.e., not (fully) international in scope
    - May contain instructions, guidance, and/or vocabularies
    - May have attached policy statements
  - Owned, created, and maintained by a language community

- Structure under active development

- English language content moved from base RDA
  - Sept. 2020: Abbreviations, capitalization, initial articles, etc.
  - April 2021: Legacy Anglo-American instructions for pseudo-elements (legal, musical, religious works, and official communications)
  - July 2021: Community refinements content, principally string encoding scheme instructions

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CR has Content – Now What?

- Hand off "ownership" from RSC to other groups
  - For English: some Anglo-American community (or group of communities)
    - NARDAC + ORDAC + British Library, etc.? [not yet settled]
  - For Finnish:
    - Ready to translate the English text
    - But can now apply their own approaches

- Communities implementing CR need to
  - Figure out how this part of RDA Toolkit works for them in concert with base RDA, policy statements, application profiles, etc.
  - Commit to regular review and revision
  - Ensure the content remains compatible with RDA
  - Update the CMS, or provide content for someone else to add

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Wider Community Engagement Officer (WCEO)

- Position description updated in 2021
  - Engage with and represent RDA users who are not accommodated easily in the existing governance structure
    - Serve as a resource & communication channel for their RDA change proposals
  - Support existing communities' use and development of the CR section in RDA Toolkit and advise new communities about its use [NEW!]
  - Promote use and understanding of RDA worldwide
  - Serve on appropriate committees (e.g., MARC/RDA Working Group, RDA Board marketing group)
- WCEO-elect appointed: Charlene Chou
  - Now a non-voting member of RSC
  - Official two-year term (as a voting member) will start January 2022

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More Information – General

- RDA Steering Committee website: http://www.rda-rsc.org/
  - Including pages for Presentations (by year) and Documents (by year)
    - 2021 Presentations: http://www.rda-rsc.org/node/654
    - 2021 Documents: http://www.rda-rsc.org/node/653
  - News and Announcements: http://www.rda-rsc.org/news
- Current RDA: https://access.rdatoolkit.org/
- RDA Toolkit website: https://www.rdatoolkit.org
- RDA YouTube channel [free!]: https://www.youtube.com/c/RDAToolkitVideo

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More Information – Specific

- RSC proposal processes
  - RSC/Operations/4 -- Policy and Procedures for Updating RDA Content
  - RSC/Operations/5 -- Guidelines for Proposals, Discussion Papers, and Responses to Them

- Proposals scheduled for RSC discussion:
  - New RSC Documents 2021: http://rda-rsc.org/node/653

- Community resources:
  - In the RDA FAQ: http://rda-rsc.org/content/rda_faq#24
  - Presentation: RDA and Community Resources (Thomas Brenndorfer, May 2021)

- Wider Community Engagement Officer
  - Job description included in Application form

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Questions?

Ask now, or email me:

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