To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Gordon Dunsire, Chair, RSC

Subject: Terms of reference for the RSC Fictitious Entities Working Group

Related document

This RSC document is a minor revision of its counterpart JSC document (6JSC/Chair/19); only minimal updating of names has occurred.

General terms of reference

The RSC Fictitious Entities Working Group will conduct its business within the general terms of reference for RSC Working Groups (see RSC/Policy/4).

Background

The RSC develops *RDA: Resource Description and Access* for international use with the range of encoding schemes typically employed in library and related applications. The underlying domain model is based on the FRBR, FRAD, and FRSAD conceptual models.

Metadata produced using RDA must be well-formed and able to meet the needs of applications operating in a variety of implementation scenarios. The number of RDA applications is increasing as a result of the success of RDA, requiring the RSC to further develop the substructures between the underlying models and functional requirements of RDA.

The FRBR Review Group's Consolidation Editorial Group (CEG) is now in the final stages of its work on consolidating the three conceptual models. The RSC anticipates the consolidated model to treat the names of fictitious agents as name entities associated with the persons, families, and corporate bodies that are responsible in the real world for works, expressions, manifestations, and items. This will diverge from the current RDA treatment of the Person entity, which includes fictitious and legendary persons in its scope. The difference is significant, and moves the focus from the Person entity to a new Name (or Nomen) entity.

The RSC expects to develop RDA to accommodate such a Name entity, and has assigned a related task to the RSC Technical Working Group to investigate the development of RDA models for authority data.

The RSC wishes to improve the treatment of fictitious persons in RDA without diverging from the anticipated model. The RSC also wishes to extend RDA to cover fictitious families and corporate bodies, and to determine if the scope of RDA should include fictitious works, places, and other entities.

The JSC decided at its meeting in November 2014 to implement a Working Group to carry out tasks related to these issues.

Charge (duties and responsibilities)

The Group is charged to:

- Assist the RSC in developing RDA for application to fictitious entities.