



Outcomes and Actions from the RDA Board Meeting

May 6-8, 2019

American Library Association Offices, Chicago, IL, USA

In attendance:

Ángela Quiroz Ubierna	Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile
Beacher Wiggins	Library of Congress
Chris Oliver	Canadian Federation of Library Associations (Chair)
James Hennelly	American Library Association Digital Reference
John Trevor Allen	Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
Kathy Glennan	Chair of RDA Steering Committee
Keri Cascio	American Library Association
Kim Gutchlag	National Library of New Zealand
Marietjie de Beer	National Library of South Africa
Ulrike Junger	Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

Regrets

Ben Gu	National Library of China
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Also attending:

Mary Mackay	RDA Fund Trustee for the American Library Association
Katie Bane	Chair, Marketing Group

1. Welcome, Introductions & Announcements

- The RDA Board welcomed John and Kim to their first meeting

- Noted with regret that the representative for the Asia region was unable to attend

2. ALA Publishing Update

- Board noted receipt of the report from ALA Publishing
- Requests to translate demonstrating interest from new communities, such as Eastern Europe, Arabic-speaking countries, etc.
- Encouraging signs in terms of global impact, subscriptions from a large number of countries; internationalization continues to be an important goal, both in terms of RDA content and representation in RDA governance
- For those in the early stages of implementation, visits from those officially associated with RDA are appreciated and help build the network of relationships
- Changing patterns of subscription with traditional users; many moving to consortial subscriptions
- Announcement earlier this year about no print RDA after the 3R Project is completed; not feasible given the new structure of the standard
 - To be replaced with a series of books, including a book of examples; work underway to get these books ready

3) Report from the Copyright Holders and Trustees

- The 3R Project is a time of investment; after the project, we expect that efficiencies in design will have a positive impact
- Preparation for a new strategic planning exercise during the 2019 Board meetings
- What can the Board do to help with outreach?

4) RSC Report

- The Board noted receipt of the report from the Chair of the RDA Steering Committee
- RSC Chair added that it will be interesting to see the impact of both application profiles and policy statements; policy statements will amplify the application profiles
- RSC Chair intends to review the RSC policies and procedures documents now that the English text has been stabilized
- With stabilization of the text after 3R, RSC plans to return to revising the content of the standard; they will use a more agile approach with faster turnaround times as is appropriate for a web tool.
- Since the transition to the Toolkit after 3R is a time of transition and stabilization, the RDA Board agreed that forming the RSC Archives Working Group should be postponed until after the beta Toolkit becomes the official RDA.
- The Board expressed support for these plans. The Board thanked RSC for their excellent work.

5) 3R Project: report and timeline

- Congratulations to RSC and ALA Digital Reference for meeting the April deadline for stabilization of the English text
- Update on the implementation of the Trados translation software and its benefits for translation teams; for example, the new Group Share tool supports consistency of translation of phrases and terms by different members of a translation team
- Use of RDA reference and boilerplates means that text can be auto-generated for all translations, not just for English
- Question about when to start training on RDA after 3R; not before the project has been completed and an announcement about the beta site becomes the official Toolkit site
- Plans for the visual browser were put on hold; the cost to develop was too expensive, and the initial mock-up would not be a usable tool
- Agreement that a timeline for the discontinuation of the old RDA Toolkit would be useful; not necessarily a timeline with firm dates, but a progression of steps and milestones needed

Action: James will prepare a timeline/milestones document

6) Marketing Group

- Marketing Group met throughout the year and created postcards for new communities and for messaging at conference events

7) Updating of action items list

- Collective decisions to update the list and revise/remove items; actions from the May meeting will be added

8) Updates from the National Institution (NI) representatives

- Reports received from all the National Institution representatives; these reports will be kept in the Information from the Regions folder on Basecamp for ease of consultation in the future
- Discussion of the reports, highlighting certain points.
- **Africa:** Implementation in Africa outside of South Africa is slow due to many challenges
 - Multiplicity of indigenous languages
 - Lack of funding for libraries
 - Unreliability of web access; reliance on print tools
 - In terms of building a network, hard to keep contact information up to date: frequently changing contact persons plus a large geographic area
 - Plan to start with countries geographically closest to South Africa and slowly move northward

- **Asia:**
 - Milestone: National Library of China (NLC) officially declared that RDA was applied to the cataloging of foreign language resources beginning on January 1st, 2018
 - Common for countries use graphical characters to use two cataloguing standards, one for Western publications, and one for publications in their own language
 - Similar comment as Africa about the difficulty of keeping contact information up to date: frequent changes in contact persons in Asian bibliographic agencies hindered contact between the agencies
 - Countries outside China where there is documented RDA use: large number of Toolkit subscribers in Malaysia;
- **Europe:** Europe has a regional organization with a long history: EURIG
 - 27 countries are currently participating but they still look at the map to check for “white spots”, where outreach may be needed
 - Great interest in application profiles; aim to create a EURIG application profile
 - challenge at DNB: deposit of digital objects requires that the object is accompanied by metadata but this metadata does not follow RDA; RDA is used only for bibliographic records where there is intellectual intervention, and this has become the minority of records
 - increasing work on authority files, integration of RDA elements and identifiers, as well as laying the groundwork for linked data
 - annual meeting with seminar; also organizing IFLA satellite meeting on RDA with IFLA’s Committee on Standards
- **Latin American and the Caribbean:** Latin America is progressing towards a regional organization
 - Latin America RDA Working Group has been formed; at this point, only national libraries are members
 - Spanish translation of IFLA LRM (Argentina); plans to do LRM training now that it is translated into Spanish
 - Not just Spanish-speaking LA countries; Brazil is also interested
 - Increasing number of colloquiums and meetings about RDA
- **North America:** North America’s regional organization, NARDAC, is doing well
 - RDA is well established in North America
 - Full benefits of RDA won’t be realized until there is a linked data environment so the work on BIBFRAME is very important: Library of Congress and 17 other institutions continue to test and advance the use of BIBFRAME
 - Continuing work to enhance authority records; exploring the addition of ISNIs to authority records
 - A new MARC RDA Working Group will be formed to address changes to MARC format in light of changes to RDA after 3R
- **Oceania:** Oceania has an active regional organization but the chief areas of RDA activity are in Australia and New Zealand

- Challenge of contacting and involving the Pacific islands
- Face-to-face meetings work best in the Pasifika nations
- Kim has received the raw data from Monika Szunejko's 2018 survey; Monika gave a high-level overview but was no longer in a position to complete the analysis and reporting; Kim will look at the data and follow-up so that the survey data is utilized well

9) Review NI reporting template

- Discussion of 2017 template and ways to improve, especially now that the National Institution representatives formally represent a region

Action: Beacher will revise the template

10) Review of Strategic Plan

- Evaluation of past plan, progress, challenges
 - Assessment of the current 4 strategic priorities
 - Current environment; current and future needs
- Next strategic plan: 3-year plan instead of 5-year plan in line with aiming for agility in a rapidly changing environment
- Draft will be circulated to Board members; aim to complete the plan by the December meeting

Action: Chris to synthesize discussion and produce a draft of the 2020-2022 strategic plan

11) Governance

- ORDAC had revised their terms of reference, the RDA Board approved the changes.
- The new RDA governance structure stipulates that National Institution representatives have fixed terms and they are replaced by a representative from another National Institution in the region. The terms of the current North America and Latin America and the Caribbean representatives will expire at the end of 2019.
- Provide more clarity about expectations, appropriate criteria for National Institutions to use when nominating a candidate

Action:

Chris revises the NI application form

Chris contacts qualifying National Institutions in the two regions (North America and Latin America and the Caribbean) for the names of candidates. Appointment/election before the end of 2019.

12) Sponsorship and hosting policy

- Final version was approved and will be posted to the Board website

Action: Chris to add date of approval; ask Katie to post on website.

13) Review website documents for obsolete or misleading information in governance documents

- Text and references in the governance documents were discussed and recommendations were made for updates and formatting

Action: Kim and Chris to review and rewrite RDA Board governance documents

14) Review Board ways of working virtually

- Keep using Basecamp, though concerns remain about challenges faced by the representative from Asia
- Keep to pattern of three virtual meetings and one in-person meeting per year
- For virtual meetings, shift to Monday-Thursday; hold the meeting itself from Monday to Wednesday and use Thursday for meeting recap and outstanding decisions

Action: Chris will email Board members for setting the dates for all four meetings

15) Next meeting: invitation from Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (DNB) for the next in-person meeting in Frankfurt, May 11-13.

Monday May 11	morning	Copyright Holders
Monday May 11	afternoon	Board
Tuesday May 12	all day	Board
Wednesday May 13	morning	Board

Specific times will be determined closer to the date of the meetings, in consultation with DNB.

16) Adjournment

- A very big thank you to ALA for hosting and organizing the 2019 meeting so well