

### **RDA: Resource Description and Access – an update**

The new standard RDA: Resource Description and Access is being developed by the Joint Steering Committee for the Development of RDA as a replacement for AACR. The JSC reports to the Committee of Principals (CoP) - the directors or their representatives from the Canadian, UK, and US professional library associations, the British Library, Library and Archives Canada, the Library of Congress and the National Library of Australia. RDA focuses on the data elements needed to support FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records) and FRAD (Functional Requirements for Authority Records).

#### **Timeline**

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| June 2010  | RDA: Resource Description and Access will be published.  |
| + 3 months | Preparatory period for US national libraries testing<br>RDA will be available for a free trial period. |
| + 3 months | US national libraries formal testing   |
| + 3 months | US national libraries formal assessment  |
| Mid 2011   | Earliest date for implementation by Australian and overseas libraries.                                 |

#### **Update on progress for release of RDA**

- The three U.S. national libraries, the Library of Congress (LC), the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and the National Agricultural Library (NAL), made a commitment to the further development and completion of RDA. The three libraries agreed to make a joint decision on whether or not to implement RDA, based on the results of a test of both RDA and the Web product. The goal of the test is to assure the operational, technical, and economic feasibility of RDA. Testers include the three U.S. national libraries and 20 testing partners from the broader U.S. library community.

The U.S. national libraries will provide the National Library of Australia with documentation of testing methodology and results, as well as documentation and training materials.

Although the National Library of Australia will be monitoring the U.S. national libraries' testing of RDA, we are not conducting testing per se. The National Library has an implementation plan for RDA which encompasses some aspects of testing to enable us to refine our procedures and plan training. A detailed plan is not yet publicly available, but when it is complete, will be added to the ACOC website.

- The Australian Committee on Cataloguing has released a survey to Australian librarians to determine the training needs for RDA. Information from the survey will be used to facilitate the provision of training in RDA for Australian and New Zealand libraries.
- The MARC changes needed to implement RDA are already available. The Network Development and MARC Standards Office at the Library of Congress has published MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data Update No. 9 (October 2008), Update No. 10 (October 2009) and Update No. 11 (February 2010). Many of the changes in these updates have been made to accommodate RDA. See [www.loc.gov/marc/status.html](http://www.loc.gov/marc/status.html) and [www.loc.gov/marc/RDAinMARC29.html](http://www.loc.gov/marc/RDAinMARC29.html) for further information.
- Due to strong demand a print version of RDA will be published as well as an online version.
- RDA pricing for the US market was announced at the 2010 ALA Midwinter Meeting. Details of pricing for Australia are not available yet.

### **Implementation**

- From the agreed Australian implementation date, Libraries Australia is committed to supporting the creation and exchange of records according to RDA.
- Libraries Australia will provide users with as much notice as possible of any changes to the data format and cataloguing policy.
- Libraries Australia will implement support for RDA in our training system well in advance of the implementation date. RDA-related changes will be reflected in LA training courses and system documentation.
- Changes will be made in the Libraries Australia Cataloguing and Search test, training and production systems to support RDA. These will include changes to the Record Import and Export Services, validation, match/merge, WebCat cataloguing template, WinIBW cataloguing templates, presentation and indexes to allow searching, input and exchange of new or changed MARC fields.
- Libraries Australia will investigate whether it is feasible and/or desirable to use global change programs to create any new RDA data elements using data that is already present in the record, or to massage existing data elements so that they comply with RDA. The timing of any such changes will be carefully considered so that they meet the needs of the greatest number of Australian libraries.

### **Cataloguing policy**

- Just as records created according to older cataloguing rules continue to be used and exchanged some 30 years after the implementation of AACR2, these and AACR2 records, will continue to be used and will co-exist in our library systems with records

created according to RDA. Libraries Australia will continue to support the exchange of records created according to AACR2 or other standards as long as they are supported in MARC21.

- Libraries Australia will also publish a policy guideline as to when AACR2 records should be upgraded to reflect RDA.

#### **Further information**

- The Australian Committee on Cataloguing (ACOC) is a joint author of RDA. Further information can be found about the Australian implementation on the ACOC website: [www.nla.gov.au/lis/standrds/grps/acoc/rda.html](http://www.nla.gov.au/lis/standrds/grps/acoc/rda.html).
- Information about RDA development is available on the Joint Steering Committee for the Implementation of RDA (JSC) website: [www.rda-jsc.org/rda.html](http://www.rda-jsc.org/rda.html).

#### **Recommendation**

The Libraries Australia Advisory Committee to note the report.

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