

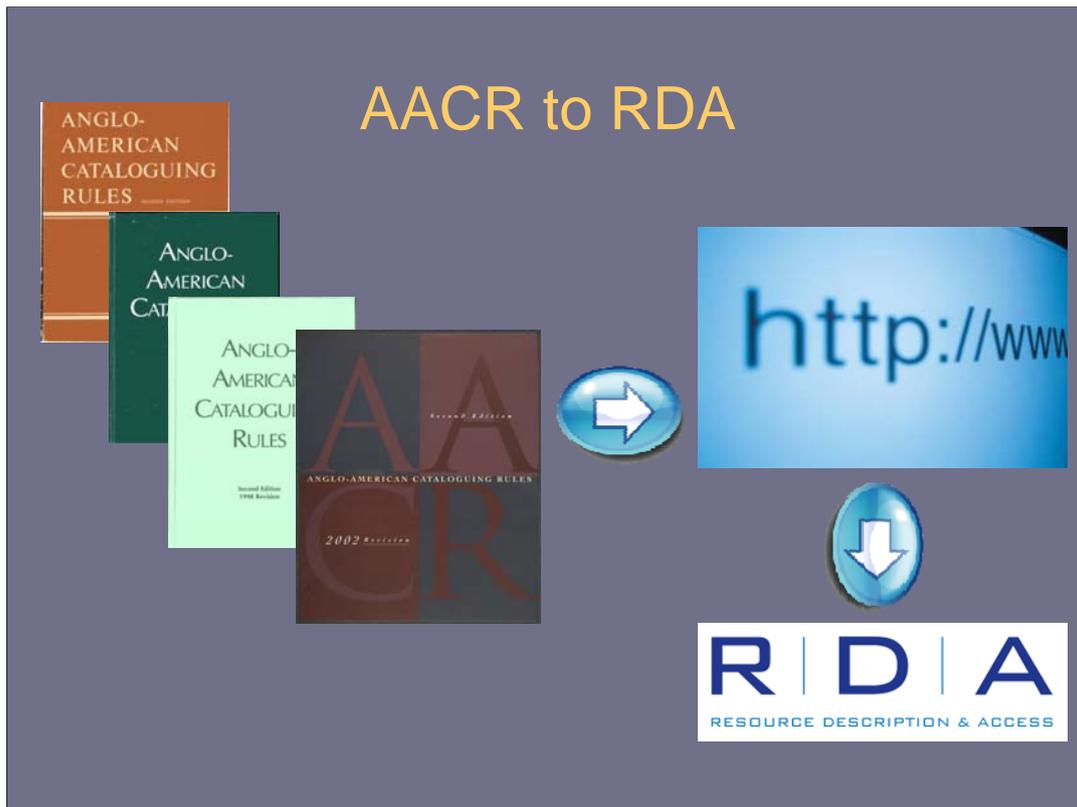


Resource Description and Access

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to the Joint Steering Committee for the Development of RDA

ALIA Information Online, 2009



Today the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, or AACR, is the most widely-used standard for descriptive cataloguing in the English-speaking world – and it has also been translated into 24 other languages. Resource Description and Access is the new standard for description and access, set to replace AACR in 2009. As well as being adopted in Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Canada and the United States, RDA is being considered for adoption in other countries that currently have their own descriptive cataloguing codes - such as Germany and France.

RDA is being developed as a new generation cataloguing code, designed for the digital world. It will provide instructions for the description of all types of resources, including digital and online. Descriptions created using RDA will be usable in the digital environment – in web-based catalogues and in other resource discovery services. The RDA standard will itself be a Web-based tool, not a print tool as it is now.

Today I will talk about some of the problems that RDA is designed to solve, the conceptual models on which it is based, and how RDA is being designed so that the data created using it is usable in the web environment. I will also touch briefly on what you need to do to prepare for RDA's implementation in Australian libraries.

AACR and descriptive cataloguing

- AACR is a robust standard, but ...
 - ‘Class of materials’ approach is no longer valid
 - Need for principles-based instructions
 - Need for extensibility
 - Designed for the card catalogue not digital world
 - Data needs to be usable in the web environment



AACR has been used for decades, and millions of catalogue records have been created using it as the resource description standard. Why then do we need to change to a new standard?

Although AACR has indeed proved to be a very robust standard, it has reached the end of its useful life - as a set of instructions *and* as the basis for our catalogues.

AACR is organised around the class of materials to which an item belongs. There are separate chapters for books, serials, sound recordings, motion pictures, and electronic resources, and so on. Over time each chapter has evolved to have slightly different rules – even when there is no fundamental difference between that class of material and another class.

In addition, the resources we are trying to describe have changed, and the distinctions between them have blurred. For example, a video, some text and some music - once so separate - may now be found together on a website. We need now to find a principles-based way to describe every relevant aspect of every resource, and also a way to describe types of resources that may not exist yet.

AACR was also developed in the era of the card catalogue, and much of its terminology reflects that, for example terms like ‘heading’, ‘main entry’ and ‘added entry’. However, just updating the terminology alone is not enough to bring AACR into the digital world. We also need to ensure that the data we create using RDA is usable in the web environment. To do this we need to define the data elements so that they are machine manipulable and usable in a variety of contexts on the web.

RDA and FRBR/FRAD/FRSAR

- The value of conceptual models
 - Identify & define the things that are important - **entities**
 - Identify & define the **attributes** that characterise the entities
 - Identify & define significant **relationships** between entities
- FRBR/FRAD/FRSAR
 - Identify & define **bibliographic** entities, attributes and relationships
- FRBR etc in RDA



To achieve the goals we have for RDA we have made great use of the FRBR family of conceptual models developed by IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations. FRBR is the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records. Its counterparts FRAD (Functional Requirements for Authority Data) and FRSAR (Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Records) extend the model for authority data.

Why have we bothered with conceptual models? Well, conceptual models help us to develop a better understanding of the domain they describe. They are a way of looking at something that concerns us, and

Identifying and defining the things that are important (entities)

Identifying and defining the attributes that characterise the entities, and

Identifying and defining the significant relationships between the entities

In the case of the FRBR model, we are able to develop a better understanding of bibliographic and authority data. This model identifies and defines bibliographic entities, their attributes and the relationships between them.

These models will be reflected in RDA in a number of ways – although sadly there isn't time to go into the details of these today. For now I'd like to note that benefits that come from using the FRBR model can't be realised without changes to descriptive standards such as RDA. But equally, those benefits can't be realised through RDA alone, but will also require changes to encoding and to the system used to support resource discovery.

FRBR entities



Group 1 : Work, Expression, Manifestation, Item

Group 2 : Person, *Family* and Corporate body

Group 3 : Concept, Object, Event, Place



Before I talk about the benefits of FRBR, I need to take you on a whirlwind tour of the FRBR family of conceptual models.

The **entities** defined in these models are in three groups.

In Group 1: **Work** is the intellectual or artistic creation as an abstract entity. For example *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* by J.K. Rowling.

Expression is the realisation of a work in a particular form, e.g. a particular language or notation. Like work, it is an abstract concept. An example might be the Chinese version of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

Manifestation is the physical embodiment of an expression of a work – so together all the copies of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* published by Bloomsbury in London in 2007, constitute a manifestation. The manifestation level is the one usually represented in bibliographic records.

Item is a single exemplar of a manifestation – what you might think of as a copy.

In group 2 : are persons, families and corporate bodies. Families were not mentioned in FRBR, but are an addition in FRAD.

In group 3: are concepts, objects, events and places. These entities are not covered in RDA.

These models go on to describe the attributes of each of these entities – e.g. title of the work; pagination of the manifestation, etc.

Importantly, they also describe the relationships between the entities, for example a person as the author of a work.

FRBR – user tasks

“ a structured framework for relating the data recorded in bibliographic (*and authority*) records to the needs of the users of those records.”

➤ FRBR User tasks

- Find, Identify, Select , Obtain

➤ FRAD User tasks

- Find, Identify, Contextualize, Justify



But FRBR and FRAD do more than simply list the entities, attributes and relationships. An important feature of these models is that they relate the data recorded in records to the needs of the users of those records. They do this by mapping the data elements to the specific user tasks they assist.

The *user tasks* identified in FRBR are:

Find an item that meet their needs (e.g. find an item by an author; on a particular subject; or with a certain title)

Identify an item (e.g. to confirm that the item is the one they are looking for; or to distinguish between items with the same title)

Select an item (e.g. the check the form of an item, or its suitability for a particular group, e.g. high school students)

Obtain an item (e.g. information needed to submit a call slip; to purchase an item; or to access a remote resource)

FRAD has additionally defined the following user tasks for authority data: Find, Identify, Contextualize and Justify.

Benefits of FRBR

- Improved efficiency of data creation & maintenance
- Improved navigation of the catalogue for users
- Improved catalogue displays
 - For researchers – a more organised display
 - For the general public – a less cluttered display



So what are the benefits to using these models?

New database structures based on models like FRBR are important on a number of levels. For cataloguers and system administrators they will improve the efficiency of data creation and maintenance. This will happen for example, by allowing data for works and expressions to be created and stored once only, and re-used as needed. Importantly, FRBR-based database structures will also improve the ease and effectiveness with which users are able to access the data and navigate the database. This is particularly useful for works that exist in more than one expression, or more than one manifestation, such as many music and literature resources.

FRBR-based catalogues have benefits for both the user who cares very much about the different manifestations, and those who do not care at all. The user who cares about different manifestations is able to see all those manifestations and expressions of the work in a meaningful hierarchical display which highlights the differences between them. The user who doesn't care about the differences between manifestations can, for example, place a request at the FRBR expression level – and receive the first English language version of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows that that becomes available – without having to place multiple individual requests at the item level.

FRBR in practice

- Used in databases
 - Red Light Green, Fiction Finder, xISBN,
 - Austlit, Music Australia
- Used in library systems and catalogues
 - VTLS – Virtua
- FRBR Bibliography
 - <http://www.ifla.org/II/s13/wgfrbr/bibliography.htm>



FRBR as a model has been around since 1997. Since that time it has been used in the design of a number of databases, and in various ways in different projects.

- It has been used in services such as Red Light Green, offered by the Research Library Group prior to its merger with OCLC. OCLC has also used FRBR in a number of prototypes such as Fiction Finder and xISBN.
- FRBR has also been used in developing library systems such as VTLS' Virtua.
- Closer to home, it was used in the development of the literature gateway Austlit. The National Library of Australia has also looked at FRBR in relation to the Australian National Bibliographic Database , and Music Australia.

If you are interested in learning more about FRBR and its applications you might like to consult the FRBR bibliography – the address is on this slide. The bibliography is maintained by the FRBR Review Group and covers both theoretical work on FRBR and also implementations and other uses of FRBR, for example, its use in library education.

FRBR in practice – Fiction finder (1)

The screenshot shows the OCLC WorldCat search results for 'Harry Potter and the sorcerer's stone'. The interface includes a search bar at the top, a 'Refine Your Search' sidebar on the left, and a main results table. The results are sorted by 'Published Date (Newest First)'. The table lists 7 editions, including translations in Spanish, Greek, and Sinhalese, as well as a large print edition.

Title / Author	Type	Language	Date / Edition	Publication
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Harry Potter y la piedra filosofal by J K Rowling; Dolores Avendaño; Alicia Dellepiane Rawson	Book : Fiction	Spanish	2008 15a ed	Barcelona : Salamandra
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Harry Potter and the sorcerer's stone by J K Rowling; Mary GrandPré	Book : Fiction : Juvenile audience	English	2008 Special anniversary edition	New York : A.A. Levine Books
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Ho Chari Poter kai hē philosophikē lithos by J K Rowling	Book : Fiction : Juvenile audience	Greek, Modern [1453-]	2008	Athēna : Ekdoseis Psychogios
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Harry Potter and the sorcerer's stone by J K Rowling; Mary GrandPré	Book : Fiction : Juvenile audience	English	2008 Special anniversary ed	New York : Arthur A. Levine Books
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Harry Potter and the philosopher's stone by J K Rowling	Large print book : Elementary and junior high school	English	2007	London : Bloomsbury
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Hārī Potar saha māyā gala by J K Rowling	Book : Fiction : Juvenile audience	Sinhalese	2007	Negōgoda : Sarasavi Prakāśakayō
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Harry Potter y la piedra filosofal	Book : Fiction	Spanish	2007	Barcelona : Salamandra

Let's have a quick look at some catalogues which have used FRBR. They fall into two categories – ones which use existing data to create FRBR like displays, and ones where the data was created from the start to match the FRBR model.

Before we begin, take a look at the results for a search on *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* on OCLC Worldcat. OCLC Worldcat is a database which has not been FRBRised. You can see that there are 260 results, displayed by date. They have clearly used some 'new generation catalogue' features such as the ability to refine your search using language or format – see down the left of the page. But basically, if the user wants to select a resource based on a particular feature they will need to resort the results or scroll and page through the results to find it.

FRBR in practice – Fiction finder (2)

The screenshot shows the OCLC FictionFinder interface. At the top, there's a search bar with 'GO' and 'Advanced' options. Below the search bar, it says 'You searched: Basic Index for harry near potter'. A yellow arrow points from the word 'Work' in the top right to the search results. The main content area displays the title 'Harry Potter and the philosopher's stone.' by Rowing, J. K. It includes a book cover image, a summary, genres, characters, settings, subjects, and an audience slider. Below this is a table with tabs for 'Editions', 'Genres', 'Characters', 'Settings', and 'Subjects'. The 'Editions' tab is active, showing a table of 9 records with columns for Title / Author, OCLC #, Date, Language, Format, Aud., and Libraries.

Title / Author	OCLC #	Date	Language	Format	Aud.	Libraries
1. Harry Potter and the sorcerer's stone / by J.K. Rowling ; illustrations by Mary GrandPre?	37975719	1998	English	Book	Kids	■■■■■
2. Harry Potter and the sorcerer's stone J.K. Rowling	42883416	1999	English	Audio	Kids	■■■■■
3. Harry Potter and the sorcerer's stone / by J.K. Rowling ; illustrations by Mary GrandPre?	42354631	1999	English	Book	Kids	■■■■■
4. Harry Potter and the sorcerer's stone J.K. Rowling	42693774	1999	English	Audio	Kids	■■■■■
5. Harry Potter and the sorcerer's stone / J.K. Rowling ; illustrations by Mary GrandPre?	42752759	1999	English	Large print	Kids	■■■■■
6. Harry Potter and the sorcerer's stone J.K. Rowling	42596943	1999	English	Audio	Kids	■■■■■
7. Harry Potter and the sorcerer's stone / by J.K. Rowling ; illustrations by Mary GrandPre?	44421772	1999	English	Book	Kids	■■■■■
8. Harry Potter and the sorcerer's stone / J.K. Rowling	48108481	2001	English	Book	Kids	■■■■■
9. Harry Potter and the philosopher's stone / J.K. Rowling	41272049	1997	English	Book	Kids	■■■■■

Here is the results for a search on *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* on FictionFinder. Fiction Finder is a prototype service offered by OCLC. It uses existing catalogue data to create an “FRBR-inspired view” of the data. In Fiction Finder records are clustered into work sets using an algorithm. Information or data elements from all of the individual records in that work set are aggregated, and used to create a work level record that is richer and more complete than the individual records.

The user is then presented with a display that gives all the common, work level elements at the top of the display. In this example the title, author, summary, subject headings, and genre terms will have been taken from the individual bibliographic records. The user can go on to further refine the search using elements at the expression level, e.g. the language, or the format.

This is a fairly rudimentary application of FRBR, but you can see how much more useful a display like this would be to the user.

FRBR in practice - VTLS

The screenshot displays the VTLS Library Catalog interface. At the top, the title "VTLS Library Catalog" is followed by the tagline "FOR THE FUTURE OF SMART LIBRARIES" and an image of a stack of books. A navigation bar includes links for Home, Keyword, Heading Keyword, Reserve, External Databases, Expert, Cart, and Help. The main content area shows search results for "Harry Potter and the prisoner of Azkaban - Rowling, J. K.". The results are organized into a hierarchical structure. Annotations are present: "Work" is placed next to the main title, "Expression" is placed next to the "Books - Spanish" and "Books - Italian" categories, and "Manifestations" is placed next to the "non-musical recording - English - Read by Jim Dale" category. Several arrows point from the "Manifestations" label to the individual recording entries. The left sidebar contains search filters, including "Quick Search" with a search box and radio buttons for "Anywhere", "Books", "Newspapers", and "Periodicals"; "Set Session Filters" with "Active Filter Settings" (No Active Filters); and "Browse" with search terms "Prisoner of Azka", a "Title" dropdown, and a "Database" dropdown set to "Class 98". A status bar at the bottom indicates "There are 0 titles in your cart."

Now let's look at a results page from a search on *The Prisoner of Azkaban* using VTLS' Virtua. This screen shows an expanded hierarchical FRBR structure. At the top you can see the title and author of the work. Different expressions have been clustered together, for example Books-Spanish, Non-musical recording – English and so on. Information on the individual manifestations is listed under the expression to which they belong. Although this is not a particularly attractive results page, it does show one type of functionality that is possible with FRBR, that is the use of the FRBR tree to navigate.

FRBR in practice – Austlit (1)

The screenshot shows the Austlit website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with options for Keyword, Author, and Title. Below the search bar, there are links for Guided Search, Advanced Search, and Thesaurus Search. The main content area displays the record for 'We of the Never-Never' by Mrs Aeneas Gunn. The record includes details such as the author's name, general subjects (Station life, Women, Australian landscape), setting (1902, Roper River area, Northern Territory, Bush), and subjects (Gunn, Mrs Aeneas). There is also a section for 'Other Formats' which includes 'Also braille and sound recording'. At the bottom, there is a 'Related To' section listing various related works, including 'How the Mail is Delivered in our Outback', 'A Homestead in the Never-Never', 'Thanks to Cheon', 'From: We of the Never-Never', 'Echoes of the Elsey Saga', 'Mail Oh!', 'We of the Never-Never', and 'We of the Never-Never' (children's fiction). On the right side, there are options for 'EXPORT / FORMAT ON SCREEN AS' (Brief record) and 'FORMAT AS' (Plain Text), along with an 'EMAIL' button. The page is annotated with orange arrows and text: 'Work' points to the main record details, and 'Related works' points to the 'Related To' section.

Here is the results for a search on *We of the Never Never* in Austlit. Austlit was an FRBR based service from the start.

At the top of the screen you can see the work level data, and at the bottom the related works. This is only the top part of the page and I'll show you more on the next slide.

Data is entered into the Austlit database using FRBR style forms. Those entering the data have found it logical and very easy to work with. The data elements for particular works and expressions only need to be entered once, and can be inherited by all the manifestations. This results in very rich data being created very efficiently.

FRBR in practice Austlit (2)

This work has appeared in at least 6 different versions:

1. Publications of this version include the following 4:

Expression

- London, England : **Hutchinson**, 1908.
Extent: 252p.
Description: illus., map, photos.
Reprinted: 1909, 1954 (*Limited edition of 1000 numbered copies signed by the author*), 1962 (*Numerous reprints between 1962 and 1977*), 1977
Notes: * Dedication: Dedicated to 'The Bush-Folk of the Never-Never'

Written as: Mrs. Aeneas Gunn. Author of 'The Little Black Princess' etc.

Manifestations

- Richmond, Victoria : **Hutchinson Australia**, 1983.
ISBN: 0091484308
Extent: xxiii, 238p.
Description: illus., ports, facsim.
Notes: * With a memoir of Mrs. Gunn by Margaret Berry.
- **Great Australian Writers : Miles Franklin, Henry Handel Richardson, Mrs Aeneas Gunn, Ruth Park** SELECTED WORK
NOVEL
Authors: **Franklin, Miles** (birth name: Franklin, Stella Maria Sarah Miles) (a.k.a. Franklin, Stella) ; **Richardson, Henry Handel** (birth name: Ethel Florence Lindesay Richardson) (a.k.a. Robertson, Ethel Florence Lindesay; Robertson, Ethel F. L.) ; **Gunn, Mrs Aeneas** (birth name: Taylor, Jeannie) (a.k.a. Gunn, Jeannie) ; **Park, Ruth** (birth name: Park, Rosina Ruth Lucia) (a.k.a. Niland, Ruth)
London, England : **Heinemann**, 1987.
(pp.341-512)
- Milsons Point, New South Wales : **Arrow Australia**, 1990.
ISBN: 0091825415
Extent: 238p.
Reprinted: 1987, 1989
Notes: * First published in paperback 1983. First published in Arrow 1990. No illus.

This is some more of the Austlit results page. At the top you can see that the work has appeared in 6 versions, or 6 expressions. The first expression has four manifestations, all shown on this screen. If you were to scroll down further you would see each of the other expressions, and any related manifestations.

Although some of these examples are a bit clunky, or lacking in design features, they go give a flavour of what is possible in catalogues using FRBR. I should mention that neither FRBR nor RDA dictate how data should be displayed in the catalogue.

RDA implementation scenarios

RDA needs to support:

- **The present** – data stored in bibliographic records, authority records, and holdings records
 - Linked records or flat file
- **The future** – relational or object-oriented databases
 - Separate records for each entity
 - Links using persistent identifiers

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/jsc/docs/5editor2.pdf>



Optimally, RDA would be implemented in relational or object-oriented databases, like Austlit, which themselves are modeled on FRBR. In databases using this type of structure there would be separate records for each FRBR entity. Relationships between the entities would be made using links. The links might be access points, but are more likely to be persistent identifiers. The changes made in RDA will help us move towards this future.

But realistically, RDA needs to be able to be implemented in any number of present and future database structures. RDA has been designed to ensure that, however it is implemented, the data will still support the functional objectives that RDA is designed to fulfill.

Advantages of RDA

- Clearly defined element set
 - better granularity, improved mapping to other schema, e.g. Dublin Core, ISBD, MODS/MADS, MARC21
- Greater emphasis on relationships
 - Better navigation and displays
- Better interoperability - common vocabularies
 - Content type, carrier type, media type; Relationship designators; Encoding formats, etc.
 - Making vocabularies accessible
- RDA and the semantic web



Let's now look at some other changes in RDA which bring the standard into the digital world. Cataloguers today need to describe resources in a way which maximises the value that can be extracted from the data so that it can be used not only in our own library catalogues but also in other resource discovery systems and in the web environment. Some of the ways in which RDA will help achieve this are:

The definition of an RDA element set or element vocabulary for both attributes and relationships. RDA elements now have a greater level of granularity. Some AACR elements have been split if they covered more than one concept, and new elements have been added to parallel elements used in related schema, e.g. MARC 21. Multiple instances of elements are provided for. The increased level of precision will allow cleaner mapping to and from other standards, and also facilitate machine manipulation. RDA will also include appendices which map RDA data elements to encoding schema such as the ISBD, MARC 21, MODS/MADS and Dublin Core.

The ability to show the relationships - both between resources themselves, and between the resources and those who have played a role in their existence - is vital if the catalogue is to provide navigational paths for our users, not just keyword searching. In RDA the emphasis on relationships has been strengthened. The use of relationships allows resources to be grouped to show they belong to a particular work or expression. This can be used to allow users to move between related works, or for systems to organize large results sets in a way that is more meaningful to users.

Advantages of RDA for cataloguers and catalogue users

- RDA as a cataloguing tool
 - Interactive and online
 - Integration with policies and processes
- Better coverage
 - Visual resources, archival resources
 - Online resources



The move to RDA has other advantages both for the cataloguer and for the library user, and I'd like to mention a couple of them now.

RDA as a cataloguing tool

Firstly cataloguers will interact with RDA as a fully interactive and customizable online tool. There will be different ways to access RDA: through searching or browsing the contents, through the existing AACR rule or MARC21 tag, or through workflows that guide you through the process of creating a record. Integration with cataloguing systems is planned, so that you will be able to click through from your cataloguing system to the RDA instruction for the data you are inputting.

Better coverage

From the point of view of our catalogue's users, another benefit of the move to RDA is the improved coverage of a broader range of resources, including visual materials and archival materials. The description of online resources in particular has improved.

<<In a record created using RDA you will be able to record all relevant aspects of a resource: both that it is an 'online resource' as well as other aspects such as that it is a text or graphic, or consists of audio or video files. RDA is also introducing the concept of persistent identifiers as a type of resource identifier. Persistent identifiers are permanent, location independent and unique identifiers for resources, most especially online resources. >>

Preparing for RDA - 1

➤ Learning about FRBR and RDA

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/jsc/rda.html>

➤ Keeping up to date

➤ Implementation strategy

<http://www.nla.gov.au/lis/stndrds/grps/acoc/index.html>



RDA will be released in late 2009, and there will be a period of testing and evaluation before it is implemented in 2010. Between now and implementation there are many things you can be doing to prepare for implementing RDA.

Learning about FRBR and RDA

During the pre-publication period, you should take the opportunity to gain some familiarity with RDA by reviewing the full draft and trying out the online product. Both the *RDA Prospectus* and the Introduction to RDA are good starting points. There are also a number of articles about RDA which provide a good introduction. Consulting the Frequently Asked Questions on the JSC site might also be useful. You should also familiarise yourself with the concepts and vocabulary found in FRBR.

Keeping up to date

The main place to find information about RDA implementation in Australia is the ACOC (Australian Committee on Cataloguing) website. The site will provide a range of information relevant to RDA implementation in Australia. It provides a list of FAQs, information about scheduled training courses and presentations, links to relevant presentations and articles, as well as the latest information on implementation dates, product pricing and availability. There is also an email discussion list which provides Australian libraries with a mechanism for asking questions about and commenting on the full draft and the online product and about implementation related issues. In addition to these activities, regular notices about RDA will appear in future issues of In-Cite and other journals. The web addresses of both the ACOC site and the JSC site are given on this slide.

Implementation strategy

Internationally, the National Library of Australia is working with the Library of Congress, British Library, Library and Archives Canada and the National Library of Australia to develop implementation strategies and coordinate implementation dates. Locally, the National Library of Australia is also working with ACOC, ALIA, library schools and training bodies to develop a national implementation strategy, which is intended to assist Australian libraries with their own implementation plans. This includes developing shareable workflows and documentation, sharing information about changes to library systems, and developing training tools and documents.

Preparing for RDA - 2

- MARC and system changes
- Training
- Purchasing RDA

<http://www.nla.gov.au/lis/stndrds/grps/acoc/index.html>

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/jsc/rda.html>



MARC and system changes

Most RDA data elements will be incorporated into the existing MARC 21 structure, and we are working with the MARC community to put through proposals for changes to that standard to incorporate new RDA elements. The JSC are also keeping library systems vendors aware of what's happening, so they can prepare to implement changes to their products, for example changes to their tag tables and indexes. You should speak to your library system vendor about how they plan to incorporate RDA into their software. In addition to talking about the MARC changes, you might also ask if they are planning any changes to catalogue displays. The National Library of Australia will provide information on the system changes that will be required to implement RDA. This information will assist you in your discussions with your system vendor. Some changes to library systems will also be required to be able to import RDA records from and export records to databases such as Libraries Australia, Te Puna and WorldCat. For those libraries that either purchase records or use external cataloguing providers, you will also need to talk to your vendor about RDA.

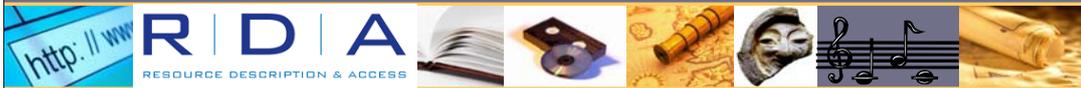
Training

Although RDA will incorporate training aids, such as a concordance with AACR2 as well as comprehensive search facilities and workflows, it is expected that many cataloguers will require some formal training. The National Library of Australia will work with existing training providers and library schools to ensure that relevant training courses are available. Details of training courses provided throughout Australia and New Zealand will be publicised on the ACOC website and on the various list serves as the information becomes available.

Purchasing RDA

The pricing structure and subscription model for RDA will be announced early in 2009. The publishers are currently examining a variety of models for RDA pricing, taking into account factors such as usage, size of library, consortial licences, educational licenses, etc. The Library of Congress also hopes to incorporate RDA into Cataloger's Desktop, as it has done with AACR. Pricing information will be widely disseminated as soon as its available.

Conclusion – thank you



Although the changes in RDA are significant, RDA is nevertheless founded on the strengths of its predecessor, AACR. The move to RDA is an important and necessary step in building better catalogues and resource discovery systems for the future. These are exciting times to be working in the area of resource description and resource discovery.