

# Hello RDA, Goodbye AACR2!

---



## **Sponsored by:**

Texas Regional Group  
of Catalogers and Classifiers

AMIGOS

School of Library  
and Information Sciences, UNT

**Texas Library Association**  
Annual Conference  
Dallas, TX  
April 15, 2008

# Introduction and Overview

---

- Welcome!
- Introductions
- Agenda and materials
- Breaks and Lunch
  - Breaks: 10 and 2:30
  - Lunch: noon-1pm (on your own)
- Survey

# Crowded room with 135 attendees!



Hello RDA pre-conference, TLA Annual Conference, April 15, 2008, Dallas, TX

# AACR2—1978 to current

---

- AACR2

- Parts I

Part I addresses  
descriptive cataloging  
based on division by  
format.

Chapter 1 General

Chapters 2-12 based on  
format

Chapter 13 Analytical

- AACR2

- Part 2

Addresses choice and  
formation of personal  
corporate body, title  
access points

# RDA is....

---

- “RDA is a **content standard**, not a display standard and not a metadata schema. RDA is a set of **guidelines** that indicates how to **describe** a resource, focusing on the pieces of information (or attributes) that a user is most likely to need to know. It also encourages the description of **relationships** between related resources and **between resources** and **persons** or **bodies** that contributed to creation of that resource.”  
(Oliver, 2007, *Changing to RDA*)

# Intention of RDA

---

- Broaden the statement of principles (Paris Principles)
  - All types of resources (not just books)
  - Bibliographic relationships, descriptive cataloging, not Subject Cataloging at this time
  - Access (not just choice and form of entry, but all access for bibliographic and authority records)
- Builds on
  - Great cataloguing traditions of the world
  - FRBR and FRAR and future FR-Subjects

# Stakeholders

- Joint Steering Committee for Development of Resource Description and Access
- American Library Association (ALA)
  - Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS)
    - Cataloging and Classification Section
      - **RDA Implementation Task Force**
- Australian Committee on Cataloguing (ACOC)
- The British Library
- Canadian Committee on Cataloguing (CCC)
- CILIP: Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
- The Library of Congress
- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
- Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI)
- RDA/MARC Working Group
- **You**
- .....to name a few.....

# Resource

---

—*a resource is an identifiable information object, either tangible or intangible in nature*

*.... anything that has identity. Familiar examples include an electronic document, an image, a service (e.g., "today's weather report for Los Angeles"), and a collection of other resources.*

- <http://dublincore.org/documents/abstract-model/>

# Functionality is IN...

- FRBR and FRAD are conceptual models resulting from the international cataloguing community's effort to address...
  - a constantly changing information environment,
  - emergence of new forms of information resources
  - increasing density of networked information systems
- Most importantly, broader range of user expectations and needs..
  - Find
  - Identify
  - Select
  - Obtain

Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR)

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/frbr/frbr.htm>

Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRAD)

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/d4/FRANAR-ConceptualModel-2ndReview.pdf>

# Why do we need a conceptual framework?

---

- FRBR Attributes and relationships associated with *work, expression, manifestation, and item*
  - Four user tasks: *find, identify, select, obtain*
  - Good resource: [What is FRBR?](#)--Tillett, B.
- FRAD attributes and relationships associated with entities *person, corporate body, place, work, expression, manifestation, and item*
  - Beyond these fundamentals, (RDA will not yet address those additional attributes and relationships associated with these entities named above)

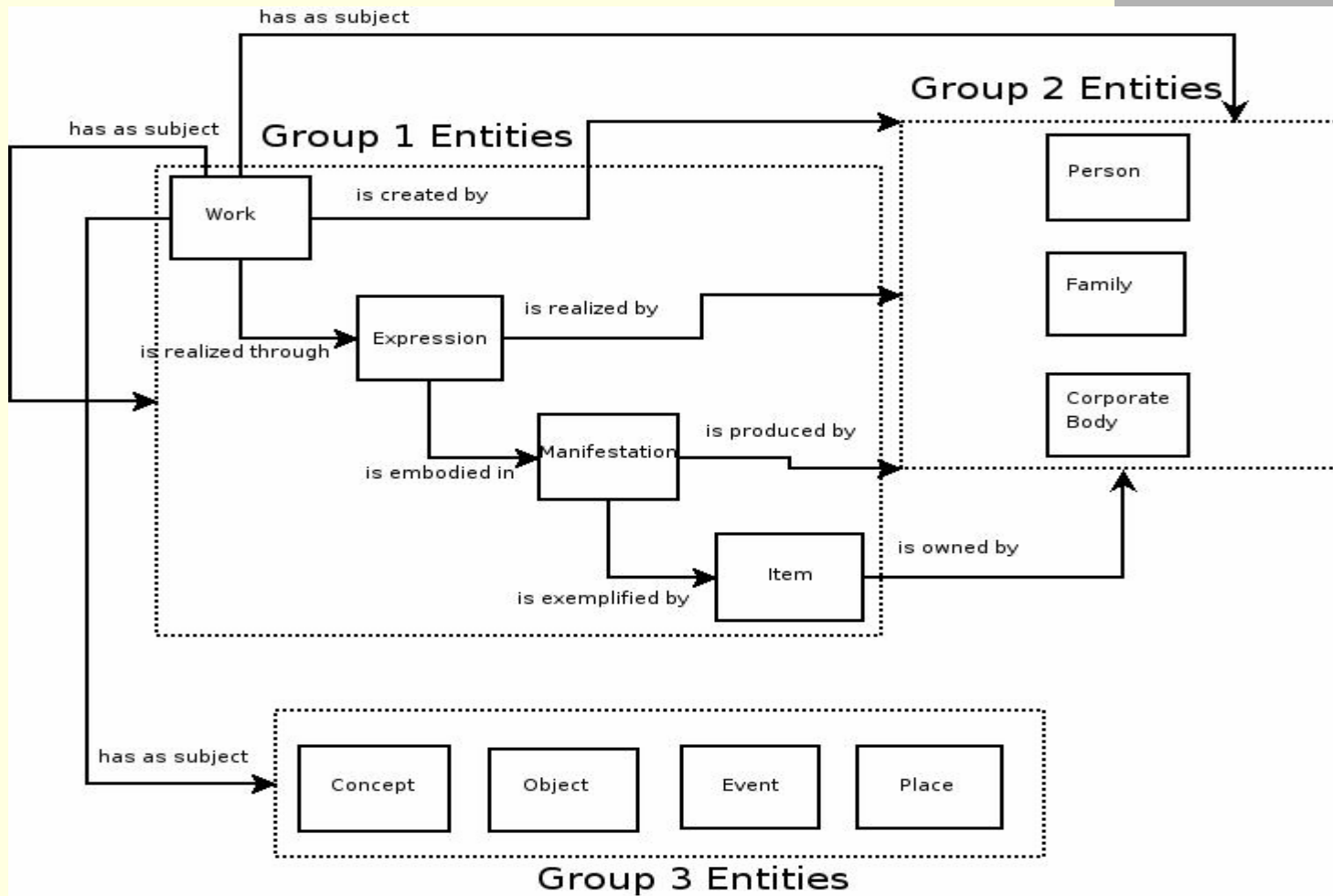
# User Tasks, objectives

---

- User tasks...their expectations and needs..
  - Find
  - Identify
  - Select
  - Obtain
- Svenonius (2000) adds
  - Navigate
- To **find** entities in a file or database; to **identify** entities (to confirm); to **select** entities that are appropriate to the user's needs; to **obtain** the entities (to access it); to **navigate** a bibliographic database
- Finding, collocating, choice, acquisition, and navigation objectives (Svenonius, 2000, p.20)

# FRBR Entity Groups and Levels

(chart borrowed from <http://www.frbr.org/files/entity-relationships.png>, at the FRBR Blog at <http://www.frbr.org/>)



# Bibliographic Relationships and WEMI

---

- How we envision relationships between information resources of all types, formats, etc
- equivalent, derivatives, descriptive, whole-part, part-to-part, sequential—a necessary framework for relating resources within a library catalog (see Tillett's [What is FRBR?](#))
- work, manifestation, expression, item—much discussion on what these actually mean

# Work

---

- From FRBR:
- “A *work* is an abstract entity; there is no single material object one can point to as the *work*. We recognize the *work* through individual realizations or *expressions* of the *work*, but the *work* itself exists only in the commonality of content between and among the various *expressions* of the *work*. When we speak of Homer's *Iliad* as a *work*, our point of reference is not a particular recitation or text of the *work*, but the intellectual creation that lies behind all the various *expressions* of the *work*.”

# Expression

- From FRBR:
- “the intellectual or artistic realization of a *work* in the form of alpha-numeric, musical, or choreographic notation, sound, image, object, movement, etc., or any combination of such forms. An *expression* is the specific intellectual or artistic form that a *work* takes each time it is "realized." *Expression* encompasses, for example, the specific words, sentences, paragraphs, etc. that result from the realization of a *work* in the form of a text, or the particular notes, phrasing, etc. resulting from the realization of a musical *work*. The boundaries of the entity *expression* are defined, however, so as to exclude aspects of physical form, such as typeface and page layout, that are not integral to the intellectual or artistic realization of the *work* as such.
- any change in intellectual or artistic content constitutes a change in *expression*

# Manifestation

---

- From FRBR:
- “the physical embodiment of an *expression* of a *work*. The entity defined as *manifestation* encompasses a wide range of materials, including manuscripts, books, periodicals, maps, posters, sound recordings, films, video recordings, CD-ROMs, multimedia kits, etc. As an entity, *manifestation* represents all the physical objects that bear the same characteristics, in respect to both intellectual content and physical form.”
- The boundaries between one *manifestation* and another are drawn on the basis of both intellectual content and physical form. When the production process involves changes in physical form the resulting product is considered a new *manifestation*.

# Item

---

- From FRBR:
- a single exemplar of a *manifestation*. The entity defined as *item* is a concrete entity. It is in many instances a single physical object (e.g., a copy of a one-volume monograph, a single audio cassette, etc.). There are instances, however, where the entity defined as *item* comprises more than one physical object (e.g., a monograph issued as two separately bound volumes, a recording issued on three separate compact discs, etc.).
- Defining *item* as an entity enables us to separately identify individual copies of a *manifestation*, and to describe those characteristics that are unique to that particular copy and that pertain to transactions such as circulation, etc. involving that copy.
- Defining the entity called *item* also enables us to draw relationships between individual copies of *manifestations*.

# How does WEMI work?

---

- Example: Wizard of Oz
- Example: Harry Potter series

Seven original books, as written by J.K. Rowling (see <http://www.frbr.org/2006/06/13/eg-1> for a good illustration of this example)

What is the “work”?

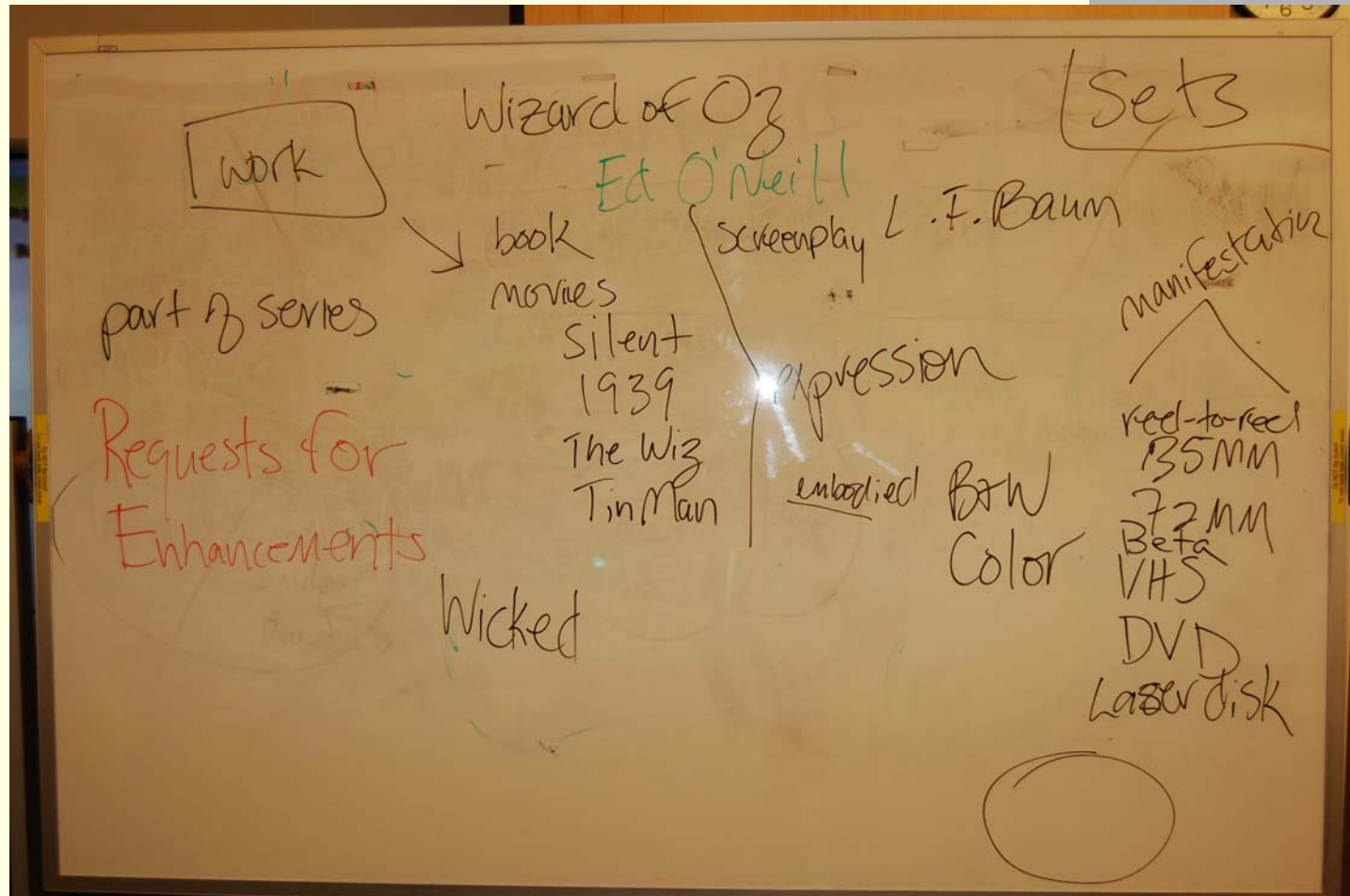
What is an “expression”?

What is a “manifestation”?

What is an “item”?

(here we listed our understanding of the entity levels as per WEMI)

Snapshot of whiteboard during discussion (please note that Ed O'Neill, from OCLC, is not the Wizard. Earlier, we referred to his analysis of *Humphrey Clinker* records.)



# AACR2 vs RDA: difference in proportions

---

(See comparison chart included in handouts)

## AACR2

- Description of information entities—13 chapters (Part 1)
- Weak on access points; talks of main and added (MAP, AAP), have to look all over Part II for access point provisions (e.g., title access points are discussed in chapter 21 only and then only as a default provision, not much direction)
- Is not really based on the idea of a “work”, rather it is very much based on the unit record system.

# AACR2 vs RDA, continued

---

## RDA

- Description is covered in 4 chapters, everything else is about access points
- Form is no longer the first decision; chapters are not based on form (e.g., no longer have chapters 2-12 as in AACR2)
- Does not focus on the unit record system—it can be, but it doesn't need to do so—rather it operates on the idea of a “work”
- Does not put the cataloger in the decision of having to decide Main and Added Access points; we don't need those distinctions any longer although it does use the idea of a “preferred access point”
- Lots of discussion ensued about the difference in “proportions” and the move away from main access point designation to “Preferred access points” and the differences that would make in the cataloging process (e.g., affect on using Cutter numbers)

# Structure of RDA (see booklet)

- Recording attributes
  - Section 1. Recording attributes of manifestation and item
  - Section 2. Recording attributes of work and expression
  - Section 3. Recording attributes of person, family, and corporate body
  - Section 4. Recording attributes of concept, object, event, and place
- Recording relationships
  - Section 5. Recording primary relationships between work, expression, manifestation, and item
  - Section 6. Recording relationships to persons, families, and corporate bodies
  - Section 7. Recording relationships to concepts, objects, events, and places associated with a work
  - Section 8. Recording relationships between works, expressions, manifestations, and items
  - Section 9. Recording relationships between persons, families, and corporate bodies
  - Section 10. Recording relationships between concepts, objects, events, and places

As described by the [Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA](#), Nov 2007)

# Structure of RDA (continued)

---

- “Each section will contain a chapter of general guidelines and chapters for the entities. Each chapter will be associated with one of the FRBR user tasks and one or more FRBR entities; for example, chapter 2 in section 1 will cover elements primarily used to identify a manifestation or item and chapter 19 in section 6 will cover elements primarily used to find a work. The chapters on recording attributes and relationships for the FRBR group 3 entities (concept, object, event, and place) will be placeholders, provided to allow a complete mapping to FRBR and FRAD and as a template for possible future development of RDA to cover these entities. Instructions on recording the attributes and relationships for places have been included, but will not initially go beyond the scope of AACR2 chapter 23.”
- “In addition to these sections, there will be a General Introduction, Glossary, and various appendices, including those on capitalization, abbreviations, initial articles, and data presentation included in the current RDA Prospectus.”

([Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA](#), Nov 2007)

**One of the many questions that came up at the workshop concerned GMDs: *Will there be a more comprehensive list of GMDs (general material designation) and SMDs (specific material designation) in RDA?* (question and answer taken from the FAQ on the RDA website)**

---

- Representatives from the publishing community, ONIX, and the JSC have looked specifically at the types of content and carriers covered in RDA. Information about type and form of content and type and form of carrier will still be recorded, but the terms used will likely change. Aspects of the resource being described that relate to the type of content, such as cartographic, textual, or numeric will be declared or recorded separately from aspects relating to the type of carrier (microform, electronic resource, etc.). There will still be the possibility to give users an "early warning" regarding the type (content type, carrier type, or mixture) of material described in the record, but that will be determined in relation to the display or presentation of the data rather than the recording of the data.
- The SMDs will likely continue to be a mixture of established terms and common usage terms.
- At the JSC website there are is very useful FAQ that addresses many of cataloging community's questions. See <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/jsc/rdafaq.html#1>

# How much of FRBR is covered in RDA?

---

- FRBR Attributes and relationships associated with *work, expression, manifestation, and item*
  - Four user tasks: *find, identify, select, obtain*
  - Good resource: [What is FRBR?](#)--Tillett, B.
- FRAD attributes and relationships associated with entities *person, corporate body, place, work, expression, manifestation, and item*
  - Beyond these fundamentals, RDA does not yet address those additional attributes and relationships associated with these entities named above

# How much will I have to re-learn?

---

- RDA now outlines the first step in creating a catalog record as deciding on the type of description to be represented, and not deciding on format, although format is still integral
- Types of description (rules 1.2)
  - Comprehensive, analytical, or multi-level description
  - See flowchart on decision process
- More emphasis on showing bibliographic relationships (e.g., taxonomy of bibliographic relationships) in order to better allow clustering of records
  - Read--works by B. Tillett, R. Smiraglia; M. Yee, S. Vellucci, E. O'Neill, D. Vizine-Goetz, just to name a few...

# Preparation

---

- Cataloging community must
  - study the conceptual model offered by FRBR and FRAD
  - Read and study drafts of RDA as released
  - Provide feedback to JSC
- Vendors must consider re-design of their systems in order to incorporate new functionality of bibliographic and authority data

# When is RDA to be released?

---

- RDA timeline (subject to change):

- July-September 2007: Review of revised chapters 6-7

- December 2007-March 2008: Review of part B

- July-September 2008: Review of complete draft of RDA

- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2009: Release of RDA

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

# Implementation Strategies

---

- RDA Implementation Task Force (CCS/ALCTS)
  - Charged to develop a plan for the implementation of RDA: Resource Description and Access in the United States.
    - Training/continuing education activities
    - Communication with OCLC and the Library of Congress
    - Consultation with colleagues involved in the implementation of AACR2
    - The Task Force will develop an integrated timetable for the above activities, identify persons or organizations that will take the lead for each activity, and provide coordination as necessary through CCS/ALCTS in collaboration with LC, PCC, OCLC, and other appropriate bodies

# Debates and Issues about RDA

---

- Plenty of debate and criticism, as well as support of RDA
  - Listservs (e.g., AUTOCAT, RDA-L)
  - Journals (e.g., LRTS, CCQ, LJ, D-Lib)
  - Working groups, task forces
    - Investigate the library associations and institutions
  - Conferences (e.g., ALA, ASIST, MLA, AALL)
    - Research past conference proceedings, and look for future conference announcements

# Working Group for the Future of Bibliographic Control at the Library of Congress

---

- Formed 2006 and charged to:
  - Present findings on how bibliographic control and other descriptive practices can effectively support management of and access to library materials in the evolving information and technology environment
  - Recommend ways in which the library community can collectively move toward achieving this vision
  - Advise the Library of Congress on its role and priorities  
(taken from the WG website, linked above)

# WG Recommendation 4.2

---

Presented their preliminary recommendations Nov. 13, 2007 at the Library of Congress, recommendation 4.2 directed at RDA. The working group expressed their concerns about the new guidelines:

- RDA is being written on a framework that is not yet tested-- FRBR concepts need to be tested on real cataloging data
- "Temporarily suspend all further new work on RDA"
- need thorough exploration of FRBR and implications on bibliographic control
- WG needs assurance that RDA is based on practical reality as well as on theoretical construct, that this would improve the support for the new code
- need more info on cost of implementation
- need identification of the real benefits of implementation
- need info on hospitality of systems to be able to handle the new rules
- urge the JSC to go back and address these outstanding issues, as well as language issues, organization, and usability

# Does this mean RDA development will cease?

---

- The WG's recommendation is just that...a recommendation
- The JSC has already taken action to restructure RDA to more fully address the FRBR conceptual framework
- There are many studies and tests on how to operationalize the concepts outlined in FRBR
  - FRBR Bibliography--available from IFLA
  - FRBR Display Tool--Library of Congress
  - OCLC research on FRBR--list of projects and publications

# But, I have more questions, such as...

---

## What about vendors—what are they doing about RDA?

- This is still an unknown variable, but all indicators say that vendors are asking the same thing about the cataloging community. (Carol Seiler, AMIGOS, presented some info on her conversations with several vendors)
- Obviously, we need more dialog and more research on the impact that RDA will have on our practice and processes
- Need to submit “Requests for Enhancements” to your vendor. Tell them what you need!

# What about MARC? How will RDA change this standard?

- We don't have complete answers about how MARC will change with the adoption of RDA.
- The RDA/MARC Working Group has formed to address these questions:
  - Under the auspices of the British Library, the Library and Archives Canada, and the Library of Congress, an RDA/MARC Working Group has been established to collaborate on the development of proposals for changes to the MARC 21 formats to accommodate the encoding of RDA data. With the implementation of RDA anticipated for late 2009, the Working Group will be drafting proposals for review and discussion by the MARC community in June 2008.
  - Although the MARC 21 formats support the encoding of descriptions created according to a wide range of content standards, the close relationship between AACR and MARC 21 has contributed to the efficient exchange of information among libraries for decades. The RDA/MARC Working Group will identify what changes are required to MARC 21 to support compatibility with RDA and ensure effective data exchange into the future.

(Taken from an email posted by Marjorie Bloss to RDA-L on April 13, 2008. See accompanying word file with complete announcement and roster of members)

# What do I need to do?

---

- Read and study! Ask questions!
  - For example, there is a ton of literature out there on how the transition to AACR2 was handled. Start with a search in the mid-1970s and continue to the mid-1980s. Just to start you out....
    - The Making of a Code: Issues Underlying AACR2. Papers given at the International Conference on AACR2 held March 11-14, 1979, Tallahassee, Florida. Edited by Doris Hargrett Clack. Sponsored by the School of Library Science, Florida State University. Chicago: ALA, 1980.
      - Includes a select bibliography for papers between 1974-1980
    - [A Brief History of AACR2](#), Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
    - ...and many more...

# Too much change?!

---

- “In cataloging, all changes cost money. The larger the catalog in which the changes are introduced, the more they cost. That is why there is always a powerful conservative lobby among administrators of the largest and richest libraries when the revision of cataloging rules is under consideration.”

Lewis, P.R. (1980). “The Politics of Catalog Code Revision and Future Considerations.” In *The Making of a Code: the Issues Underlying AACR2*. held March 11-14, 1979, Tallahassee, Florida. Edited by Doris Hargrett Clack. Sponsored by the School of Library Science, Florida State University. Chicago: ALA

# Consider this past observation...

---

- “...failure to keep cataloging practice in line with changes in the characteristics in the documents in our libraries, and with the expectation and needs of document users in those libraries, leads to increasing inefficiencies; and so long-term costs of avoiding catalog changes may be as high as those of accepting them, although this is not easy to demonstrate in library budgets. Either way, the longer the changes are deferred, the more they cost...the proper method is to carry out revisions promptly.”

Lewis. P.R.

(1980)

# About this presentation:

---

- These slides were used as talking points only and do not represent the whole of the content of the workshop.
- This April 2008 presentation was based on an earlier lecture, entitled “Are You Ready?” given at UNT SLIS on November 16, 2007.
  - [http://courses.unt.edu/smiksa/documents/Miksa\\_RDA\\_SLIS\\_16Nov2007.pdf](http://courses.unt.edu/smiksa/documents/Miksa_RDA_SLIS_16Nov2007.pdf)
- Slides were modified on April 20 to include pictures and additional comments and resources