Are you Ready?
Resource Description and Access (RDA)

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November 16, 2007
Intention of RDA

- Broaden statement of principles (Paris Principles)
  - All types of resources (not just books)
  - Descriptive cataloging, not Subject Cataloging
  - Access (not just choice and form of entry, but all access for bibliographic and authority records)

- Build on
  - Great cataloguing traditions of the world
  - FRBR and FRAR and future FR-Subjects
Functionality

- Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR)
- Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRAD)

- Both are conceptual models resulting from the international cataloguing community’s effort to address a constantly changing information environment, the emergence of new forms of information resources, and increasing density of networked information systems

- Most importantly, broader range of user expectations and needs
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*)
Resource Description and Access

- Part A - Description
- Part B - Access point control

- In very broad terms, part A will cover elements that libraries have traditionally recorded in bibliographic records, and part B will cover those traditionally recorded in authority records.
RDA, Part A

- 6 chapters that address
  - General Guidelines on resource description (chapter 1)
  - Identification of the resource (chapter 2)
  - Technical description (chapter 3)
  - Content (e.g., qualities, types) description (chapter 4)
  - Info on terms of availability, etc. (chapter 5)
  - Item-specific info (chapter 6)
**RDA: Scope and Structure**

- Released December 2006
- Defines the framework for the development of RDA
- Provides definitions for new or revised terminology, for example.....
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/
Resource discovery

- Encompasses the following generic user tasks:
  - Find
  - Identify
  - Select
  - Obtain
Descriptive Data

- Data (i.e., value representations) that reflect the characteristics (i.e., properties) of a resource

- A *value representation* is a surrogate for (i.e. a representation of) the *value*. DCMI Abstract Model
Access point control data

- Data (i.e., value representations) that reflect the characteristics (i.e., properties) of an entity represented by a controlled access point
  - A property is a specific aspect, characteristic, attribute, or relation used to describe resources.
    - [http://dublincore.org/documents/abstract-model/]
Structure of RDA

- 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)
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

- 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
  - July-September 2008: Review of complete draft of RDA
  - 2009: Release of RDA
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.
- Obviously, we need more dialog and more research on the impact that RDA will have on our practice and processes.
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….
    - 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.”

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)