

RDA will facilitate cataloguing efficiencies

As an online, web-based tool:

- RDA rules can be customized to fit specific application profiles or particular tasks and to catalogue specific types of materials.
- RDA will improve efficiency for cataloguing unfamiliar formats – the online tool can retrieve all the rules needed for what is being catalogued.
- RDA will allow users to add their own notes online. Similarly, rule interpretations and institutional or network policies can be integrated with RDA online.
- RDA will enable integration with vendor products, thus improving cataloguers' work flow and performance.

RDA, Resource Description and Access is being developed by the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) for Development of RDA, with representatives from the

- American Library Association
- Australian Committee on Cataloguing
- British Library
- Canadian Committee on Cataloguing
- Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)
- Library of Congress

The Committee of Principals (CoP) oversees the project as a whole. Members of the CoP represent the

- American Library Association
- British Library
- Canadian Library Association
- Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)
- Library and Archives Canada
- Library of Congress
- National Library of Australia

The Co-Publishers provide financial and production support for RDA

- American Library Association
- Canadian Library Association
- CILIP, whose publishing imprint is Facet Publishing (www.facetpublishing.co.uk)

For more information about RDA, see:

<http://www.rda-jsc.org/rda.html>

R | D | A

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION & ACCESS

RDA is the **new** cataloguing standard that will replace Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd edition.

RDA goes beyond earlier cataloguing codes in that it provides guidelines on **cataloguing digital resources** and a stronger emphasis on helping users **find, identify, select, and obtain** the information they want.

RDA also supports **clustering of bibliographic records** to show relationships between works and their creators. This important new feature makes users more aware of a work's different editions, translations, or physical formats – an exciting development.

THE CATALOGUING STANDARD FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

RDA implementation

In October 2007, the British Library, Library and Archives Canada, the Library of Congress, and the National Library of Australia agreed to support RDA by coordinating training materials and implementation plans. The Committee of Principals and the JSC are examining the best methods for doing this so there will be sufficient time for testing, training, and a smooth transition in adopting RDA. Implementation will follow a phased approach so that libraries will have sufficient time to plan for RDA.

The foundation of RDA

RDA is built on the internationally established principles, conceptual models, and standards developed by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) – the International Cataloguing Principles (ICP), which update the ‘Paris Principles’ on which AACR was based; Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) and Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRAD), which provide the underlying conceptual models (entities, relationships, attributes) and user tasks for RDA; and the International Standard for Bibliographic Description (ISBD), which provides one view of how RDA-based data can be presented.

A collaborative effort

The development of RDA recognizes that libraries now operate in a digital, web based environment that involves relationships with metadata creators and users outside the library sector. RDA will support the integration of library cataloguing records with those produced by other metadata communities, making it possible for library records to be used in new ways.

RDA has involved consultation with groups inside and outside the library community. In addition to those groups working on FRBR and FRAD, the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) is also working with:

- the Dublin Core and other semantic web communities, in order to compare the conceptual models and standards used by each. (Work on alignment is progressing based on recommendations stemming from a meeting of these groups).
- the Library of Congress Network Development and MARC Standards Office to ensure compatibility of RDA with MARC 21. (Under the auspices of the British Library, the Library and Archives Canada, and the Library of Congress, a Working Group has recently been established to coordinate RDA with MARC 21).
- the IFLA Cataloguing Section, in order to assure harmonization of international standards.

- the publishing community, which has developed a list of carrier terminology based on its ONIX standard for use in both the publisher and library communities.

The work of JSC is based on wide consultation within the library community. The continuous updating of RDA, as with the development of RDA, involves sharing drafts of the content, made available via the JSC website <http://www.rda-jsc.org/rda.html> for comment by its constituencies and stakeholders. **Institutions from countries other than those sitting on the JSC are also encouraged to comment.** RDA is being developed with an understanding that it needs to be adaptable at the international level, enabling other countries to translate it and adjust instructions to local needs.

Advantages of using RDA

RDA moves libraries forward into the digital age by providing instructions for cataloguing digital as well as traditional resources. It builds on the strengths of AACR2, focuses on the needs of users to easily **find, identify, select, and obtain** the materials they need, and it supports metadata sharing among different metadata communities and new uses of library records in online services.

RDA is a new standard for resource description and access designed for a digital world

- RDA focuses on the information needed to describe a resource **NOT** how to display that information.
- Users will be able to use RDA content with many encoding schema (e.g., MODS [Metadata Object Description Standard], MARC 21 or Dublin Core). RDA is adaptable and flexible, potentially resulting in its use by other information communities as well as libraries.

RDA's structure is built on the conceptual models of FRBR and FRAD to help catalogue users find the information they need more easily

- RDA's use of FRBR entities makes it possible to design better displays in catalogues for clustering information about the same title together (e.g., translations, abridgements, different physical formats).

RDA provides a flexible framework for content description of digital resources while also serving the needs of libraries organizing traditional resources

- RDA provides flexibility when describing multiple aspects of a work as a result of using the FRBR conceptual model.
- RDA has identified and added elements, not included in AACR2, that are commonly used in descriptions for digital resources.

RDA provides a better fit with emerging database technologies enabling institutions to introduce efficiencies in data capture and storage retrieval.

- RDA emphasizes ‘taking what you see’, thus encouraging machine-capture of metadata without extensive editing – saving cataloguers’ time.

RDA builds on the strengths of AACR2

- Records created using RDA will be compatible with AACR2 records. In the vast majority of cases, cataloguers will not have to recatalogue older records.
- RDA instructions for choice and form of entry have evolved from those in AACR2. While the form of some headings will change as a result of RDA, implementation of any changes will be facilitated by increasingly sophisticated online systems.