

RDA: Kicking the Tires

The RDA session on Saturday, February 12, 2011 was shared by a panel of five representatives from the RDA test conducted October through December of 2010. Kathy Glennan, from the University of Maryland, was the moderator. The five panelists included the following: Sharon McKinley from Library of Congress; Janet Bradford from Brigham Young University; Jean Harden from University of North Texas; Mary Huismann from the University of Minnesota; and Casey Mullin from Stanford University. After presenting a brief summary of the RDA test and introductions of the panelists, Kathy Glennan began the session with the first of seven questions asked of each panelist. The questions are listed below:

- 1) How did you approach training, and what was the philosophy toward testing?
- 2) Did you create any specific documentation? If not, what type of documentation would be useful in moving forward now?
- 3) How did your local system accommodate RDA records? What display decisions did you make?
- 4) If you created authority records during the test period, what was your experience?
- 5) What are the two things you liked best about RDA?
- 6) What are the top two things that need fixing in RDA?
- 7) Based on your experiences, what would you recommend to others when they start using RDA?

Due to the unusual format for this panel, the answers to the questions above will be addressed below by the same number as the question.

- 1) All of the panelists conducted training using webinars and powerpoint presentations from LC (Library of Congress). Most panelists also had time to look at RDA test records and time to experiment with the RDA Toolkit.
- 2) Most participants did not create any specific documentation for training with the exception of LC. Brigham Young also created a wiki. Some of the panelists used LC's training documents as their own.
- 3) All of the panelists were able to have the new 3xx fields available in the local systems. Some had these fields displayed, others did not.
- 4) Three of the five panelists did create and/or edit authority records. There are still some issues that will need to be looked at in the new 3xx fields in authority records.

- 5) There were a variety of answers to question five in regards to the two things panelists liked best about RDA. The answers range from more rich data, flexibility in transcribing materials, efficiency in searching the Toolkit, and ease of use for new people to learn.
- 6) Again, there were also a variety of answers about two things that need fixing in RDA. Some of the issues that were raised include: difficulty in collocating, creating relational records in a flat file, lack of guidance in some cases, name authority for non-descriptive titles, cataloger's judgment is more difficult, and the need for more direction in the role of the container for collective titles. Filing of librettos under author, rather than composer, is another complication.
- 7) The responses for the final question were helpful. Some of the tips given by panelists are: be patient; don't be afraid of it; try to have a plan and include public service areas in discussions; embrace the changes; and make sure people are on the same page.

The session ended with questions from the audience.

Submitted by
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