From AACR2 to RDA: An Evolution

Kathy Glennan
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Why New Cataloging Rules?
- Feeling that continued revision of AACR2 not sufficient to address issues
  - Evolving formats, including items that belong to more than one class of material
  - Limitations with existing GMDs and SMDs
  - Integrating resources
  - Separation of “content” and “carrier” concepts
- Integrate FRBR principles

Why not AACR3?
- Reviewers of AACR3 Part I (2004-05) identified areas for improvement:
  - Proposed structure of rules – too awkward
  - More metadata-friendly; less library jargon
  - More connection to FRBR
  - Modify the connection of the rules to ISBD
  - Changes need to be significant enough to merit a new cataloging code, but records still need to be compatible with AACR2

Naming the New Code: RDA
- RDA – an international standard
- Took “Anglo-American” out of title
  - Even AACR2 used internationally
    - Translated into 25 different languages
    - Used in 45 countries outside the U.S.
- Took “Cataloguing” out of title
  - “Resource description” better understood by metadata communities
  - Will still include basic principles of bibliographic description

RDA – Big Picture Concepts
- Designed for the digital world
- Founded on AACR
- Informed by FRBR and FRAR
- Consistent, flexible and extensible framework
- Compatible with international principles, models and standards
- Useable outside the library community

RDA will...
- Serve as a new content standard for description and access
- Function best as an interactive, online tool
- Improve instructions for non-print resources
- Separate rules for recording and presentation of data elements
- Eliminate redundancy
- Incorporate rules for authority control
RDA Achievements To Date

- Editor: Tom Delsey
- Project manager: Marjorie Bloss
- Prospectus and FAQ available online
- Draft of Part I publicly available; opportunity for anyone to comment
- RDA-L, a discussion forum
- RDA Forums at ALA meetings
- Outreach group established

RDA Organization

- Part I – Resource Description
  - Functional objectives and principles
- Part II – Relationships
  - Persons, families and corporate bodies
  - Citations for related works
  - Instructions for particular types of works
- Part III – Access Point Control
  - Formulating access points
  - Recording data used in access point control

RDA Stakeholders

- Catalogers -- and --
- Library administrators
- Cataloging educators
- Public service librarians
- System developers
- Metadata communities
- MARC format developers
- National and international programs
  - (PCC, ISSN, IFLA, etc.)

RDA Will Also Include

- General Introduction
- Appendices for:
  - Capitalization
  - Abbreviations
  - Initial articles
  - Presentation of descriptive data and access point control data
- Glossary
- Index

RDA Part I - Chapters

- 0. Introduction
- 1. General guidelines for resource description
- 2. Identification of the resource
- 3. Technical description
- 4. Content description
- 5. Information on terms of availability
- 6. Item-specific information

Caveat

- RDA Part I is a draft document, under consideration by the JSC constituencies right now
- CC:DA will submit substantial comments about Part I
- JSC will meet in April to review comments from all of the constituencies – so specifics may change
From AACR2 to RDA: An Evolution
MLA, BCC Program Meeting, Feb. 26, 2006

RDA Part I – Guideline Structure

- Data elements/attributes for description of resources
  - Purpose and scope
    - FRBR user tasks: find, identify, select, obtain
  - Source for the attribute
  - How to record the attribute
  - Notes pertaining to the attribute

RDA Part III – Access Point Control

- General guidelines
- Authorized forms
  - Persons, Families, Corporate bodies, Places
  - Citations ("uniform titles") for works, expressions
- Variant forms
  - Used as references
  - Possibility for alternative displays

RDA Part I – Chapter 2 Example

- 2.7 Publisher, distributor, etc.
  - 2.7.0 Basic instructions on recording names of publishers, distributors, etc.
  - 2.7.1 Name of publisher
  - 2.7.2 Name of distributor
  - 2.7.3 Name of manufacturer
  - 2.7.4 Notes on publisher, distributor, etc.

RDA Timeline

- Oct. 2005-Apr. 2006:
  - Draft of Part I; constituency review
- May-Sept. 2006:
  - Draft of Part II; constituency review
- Oct. 2006-Apr. 2007:
  - Draft of Part III; constituency review
- May-Sept. 2007:
  - General Introduction, Appendices & Glossary
- 2008: Publication

RDA Constituency Review

- Timeline constraints
  - Draft available to JSC first, then posted on JSC website
  - Constituent bodies prepare comprehensive response in time to meet JSC deadline
  - JSC deadline set about one month prior to their next meeting

Kathy Glennan
RDA Constituency Review

- Workload constraints
  - JSC decisions that will not be revisited
    - ISBD in appendix; Organization of Part I
  - CC:DA asked to identify "big issues"
    - What guidelines are difficult to apply?
    - Which rules generate unacceptable outcomes?
  - Most proposals to change AACR2 practice will remain unaddressed until RDA published
  - RDA will not be perfect when first published!

AACR2 vs. RDA

- Two parts
  - Description
  - Headings, Uniform Titles, and References

- Three parts
  - Resource
  - Description
  - Relationships
  - Access Point Control

RDA – MLA’s Role

- Subcommittee on Descriptive Cataloging
  - Provides ongoing feedback to CC:DA about how proposals impact the music community
  - Informed by input from Subcommittee members, BCC members, and MLA members in general
  - Attempt cataloging using the new rules to see how they work
  - Keeps MLA informed about issues

AACR2 vs. RDA

- Integrated with ISBD
- Based on 1961 Paris Principles
- Part I organized by class of material
- First cataloging code to integrate all media
- ISBD optional; just one of display options
- Based on FRBR & FRAR models
- Part I organized by data element
- Potential to add general subject access rules as well

RDA – MLA’s Role

- Subcommittee on Descriptive Cataloging
  - Formulates MLA’s official positions on RDA for CC:DA. In 2005 these included:
    - Simplifying AACR2’s Chapter 21
    - Comments on sound recording rules (AACR2 21.23)
    - Response to proposal to eliminate the musical presentation statement
    - Response to proposed changes to the music definitions in the Glossary

AACR2 vs. RDA

- Created for card catalogs
- Used by library community
- Evolved into an electronic product
- Created for integrated library systems
- Goal to be used by various communities: library, metadata, etc.
- Envisioned as an electronic product
### From AACR2 to RDA: An Evolution

#### AACR2 vs. RDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AACR2</th>
<th>RDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catalog an “item”</td>
<td>Catalog a “resource”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heading</td>
<td>Access point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main entry</td>
<td>Primary access point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Added entry</td>
<td>Secondary access point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform title</td>
<td>Citation access point…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ For a work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ For an expression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ For a manifestation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### AACR2 vs. RDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AACR2</th>
<th>RDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 levels of description</td>
<td>Mandatory elements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Minimum</td>
<td>□ Given in list by data element</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Expanded</td>
<td>□ Reflect attributes of work, expression &amp; manifestation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Comprehensive</td>
<td>Statement of responsibility optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Reduces redundancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Compatible with other metadata schema</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### AACR2 vs. RDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AACR2</th>
<th>RDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notes in a separate section within each Part I chapter</td>
<td>Rules for notes included with each Part I attribute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred sources of information based on class of material</td>
<td>Preferred sources of information apply to all materials; rules may consider “the entire resource” as the preferred source</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### RDA – Mandatory Elements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RDA – Mandatory Elements</th>
<th>AACR2 vs. RDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title proper</td>
<td>Use of Latin abbreviations [sic], [i.e.], [S.l.]…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earlier/later variations in the title proper</td>
<td>Elimination of Latin abbreviations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of responsibility</td>
<td>□ Rules may remove all abbreviations unless used in the resource</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edition statement</td>
<td>A mixture of principle- and case-based rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numbering</td>
<td>Rule of three often invoked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher, distributor, etc. (1st one)</td>
<td>Goal to include only principle-based rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of publication, distribution, etc.</td>
<td>Rule of three likely eliminated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AACR2 vs. RDA

- A few specialist manuals, such as *Cartographic Materials: A Manual of Interpretation for AACR2*
- LC Rule Interpretations
- Potential for many specialist manuals
- LC will create new guidelines for use with RDA

Thanks To...

- Members of the Subcommittee on Descriptive Cataloging, the Bibliographic Control Committee and other MLA members who have participated in this process so far
- Jennifer Bowen, the ALA representative to the JSC, for generously sharing her January 2006 RDA Forum presentation

RDA – Issues in Tension

- Transcription vs. accuracy
  - Where to record corrections to data elements
- Use of abbreviations
  - When is this appropriate & where?
- Generalization/simplification of rules vs. special needs based on "class of material"
- Creating rules that accommodate electronically supplied data
- Print vs. electronic version of rules

Questions?

RDA – More Information

- Resources at the JSC website:
  - www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rda.html
    - Includes Draft rules, FAQ, Prospectus, etc.
- Resources at the CC:DA website
  - http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/
    - Includes announcements, CC:DA position papers
- Other ALA resources
  - Semiannual articles in the *ALCTS Newsletter Online*
    (available from links at: www.ala.org/alcts)