

RDA Update Forum, Sunday, June 27, 2010

ALA Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Panelists: Sally McCallum (Library of Congress), Beacher Wiggins (Library of Congress), Troy Linker (ALA Publishing), Glenn Patton (OCLC).

Sally McCallum outlined key changes related to RDA published in MARC 21 updates 9, 10, and 11. A summary can be viewed at www.loc.gov/marc/RDAinMARC29.html. The changes include the addition of bibliographic record fields 336 for content type, 337 for media type, and 338 for carrier type. Authority record fields 370-377 and subfields in the 046 have been added for attributes of names. Ms. McCallum reviewed existing and new MARC field options for recording relationships: name to resource, resource to resource, and name to name.

Of particular importance for music catalogers are new fields for attributes of resources in authority records for works and expressions (fields 380-384), for recording information about form, medium of performance, numeric designation, and key.

Subfield e of the 040 field will be used to indicate the use of RDA in creating a bibliographic record. This subfield is now repeatable, since it is also used, for example, to indicate rare book cataloging. Scheduled for discussion by MARBI at this ALA meeting is a proposed revision to Leader 18, Descriptive Cataloging Form, specifying its use only to indicate presence or absence of ISBD punctuation. Thus, RDA cataloging would be coded: Leader 18 = c (for no ISBD punctuation) or i (for ISBD punctuation), and 040 \$e rda.

Ms. McCallum anticipates that a number of RDA-related factors will give rise to future changes to MARC: issues identified during RDA testing, LC's experimentation with URIs, repeatability questions, and the need for greater specificity (subfields have already been introduced for specificity into fields 033, 502, 518, and subfields have been added to 007 and 008).

Ms. McCallum concluded by enumerating the decisions LC has made for the purposes of testing RDA, in many cases preferring natural language over coding: they will use field 518 rather than 033, subfield e rather than subfield 4 for relator terms, and in fields 336-338 they will use terms, not codes. LC has decided on the use of the authority format, rather than bibliographic format, for work and expression records. LC will create records based on the item in hand rather than the original (for example, when cataloging a microform); they will record information about the original in linking field 776.

A question from the floor:

Q: Where is "playaway" in the RDA terms?

A (from Beacher Wiggins): Such questions about RDA content should be submitted to the Library of Congress at LChelp4rda@loc.gov.

The next panelist was Beacher Wiggins, who talked about RDA testing within the U.S. community. The RDA Toolkit is now ready for use. Testing by the three national libraries

(Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine, and National Library of Agriculture) and 24 formal test participants has now been formally launched, and will consist of three parts.

Part 1 (now through September 30): The test participants will familiarize themselves with the Toolkit, will practice creating records, and will generate questions. Questions will be submitted to the LC test website helpdesk at LChelp4rda@loc.gov. There will be parallel opportunities for submitting questions to LC when they are about RDA, and to ALA Publishing when the questions are about the Toolkit.

Part 2 (October-December): RDA records will be shared with the community. There will be three categories of records:

- 1) a common set – 25 titles that every participant will catalog twice, once according to AACR2 and once using RDA; the resulting records will be evaluated for differences between institutions;
- 2) a common set of five titles to be copy-cataloged using whatever practices are in place at each local institution;
- 3) an extra set of records, in which each institution will use RDA to catalog whatever new items come into their collections (a minimum of 25 records, no maximum). The third set is expected to generate the greatest amount of data, and to give a sense of cataloging in a real environment. At the Library of Congress, 35 catalogers will create a fairly large amount of records, which will be added to WorldCat, providing an opportunity to see how well RDA records interface with other records.

Part 3 (January-March 31, 2011): The three national libraries will assess the anticipated 3,000-4,000 records, compile a report and make recommendations. A decision on whether to adopt RDA will be made in the 2-3 months following (April-June), and a final decision will be announced at ALA Annual 2011. Mr. Wiggins mentioned that LC is working with the PCC Steering Committee, keeping them apprised and getting buy-in.

Now that firm timelines have been established, LC is immediately holding sessions for the test participants to work out specifics of the process. Testers will provide 3 sets of responses to RDA cataloging: how well it works in their institutional setting, the perspective of the individual tester, and the response from users of the catalog.

The testing will also be opened up for non-formal test participants. There will be an announcement on the LC website announcing the opportunity for non-formal participants to create and submit RDA records. The LC site will be set up to store and display these records so that everyone can use them for research, to play around with, as a basis for analysis, etc.

Mr. Wiggins ended by emphasizing that RDA records will not be contributed to WorldCat until October 1, 2010.

Questions from the floor for Mr. Wiggins:

Q: Since several constituencies will not be official testers, will LC provide a space to mount records and interact with other catalogers in the test environment?

A: We will include records from non-formal participants on the website; we welcome these; it is exactly what we want.

Q: Have the titles for the common set been identified?

A: Not yet. We will choose titles based on a matrix of situations; this will be done by mid-August. We don't want to do it too soon, in order to minimize possible duplication of records. When the titles are identified, we will present them on the website.

Troy Linker then presented the live version of the RDA Toolkit (www.rdatoolkit.org). Mr. Linker began by reviewing basic information about RDA and the RDA Toolkit. There will be an open-access period for the RDA Toolkit from June 23-August 31, 2010. During this time, the Toolkit will be available at no charge to any individual or institution. There will be no obligation to purchase the Toolkit when this period is over. At the time of Mr. Linker's presentation, open access had only been available a few days, and so far there have been over 2,200 sign-ups. There have been some issues with the authentication process that are being worked out. In terms of performance, the Toolkit works better on newer browsers; the display is imperfect on Internet Explorer 6.5.

Resources for training and support include the RDA Toolkit help system, an FAQ section on the website, an online archive of webinars, the RDA Toolkit Support Center (using a ticket system for support requests), cataloging presenter tools (logos, handouts, etc.), and an online calendar of training opportunities. The focus of these resources is on technical support for using the RDA Toolkit, not on the actual content of RDA.

When signing up for the RDA Toolkit, there are various authentication methods available. For an institutional site license, the most common way is IP address. New users will generally create their own profiles, which are required in order to save, create, or share on the site. The profile name of the institutional subscriber is different than the user name.

Besides RDA itself, the RDA Toolkit Document Collection contains the RDA Element Set View, RDA mappings (e.g. RDA to MARC), user-contributed content such as workflows, entity relationship diagrams, schemas, and AACR2. Mr. Linker demonstrated several features for searching and navigating these documents, such as searching by RDA instruction number and limiting searches to RDA only. AACR2 rule numbers are embedded as metadata in the RDA instructions, so users can search by AACR2 rule number to find the corresponding instruction in RDA. Future enhancements include links from AACR2 to RDA, links from LC Policy Statements and other cataloging documentation, and linking to and from Cataloger's Desktop.

Site-license subscription rates have not changed since they were announced in February. A new option is now available for a solo-user license. First-time annual site-license subscribers will receive double the number of concurrent users paid for during the first year. A temporary increase in concurrent users for purposes of training in a classroom

setting may be arranged at no charge via the RDA Toolkit Helpdesk. There will be consortia and group pricing options, but the prices will not be greatly different from those for individual institutions. The RDA Toolkit and Cataloger's Desktop will require separate subscriptions.

RDA will be offered in print, although the publishers believe that online use of the RDA Toolkit will be preferred by most. It is expected to run about 1,000 pages, and will probably cost around \$150. Availability will be announced sometime in July.

Some questions for Mr. Linker:

Q: Will archived webinars be available after the test period?

A: Yes.

Q: Will you keep statistics on an institution's usage (so that we may adjust subscriptions to reflect actual use)?

A: You will have access to administrative system reports. Whether these will help answer the question of lowering the number of concurrent users... maybe.

Q: What sort of load/security testing have you done?

A: The site is professionally hosted and maintained.

The final speaker, Glenn Patton, spoke about OCLC and RDA testing. OCLC is working with the three national libraries to test the ability to create RDA MARC 21 records in Connexion, to work with RDA records in all interfaces, and to work with RDA records in batch loading. The OCLC Contract Cataloging Services team will participate in the formal testing of RDA. OCLC is also developing instructions for test participants, Connexion users, and batchloading users. OCLC plans to hold training webinars for test participants and more generally for member libraries.

MARC 21 format changes to support RDA were installed by OCLC on May 23, 2010, and are described in OCLC Technical Bulletin 258. Codes for content, media, and carrier in the subfield b of fields 336, 337, 338 have been integrated into searching limits, and are indexed in the material type index (mt).

OCLC has released a Policy Statement on RDA Cataloging in WorldCat for the U.S. Testing Period. During the testing period, catalogers who are not formal test participants may contribute original RDA records to WorldCat. In light of this, OCLC's policy statement provides guidelines on editing master records to avoid, as Mr. Patton put it, "rules wars." In general, an existing AACR2 record should not be changed to RDA. There are two exceptions: a cataloger may change an AACR2 record to RDA when updating information in a continuing resources record, or when upgrading a minimal level record. RDA records should not be changed to AACR2. If a record created according to either AACR2 or RDA already exists in WorldCat, one should not create a duplicate record according to the other code.

In closing, Mr. Patton stated that OCLC plans to enable linking from Connexion (browser and client versions) to the RDA Toolkit.

Questions for Mr. Patton:

Q: What is the timetable for seeing RDA records? Could records from other countries begin showing up sooner than October 1st?

A: Other countries are waiting for the results of the U.S. test before they begin cataloging according to RDA.

Q: Given the new restrictions on changing master records as set out in the OCLC Policy Statement, will it be necessary to shut down the Expert Community program that enables the widespread editing of master records?

A: No. We will address this issue by doing a lot of publicity about not changing certain records.

Some general questions from the floor:

Q: Will there be a unified decision, or is there a possibility of three different responses from the U.S. national libraries next May?

A (Mr. Wiggins): The expectation is that there will be a joint decision, based on the recommendations that go to all of the libraries.

Q: Will rule changes be announced in the RDA Toolkit or the JSC RDA website?

A (Mr. Linker): It hasn't been decided how we'll show changes. In the near term, look for announcements in ALA Connect, listservs, etc.

Q: Some RDA record examples have been taken out of the Toolkit due to technical issues. What is the status of these?

A (Mr. Linker): JSC controls what is and isn't included; I'm not aware of any technical issues that have caused examples to be removed.