



RDA: a quick introduction

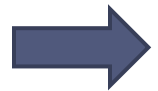
Chris Oliver

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What is RDA?



new metadata standard that replaces AACR2



a set of practical instructions based on a theoretical framework

To understand RDA:

- not simply a set of updated instructions
- new way of thinking about cataloguing data



Understanding RDA

1. scope of RDA
2. underlying theoretical framework
3. objectives and principles
4. an aspect of RDA's design:
 - elements and core elements
 - designed for current databases and for future databases and web environments



Continuity with AACR2

- ▶ RDA includes instructions that originate from AACR2
- ▶ instructions derived from AACR2 are **reworked**:
 - ▶ reworded
 - ▶ organized differently
 - ▶ within a new theoretical framework

every word has
changed



RDA instructions
show visible
continuity with
AACR2

Example

AACR2 1.5B1

Record the extent of the item by giving the number of physical units in arabic numerals and the specific material designation as instructed in subrule .5B in the chapter dealing with the type of material to which the item belongs.

1 film reel

RDA 3.4.1.3

Record the extent of the resource by giving the number of units and an appropriate term for the type of carrier as listed under 3.3.1.3

1 film reel

AACR2 to RDA: continuity & change



AACR2 deconstructed



new concepts



new structure



new vocabulary



some new instructions



some changed instructions



AACR2



**stones
plus
framework**



AACR2 deconstructed



**without
the framework**



RDA



**stones
plus
new
framework**



1. Broader scope than AACR2

RDA 0.0 Purpose and scope

RDA provides a set of guidelines and instructions on formulating data to support resource discovery.

versus **AACR2 0.1**

These rules are designed for use in the construction of catalogues and other lists in general libraries of all sizes.



Broader scope than AACR2

- ▶ bibliographic data



authority data

- ▶ more international
 - ▶ beyond “Anglo-American”
 - ▶ instructions made consistent and easy to use by many cultural, religious, national communities

for example, options for the use of other languages, scripts, calendars, numeric systems



Broader scope than AACR2

- ▶ RDA data for the web environment
 - ▶ visible in the web
 - ▶ function in the semantic web
 - ▶ compatible with metadata standards of other resource description communities
- ▶ not just for libraries
 - ▶ connecting with other cultural heritage communities
 - ▶ beyond the library “silo”
 - ▶ for example, instructions for archival resources

2. Framework



2. Framework

- a. the conceptual models
- b. role of user tasks
- c. entity relationship models
- d. evidence of the models in the way RDA is organized
- e. influence of FRAD



RDA's framework

- ▶ explicit conceptual framework
- ▶ aligned with the FRBR and FRAD conceptual models

FRBR Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records
1998

FRAD Functional Requirements for Authority Data
2009

FRAD is an extension of the FRBR model

- ▶ both models developed under the auspices of IFLA

The two models

- ▶ broad base of international consensus and support
- ▶ widely used data modelling technique:
 - entity relationship model**
 - entities
 - attributes
 - relationships
- ▶ **“functional”**
 - ▶ data is important because of how it is used
 - ▶ use is operationalized as **“user tasks”**

RDA 0.0 Purpose and Scope

RDA provides a set of guidelines and instructions on formulating data to support resource discovery.

The data created using RDA to describe a resource are designed to assist users performing the following tasks:

Bibliographic data

- ▶ find
- ▶ identify
- ▶ select
- ▶ obtain

Authority data

- ▶ find
- ▶ identify
- ▶ clarify
- ▶ understand



Consistent focus on the user

Throughout RDA:



why record this data?

to support the user in completing one of the **user tasks**

- ▶ user tasks come from FRBR/FRAD models
- ▶ user tasks are an essential part of RDA

Functional objectives

- ▶ RDA divided into 10 sections
- ▶ Each section begins with general guidelines
- ▶ Functional objectives and principles specific to the section
- ▶ Functional objectives =

relationship between **the data** and **the user tasks**

(recorded or formulated according to the instructions in that section)



Example from Section 1

Section 1= Recording attributes of manifestations & items

1.2 Functional Objectives and Principles

The data describing a manifestation or item should **enable the user to**:

- a) *find* manifestations and items that correspond to the user's stated search criteria
- b) *identify* the resource described ...
- c) *select* a resource that is appropriate to the user's requirements with respect to the physical characteristics of the carrier and the formatting and encoding of information stored on the carrier
- d) *obtain* a resource ...



User tasks and cataloguer judgment

- ▶ user tasks provide scope that permits cataloguer judgment

cataloguer judgment = cataloguer determines if the data is important for the successful completion of a **user task**

for example, from 3.7 Applied material

Record the applied material used in the resource **if it is considered important for identification or selection ...**



Entities, attributes, relationships

- ▶ vocabulary of FRBR and FRAD
- ▶ vocabulary of RDA
- ▶ entity = the object of a user's interest
- ▶ entities that are of interest to someone who uses bibliographic and authority data

bibliographic entities

 entities specific to authority control

Bibliographic entities

work

expression

manifestation

item

FRBR Group 1

products of intellectual or artistic endeavor

person

family

corporate body

FRBR Group 2

responsible for group 1 entities

concept

object

event

place

FRBR Group 3

subjects (includes group 1 & 2)



Authority entities

bibliographic entities

entities on which authority data is focused

name

identifier

controlled access point

(in RDA = authorized access point)

entities for authority control

rules

agency

entities that determine the content and form of access points



Attributes

- ▶ characteristics of the entity
- ▶ data to be recorded about the entity

examples of attributes:

work: title, genre, coordinates (map)

manifestation: publisher, date of publication, extent of the carrier

item: identifier (e.g. barcode), provenance, condition

person: dates, gender, a title of rank or office

corporate body: place, dates, address

object: term



Relationships

- ▶ link between one entity and another
- ▶ basis for navigation and support collocation
- ▶ primary relationships:
 - between work, expression, manifestation and item
- ▶ 3 other major types of relationships:
 1. between a **person, family or corporate body** and a **resource**
 2. between one **resource** and another **resource**
 3. between a **person, family or corporate body** and another **person, family or corporate body**

Examples of relationships

expression

translation of

work

item

exemplar of

manifestation

work

created by

person

item

owned by

family

manifestation

produced by

corporate body

work

based on

work

manifestation

electronic reprod.

manifestation

person

member of

family

family

founded

corporate body



Organization and Structure of RDA

- ▶ 2 main parts

Recording attributes

sections 1-4

Recording relationships

sections 5-10

- ▶ Divided into 10 sections

sections are organized according to the bibliographic entities



Organization and Structure of RDA

Section 1-4 = 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** [placeholder]



Organization and Structure of RDA

Sections 5-10 = Recording Relationships

- Section 5.* Recording primary relationships between **work, expression, manifestation, and item**
- Section 6.* Recording relationships to **persons, families,** and **corporate bodies** associated with a resource
- Section 7.* Recording the subject of a work **[placeholder]**
- 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** **[placeholder]**
-



Organization and Structure of RDA

- ▶ each chapter associated with a **user task**

Chapter 1: General guidelines on recording attributes of manifestations and items

Chapter 2: Identifying manifestations and items
User task = Identify

Chapter 3: Describing carriers
User task = Select

Chapter 4: Providing acquisition and access information
User task = Obtain

Organization and Structure of RDA

Chapter 5: General guidelines on recording attributes of works and expressions

Chapter 6: Identifying works and expressions
User task = Identify

Chapter 7: Describing content
User task = Select



Influence of FRAD

- ▶ scope of RDA: bibliographic data **AND** authority data
- ▶ influence of FRAD:
 - adding **family** to group 2 entities
person, **family**, corporate body
 - definition of person
 - role of identifiers
 - relationship between name + entity

Example: Person in RDA

definition of person influenced by FRAD:

person = an individual **or an identity** established by an individual (either alone or in collaboration with one or more other individuals)

scope of 9.0 = persons include fictitious entities

for example

- ▶ works created by fictitious characters: Miss Piggy, Snoopy
- ▶ relationship of person (bibliographic identity) to person (individual)

designate relationship as “**real identity**” or “**alternate identity**”



3. Objectives and principles

- ▶ the objectives and principles
- ▶ how the objectives and principle shape RDA instructions, looking at two examples



Principles

2009 Statement of International Cataloguing Principles (**ICP**)

2009 final text of **RDA** including objectives & principles

▶ **ICP** and **RDA** developed in sync

0. 4.1 ICP “informs” RDA principles

▶ **ICP** and **RDA** both influenced by **FRBR** and **FRAD** models

no. 1 for **ICP** and **RDA** = Responsiveness to User Needs

(**RDA**)

Convenience of the User

(**ICP**)

RDA Objectives & Principles

Objectives

- ▶ responsiveness to user needs
- ▶ cost efficiency
- ▶ flexibility
- ▶ continuity

Principles

- ▶ differentiation
- ▶ sufficiency
- ▶ relationships
- ▶ representation
- ▶ accuracy
- ▶ attribution
- ▶ common usage or practice
- ▶ uniformity



Role of Objectives & Principles

- ▶ instructions must be *defensible* + *not arbitrary*
- ▶ real impact on the content of RDA

for example

objective = flexibility

The data should function **independently** of the format, medium, or system used to store or communicate the data. They should be amenable to use in a variety of environments.

result = RDA is a “**content standard**”

RDA as a Content Standard



“what data should I record?”

RDA can be encoded using different encoding schema

e.g. MARC 21, MODS, Dublin Core, etc.

RDA data can be displayed using different display conventions

e.g. ISBD, label display, etc.

RDA data can be stored in current databases and in new types of database structures



Examples in RDA

examples show what the data should be

RDA 2.4.1.4 Recording Statements of Responsibility

Transcribe a statement of responsibility in the form in which it appears on the source of information. Apply the general guidelines on transcription given under 1.7.

EXAMPLE

by Walter de la Mare

Fats Waller

by Dr. Johnson

by Sir Richard Acland

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

by a Lady of Quality

par Charles M. Schultz

directed and produced by the Beatles

Examples in RDA

RDA examples show what the data should be

not how it should be displayed

not how it should be encoded

AACR2 2.1F1. Transcribe statements of responsibility relating to persons or bodies as instructed in 1.1F.

Shut up in Paris / by Nathan Sheppard

Great Britain : handbook for travellers / by Karl Baedeker

Vas-y, Charlie Brown / par Charles M. Schulz

MARC 21 manual 245 \$c statement of responsibility, etc.

245 04\$aThe plays of Oscar Wilde /**\$c**Alan Bird.

245 10\$aHow to play chess /**\$c**Kevin Wicker ; with a foreword by David Pritchard ; illustrated by Karel Feuerstein.

RDA as a Content Standard

- ▶ implement in our **current** library environment
- ▶ can be used by **different** metadata communities
- ▶ ready to be used in **newly emerging** database structures
- ▶ ready to be used in the **future** web environment

Role of Objectives & Principles

for example

principle = representation

The data describing a resource should reflect the resource's representation of itself.

result = impact on instructions about transcription

RDA 2.5.1.4 Recording Edition Statements

Transcribe an edition statement as it appears on the source of information.

- ▶ no instruction to use abbreviations
- ▶ transcribe what is on the source of information



Role of Objectives & Principles

Principle = Representation

Appendix B Abbreviations

B.4 Transcribed elements

For transcribed elements, use **only** those abbreviations **found in the sources of information** for the element.



4. Design

- ▶ data elements
- ▶ core elements



Elements in RDA and AACR2

RDA element = A word, character, or group of words and/or characters representing a distinct unit of bibliographic information.

AACR2 element = similar definition

plus

... and forming part of an area of the description.

- ▶ AACR2 elements are organized and embedded into areas
- ▶ net effect is quite different

Elements in AACR2

AACR2:

- data embedded in areas or paragraphs
- different kinds of data embedded together in long character strings
- data recorded in ambiguous elements
- ▶ assumption is that a human will read and interpret information in record
 - ▶ **cannot** be used reliably to search or to limit a search
 - ▶ **cannot** be used for automated processing
 - ▶ **cannot** be used to generate a meaningful display



RDA data elements

- ▶ **RDA element** contains data either about:
 - a single attribute of an entity
 - OR** a single relationship between entities
- ▶ each element is **discrete** and **precisely defined**
- ▶ **independent, separate** units of data
- ▶ increased use of **controlled vocabulary**

RDA data elements

- ▶ only **one** kind of data in an element

AACR2: date of publication, distribution, etc.

MARC 21: 260 \$c

RDA: 4 different elements:
date of production
date of publication
date of distribution
date of copyright

day 1 implementation in MARC 21 environment – data will still be ambiguous

RDA data elements

- ▶ remove ambiguity

AACR2: 1.7B13. Dissertations

- information embedded in a note
- note about academic degree, granting institution or faculty and year degree granted

RDA: 7.9.1 Recording Dissertation or Thesis Information


- separate elements for: academic degree
granting institution or faculty
year degree granted
- information that can be used by human or machine

day 1 implementation in MARC 21 environment – subfields for 502 already implemented

RDA data elements

- ▶ **distinct** and defined elements for each kind of data

different element
for each type of
data




- illustrative content
- encoding format
- production method
- sound content
- applied material
- base material
- reduction ratio

Elements in AACR2

AACR2: information embedded in “other physical details” (or a non-specific note)

other physical
details

MARC 300 \$b



- illustrative content
- encoding format
- production method
- sound content
- applied material
- base material
- reduction ratio

RDA data elements

- ▶ **separated** according to whether it is data about

content

or

carrier

illustrative content
sound content

encoding format
production method
applied material
base material ...

- ▶ **controlled vocabulary** recommended for many elements

aspect ratio: full screen, wide screen, mixed

base material: Bristol board, canvas, cardboard, ceramic, glass, leather, paper, parchment, vellum ...



More elements

for example, **new** data elements for electronic resources:

- ▶ file type

 - data file

 - streaming video file

- ▶ encoding format

	DAISY		GIF		HTML
<i>audio</i>	DVD audio	<i>image</i>	JPEG	<i>text</i>	PDF
	MP3		TIFF		MS Word

- ▶ uniform resource locator



300+ RDA data elements

- ▶ still recording the same kind of information

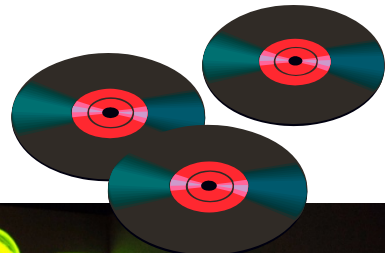
title *edition* *date of publication*

- ▶ record in distinct data elements
- ▶ record with more precision

- ▶ data that a human can use
- ▶ data that is machine actionable
- ▶ each element has the potential to be used:
 - to search
 - to navigate
 - to retrieve
 - to build meaningful displays of data

Designed to be flexible and extensible

- ▶ elements to describe all known types of content and carriers
- ▶ easily extensible to describe resources yet to be developed
 - many data elements – each precisely defined
 - data elements can be used in any combination



Core Elements



300+ elements but you don't have to use them all

core elements

- ▶ **not** a level of description
- ▶ core elements are a **minimum** *“a floor, not a ceiling”*
- ▶ **must** include any additional elements required to differentiate the resource or entity from a similar one
- ▶ **may** include additional elements – as required to complete user tasks



Core elements

- ▶ core elements support a **subset** of user tasks
- ▶ core elements support the **key** user tasks (as identified in the FRBR and FRAD models)
 - ▶ identify and select a manifestation
 - ▶ identify works and expressions embodied in a manifestation
 - ▶ identify the creator or creators of a work
 - ▶ find a person, family, or corporate body associated with a resource
 - ▶ identify a person, family, or corporate body
- ▶ summary of core elements in introduction: 0.6
- ▶ general guidelines for each section: core elements

Core Elements



-
- ▶ certain elements are flagged as “**core**”



title proper

designation of edition

preferred name for the person

- ▶ certain elements are flagged as “**core if**”



date of distribution **if** date of publication not identified

extent is core **if** resource is complete or **if** the total extent is known

- ▶ element is core but can omit some data

place of publication (**if** more than one, only the **first**)



What is RDA?

RDA = a set of practical instructions
based on a theoretical framework

- ▶ scope of RDA
- ▶ theoretical framework based on the FRBR and FRAD conceptual models
- ▶ role of objectives and principles
- ▶ data elements: an aspect of RDA's design



RDA - standard for now and the future

RDA 0.3.1

The **FRBR** and **FRAD** models provide RDA with an **underlying framework** that has the scope needed to support **comprehensive** coverage of all types of content and media, the flexibility and **extensibility** needed to accommodate newly emerging resource characteristics, and the **adaptability** needed for the data produced to function within a wide range of technological environments.

Understanding RDA

- theoretical framework
- a framework for today and tomorrow

Understanding RDA



- ▶ day 1 of implementation: “shoe-horn” RDA into MARC 21
- ▶ day 1 of implementation is only the point of transition
- ▶ RDA: not simply RDA in MARC 21
- ▶ day 1 of implementation allows us to begin travelling along the new track



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