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Resource Description and Access
RDA Activities Since June 2007

RDA Forum
ALA Mid-winter Conference 2008
Marjorie E. Bloss,
RDA Project Manager

I, too, want to welcome you to the RDA Forum and thank Norm and Helen for their hard work in putting it together.

My role in this program is to bring you up to date on RDA project activities in general but before I do that, I want to provide some context to the development of RDA.

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RDA is a collaborative effort that is being developed by representatives from Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States but also involves consultation with rule makers and interested communities around the world , such as those involved with Dublin Core, IEEE/LOM, ONIX (the publishing community) and the Semantic Web.

Our aim is for this international standard to increase our ability to share cataloging data worldwide with a number of different communities, thus reducing the costs of cataloging globally, and improving the users' experience.

The next slide shows you the committees that are most immediately involved in the development of RDA.

Slide 3
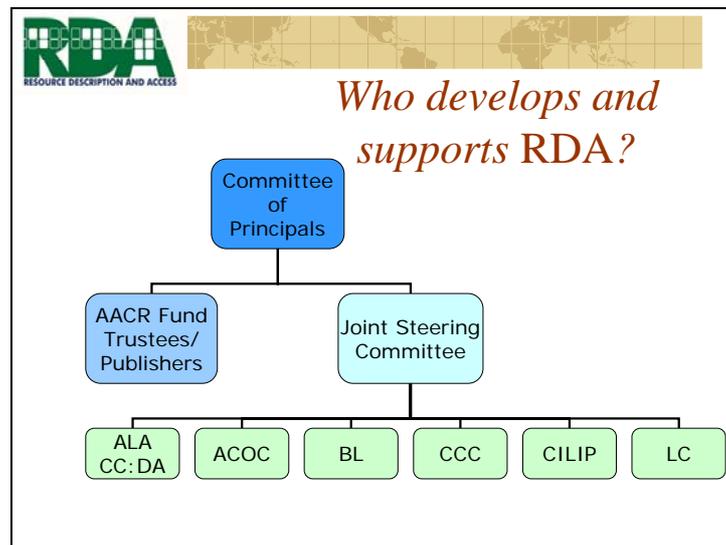
We begin with the Committee of Principals – who are the directors or their representatives from the American Library Association, the Canadian Library Association, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) in the United Kingdom, as well as the British Library, the Library of Congress, the Library and Archives Canada, and newly added, the National Library of Australia. The governance for the future is being explored by this Committee of Principals.

There is also the group of co-publishers who manage the AACR Fund (which is the money generated by sales of AACR that supports the maintenance and development of the rules) – the publishers are at ALA, the Canadian Library Association, and CILIP.

Then there is the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA (previously the JSC for Revision of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules) comprised of representatives from the constituent organizations: the American Library Association's Association for Library Collections & Technical Services' Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA), the Australian Committee on Cataloguing (ACOC), the British Library, the Canadian Committee on Cataloguing (whose representative is also from the Library and Archives Canada), CILIP, and the Library of Congress.

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Activities on Many Fronts

- Administrative concerns
- Content development
- Product development and design
- Outreach activities

Given the complexity of the RDA Project, many activities occur simultaneously and at a number of different levels with the committees immediately responsible for RDA working on different aspects of the project.

The primary components include

　　　　Administrative concerns

　　　　Content development

　　　　Product development and design

　　　　Outreach activities

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Administrative

- Press release from national libraries of Australia, Canada, the UK and the Library of Congress

- Response to the Library of Congress' Working Group's report from the Committee of Principals

- Review of RDA committee structure

In late October, the CoP representatives from the national libraries and the Library of Congress responsible for the creation of RDA issued a press release. In it, they stated their support for RDA and for their intent to work together in developing implementation plans and sharing training documentation.

Beacher has addressed the response of the CoP to the Library of Congress' Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control's report and the process and time frames LC intends to follow for either accepting or rejecting the WG's recommendations.

The CoP has also been reviewing the current structure of the committees involved in RDA creation. This will be a topic they will continue to discuss when they meet in April 2008.

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Content

- Restructuring of RDA

- Release of new chapters and sections dealing with choice and form of entry (previously RDA part B)

- John will give you the details of what RDA will look like in his presentation

At its October 2007 meeting, the Joint Steering Committee (with the support of the CoP) decided to restructure the content of RDA. John will give you the details of the current organization of RDA in his presentation as well as information regarding the release of the new chapters and sections that deal with choice and form of entry.
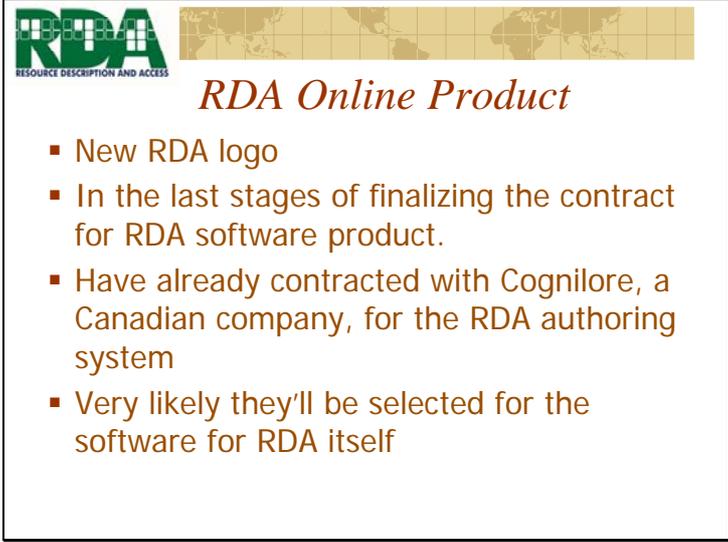
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RDA Online Product

- New RDA logo
- In the last stages of finalizing the contract for RDA software product.
- Have already contracted with Cognilore, a Canadian company, for the RDA authoring system
- Very likely they'll be selected for the software for RDA itself

The Co-Publishers have designed a new logo for RDA that will now be used with any RDA products

The Co-Publishers are in the last stages of finalizing the contract for the RDA software product. They have already contracted with Cognilore, a Canadian company, for the RDA authoring system. This system will allow the JSC and their working groups to work on RDA content online and interactively.

Talks are underway with Cognilore for the RDA software itself. Most likely the final decision will be made in the next couple of months.

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New RDA Prototype

- New RDA online prototype being developed
  - More robust
  - More in line with finalized product
- Can create a customized version of the Web-based *RDA* to see only the instructions you need or want to see
  - Cartographic instructions
  - Serial instructions
  - Etc.

As part of the software development for RDA, Cognilore is developing a new prototype to replace the earlier one. This prototype will be a more robust version of what you saw previously, and will be more in line with the final product's functionality. A major component of RDA online functionality will users' ability to customize versions of the Web-based RDA so they can see only the instructions that are relevant to their work – such as only the instructions relating to maps, or to serials.

Since there have been changes in functionality between this prototype and the one you've seen previously, I would suggest that you "retire" the earlier prototype.

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RDA Prototype Availability

- The new prototype is currently being tested with a few designated groups
- Co-Publishers are gathering their comments and will make any necessary changes
- Will announce its availability to constituencies and on various listservs

Currently, the new prototype is being tested with a few groups to get their responses. *When* the new prototype will be released in contingent on the number of changes the Co-Publishers deem necessary to make. We will announce its availability to you on various listservs.

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Outreach Activities

- Presentations at conferences and meetings
  - IFLA Satellite Meeting just prior to IFLA 2008 conference in Quebec City
- BL, LAC, NLA, and LC press release announcing coordination of training activities and materials
  - JSC members representing these libraries met at the end of the October JSC meeting

Outreach comes in a variety of flavors from giving presentations on RDA at conferences and meetings around the world to planning for implementation and training. To that end, the British Library, Library and Archives Canada, the Library of Congress, and the National Library of Australia issued a press release at the end of October in which they agreed to coordinate RDA implementation schedules, training and to share materials. Following the JSC's meeting in October, the representatives from these libraries met to begin to discuss the steps they could take for RDA implementation.

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There is no question that catalogers will need some training in RDA and that there will be a learning curve as there is with anything new. So many of us use AACR2 without thinking twice, we forget what it was like when we first learned it and had to adjust to its concepts and terminology.

While the first release of RDA is scheduled for early 2009, it most certainly will not be implemented immediately. Based on our estimates right now, actual implementation of RDA most likely won't occur until late 2009. But! There are plans already in the works to help you prepare for RDA.

ALA RDA Implementation TF

- New chair Dr. Shawne Miksa, University of North Texas
- TF includes broad representation
- Task Force charge includes:
  - Identifying training/CE activities
  - Coordinating with various groups regarding their plans for RDA implementation
- Planning a program on RDA for ALA Annual conference in Anaheim

So what is ALCTS doing to help you prepare for and implement RDA? In the spring of 2007, ALCTS' Cataloging and Classification Section created the RDA Implementation Task Force. The task force began its work in earnest this fall under the leadership of its chair, Dr. Shawne Miksa of the University of North Texas Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences. The task force includes representatives from all types of libraries, library educators, OCLC and its affiliated networks, the Library of Congress and the Program for Cooperative Cataloging.

The task force is charged to develop a plan for the implementation of RDA in the United States. The major elements of this plan include identifying training and CE activities and coordinating these activities with interested groups.

In addition, the task force is planning a program on RDA for the ALA Annual conference in Anaheim.

The ALA Implementation Task Force met yesterday and spent the majority of its meeting examining ways to fulfill its charge. We all agreed that it would be most helpful to hold training sessions even before RDA was issued. Basically, these sessions would help prepare you for RDA/ They would include sessions on FRBR/FRAD, comparing terms and concepts used in RDA with those used in AACR2, and showing similarities and differences between AACR2 and RDA. We also discussed methods for providing training to include "train the trainer sessions", "road shows" and distance learning sessions.

Additionally, the TF is identifying groups that are involved in training so we can coordinate information, training sessions and materials .   These groups include CRG (Council of Regional Groups), the PCC (Program on Cooperative Cataloging), state libraries, etc.

The date for RDA's first release is holding steady for early 2009. but many pieces need to come together before then. In order to keep up-to-date with RDA events, please consult the JSC website routinely. The above URL is your gateway to staying on top of RDA activities be they RDA drafts, general information, FAQs, and meeting outcomes . Additionally, how to subscribe to the RDA listserv (RDA-L) also appears here.   So stay in touch and stay tuned as we move towards the release of RDA Online in early 2009.