

**To:** Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA  
**From:** Gordon Dunsire, Chair, JSC  
**Subject:** Protocol between the JSC and the ISSN International Centre

**Related documents:**

*6JSC/Chair/22/Shared documents* Documents shared between the JSC and the ISSN International Centre

**Background**

"RDA provides a set of guidelines and instructions on recording data to support resource discovery. RDA provides a comprehensive set of guidelines and instructions covering all types of content and media." – *RDA Toolkit, April 2015 update*

"The successful operation of the ISSN Network depends on the uniform application of common rules and standards for the registration of continuing resources and for the preparation of ISSN records for integration into the ISSN Register. In developing these rules, care has been taken to ensure so far as possible compatibility and harmonization with international standards such as the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD, Consolidated edition) and the practices of other International systems such as the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR, 2nd edition) and RDA: Resource Description and Access." – *ISSN Manual, January 2015*

The JSC records that it met with representatives of the ISSN Network and the ISBD (Serials) Working Group in Washington in 2000 when it was "agreed to harmonize several provisions in their respective standards which relate to the description of serials and integrating resources" and that "harmonization remains a goal for all three communities". Harmonization between ISBD, ISSN, and RDA was also discussed by the JSC, the ISSN Network, and the ISBD Review Group at the JSC meeting in Glasgow in 2011.

Several documents, published as a result of this interaction, are intended to support harmonization, interpreted as functional interoperability of the results of applying the ISSN or RDA instructions to create bibliographic metadata. A list of background and shared harmonization documents is given in *6JSC/Chair/XX/Shared documents*.

The JSC and ISBD Review Group have agreed a protocol to support the maintenance and development of functional interoperability between data created using the RDA and ISBD instructions and element sets.

The JSC is interested in continuing to develop the treatment of serials in RDA after completion of the consolidation of the FRBR, FRAD, and FRSAD models maintained by IFLA.

The JSC is also interested in the potential benefit of the FRBROO and PRESSOO extensions to the CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model for improving linked data for serials and other aggregate resources that is created using RDA, and wishes to collaborate with the ISSN International Centre on these and related activities.

The membership structure of the JSC does not accommodate direct representation of groups outside the JSC constituencies. The Chair or another member of the JSC acts as a proxy for communication between the JSC and such groups.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this protocol is to support the maintenance and development of functional interoperability between data created using the RDA and ISSN instructions and element sets.

### **Methodology**

The protocol is intended to be light-weight to avoid significant changes to the current practices, priorities, and workflows of the JSC and the ISSN International Centre.

The protocol may be supported by the use of shared documents containing alignments and mappings between components of RDA and ISSN. The JSC develops such documents during an annual cycle for agreeing to significant amendments of RDA. The JSC and ISSN International Centre are responsible for maintaining their versions of the shared documentation.

The usual channel of communication between the two groups is between the Chair of the JSC and the Director of the ISSN International Centre. They are responsible for routine communication, transmitting proposals and reports, reviewing each group's activity for potential issues, and monitoring changes to the shared documentation.

### **Duties of the JSC**

The JSC will:

- Consider proposals and discussion papers from the ISSN International Centre for developing RDA to improve the functional interoperability of RDA and ISSN at its annual meeting and according to its policy and procedures.
- Inform the ISSN International Centre of potential or impending changes to RDA which may impact on shared and ISSN documentation.
- Publish shared and background documents submitted as proposals or discussion papers to the JSC, according to the JSC's policy and procedures.

- Minimise the delay in publishing approved updates to RDA to maintain synchronization with the ISSN Manual published by the ISSN International Centre.

#### **Duties of the ISSN International Centre**

The ISSN International Centre will:

- Consider proposals for developing ISSN policies or procedures to improve the functional interoperability of ISSN and RDA during the usual review cycle for ISSN.
- Inform the JSC of potential or impending changes to ISSN policies or procedures that may impact on shared and RDA documentation.
- Publish shared and background documents submitted as proposals or discussion papers to the JSC, according to the ISSN International Centre's policy and procedures.