

# Diachronic works: future development from the ISSN International Centre perspective

Clement Oury

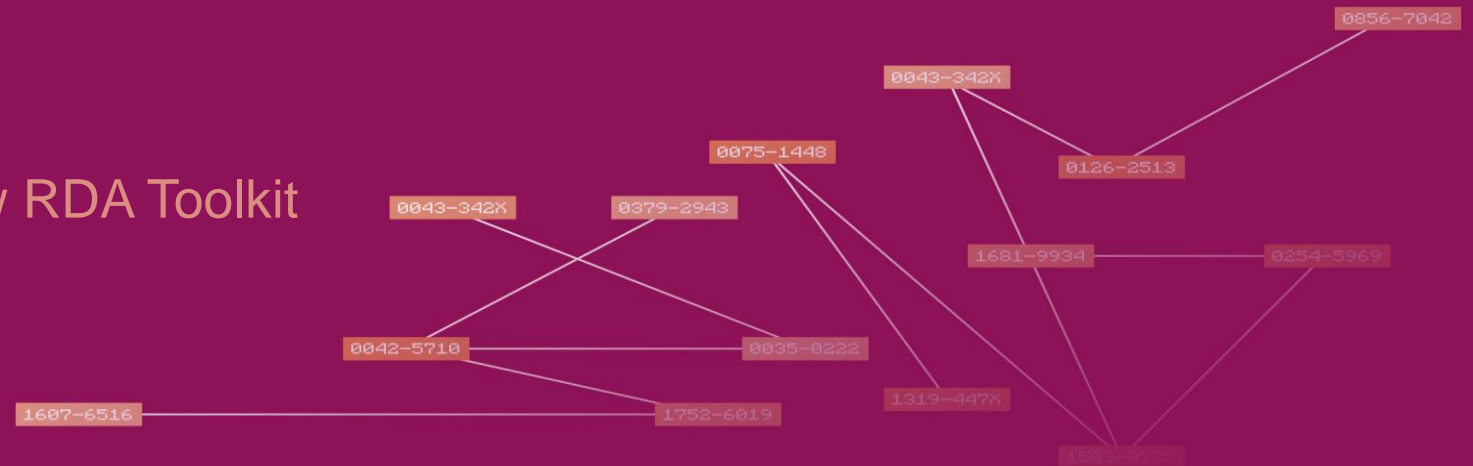
Head of Data, Network and Standards Department

ISSN International Centre

A Practical Introduction to the New RDA Toolkit

ALA Annual

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# The ISSN: a dedicated network for continuing resources

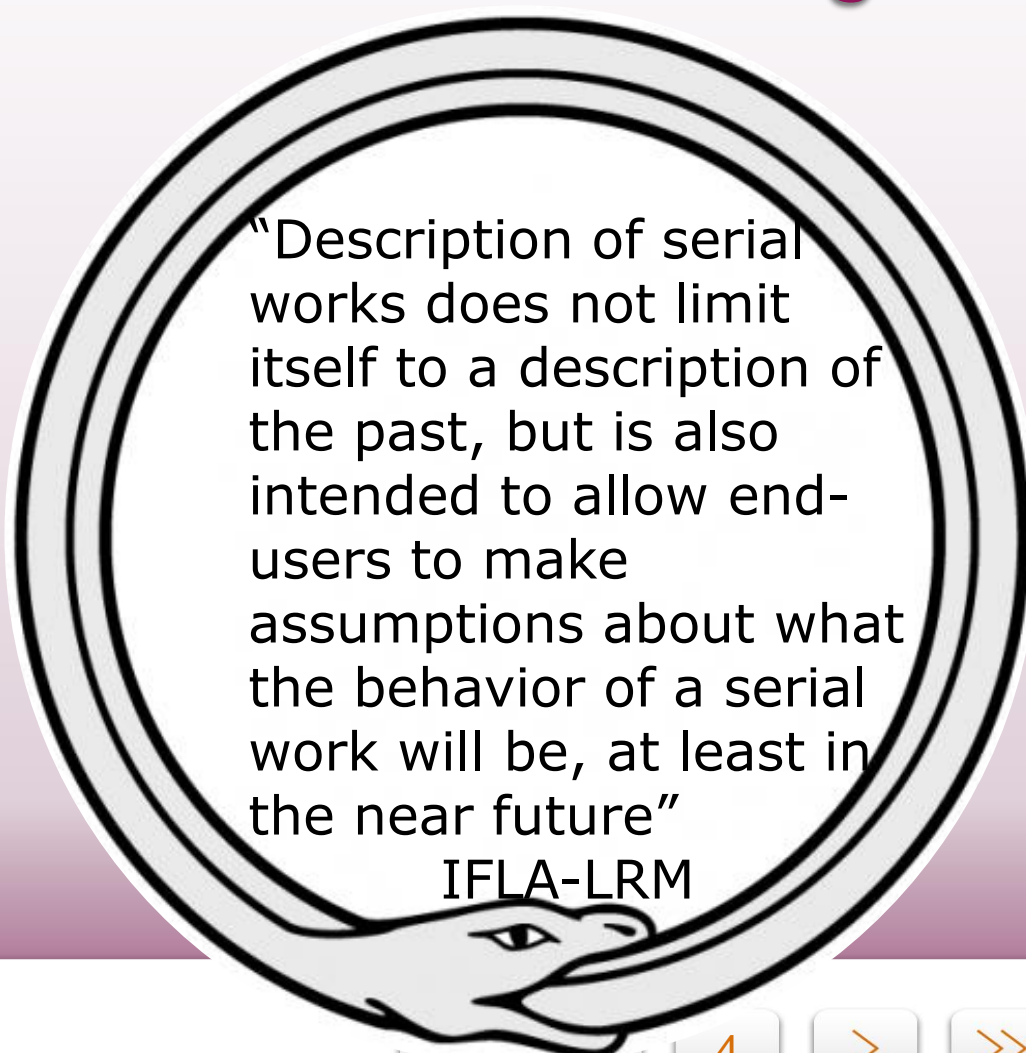
- An identifier for all kind of continuing resources
- A decentralized assignment process
  - A Network of 90 National Centres
  - Assignment associated to the production of a reference bibliographic record
- A unique point of access to ISSN information: the ISSN Portal
  - Maintained and distributed by the ISSN International Centre
- New version released in January 2018 (<https://portal.issn.org/>)
  - More than 2 million records; 10% for online resources
  - “Essential” data elements available as linked open data
  - For human and machine consumption

# ISSN and RDA

- Since 2015, a protocol between the RSC and the ISSN International Centre
  - In order to support “functional interoperability between data created using the RDA and ISSN instructions and element sets”
- ISSN records created according to the ISSN Manual
  - Based on the ISBD
  - But amended to avoid potential conflicts between RDA and ISSN rules
- LRM alignment as a driver for harmonization
  - As recognized by a RDA/ISBD/ISSN Meeting in Wrocław (August 2017)
  - And by a RSC / ISSN IC discussion paper (<http://www.rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC-Chair-20.pdf>)

# IFLA-LRM alignment for serials and other continuing resources

- LRM section 5.8 dedicated to serials
  - but may be applicable to all continuing resources
- Main characteristics underlined:
  - Aggregate several levels of content (serial title / issue / article)
  - Dynamic resources whose content change over time



“Description of serial works does not limit itself to a description of the past, but is also intended to allow end-users to make assumptions about what the behavior of a serial work will be, at least in the near future”  
IFLA-LRM

# Impacts on the RDA Toolkit

1/3

- Discussed by the Aggregates Working Group and the Serials Task Force
- Introducing the notion of “diachronic work”
  - A work that is planned to be embodied over time
  - published over a limited time (“finite”) or over an indefinite time (“continuing”)

	Successive	Integrating
Indeterminate	E.g. serials	E.g. most websites and databases
Determinate	E.g. dictionaries in several volumes	E.g. websites of a limited duration (Olympic games...)

- The “extension plan” is an essential characteristic of the work
  - While the “mode of issuance” is a manifestation attribute (= number of carriers)

# Impacts on the RDA Toolkit

2/3

- Re-locating several elements from manifestation to work
  - Frequency – which is part of the “publication plan”
  - ISSN and key-title: identifier for the work (but also for expression and manifestation)
- A specific cardinality for diachronic works the “**1:1:1 WEM lock**”
  - 1 work = 1 expression = 1 manifestation
- Prevents any form of collocation based on the commonality of content
  - “As it is impossible to predict that this relationship will hold in the future” (IFLA-LRM)

# Collocation of serials

The New York times

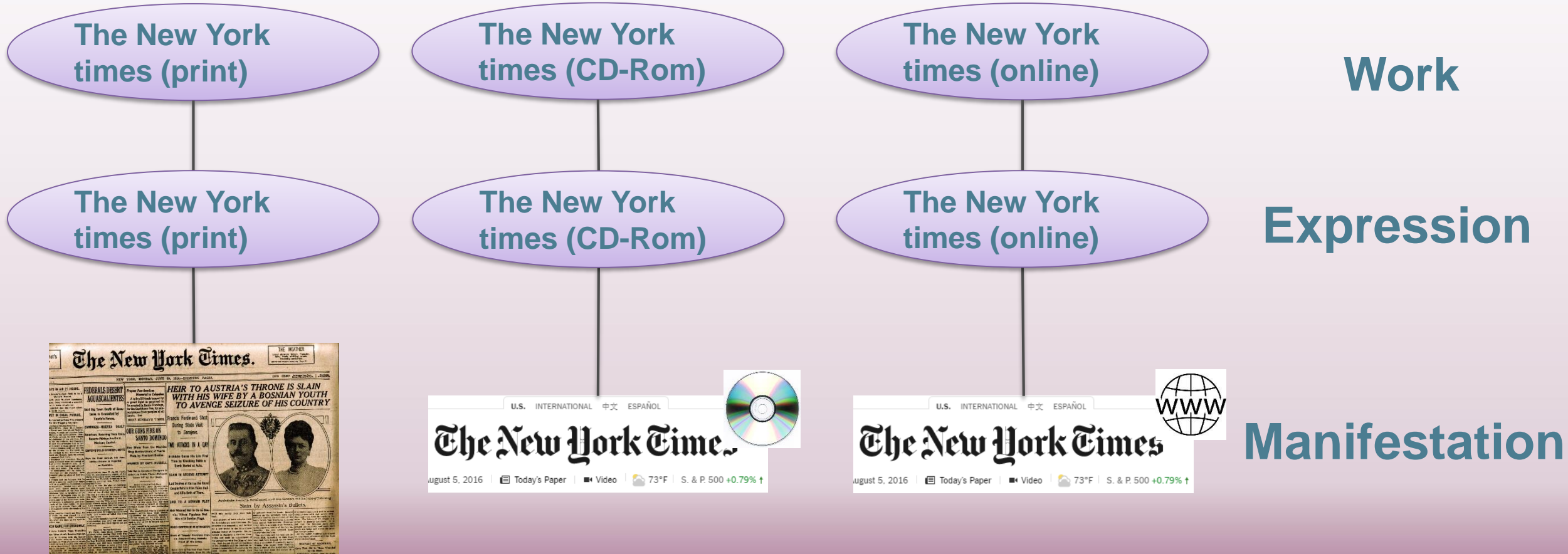
The New York times (English)

The New York Times Expression



Manifestation

# The end of collocation for serials?





# The end of collocation ?!

# Impacts on the RDA Toolkit : clustering

3/3

- Any RDA entity can be clustered, i.e. grouped with other entities sharing common characteristics
  - on any criterion
  - at the discretion of an implementing agency
- To create the cluster, the implementing agency assigns the same nomen-string to each member of a cluster
- An entity can be a member of more than one cluster
  - e.g., the [1] print version of a television program guide for the [2] greater Ottawa region aimed at [3] French-speaking viewers

# Cluster of works: the ISSN-L case

**ISSN-L 0362-4331**

Cluster identifier: “0362-4331”  
Clustering criterion: “same title on different media versions”  
Implementing agency: “ISSN International Centre”



**Print 0362-4331**



**CD 1542-667X**



**Online 1553-8095**

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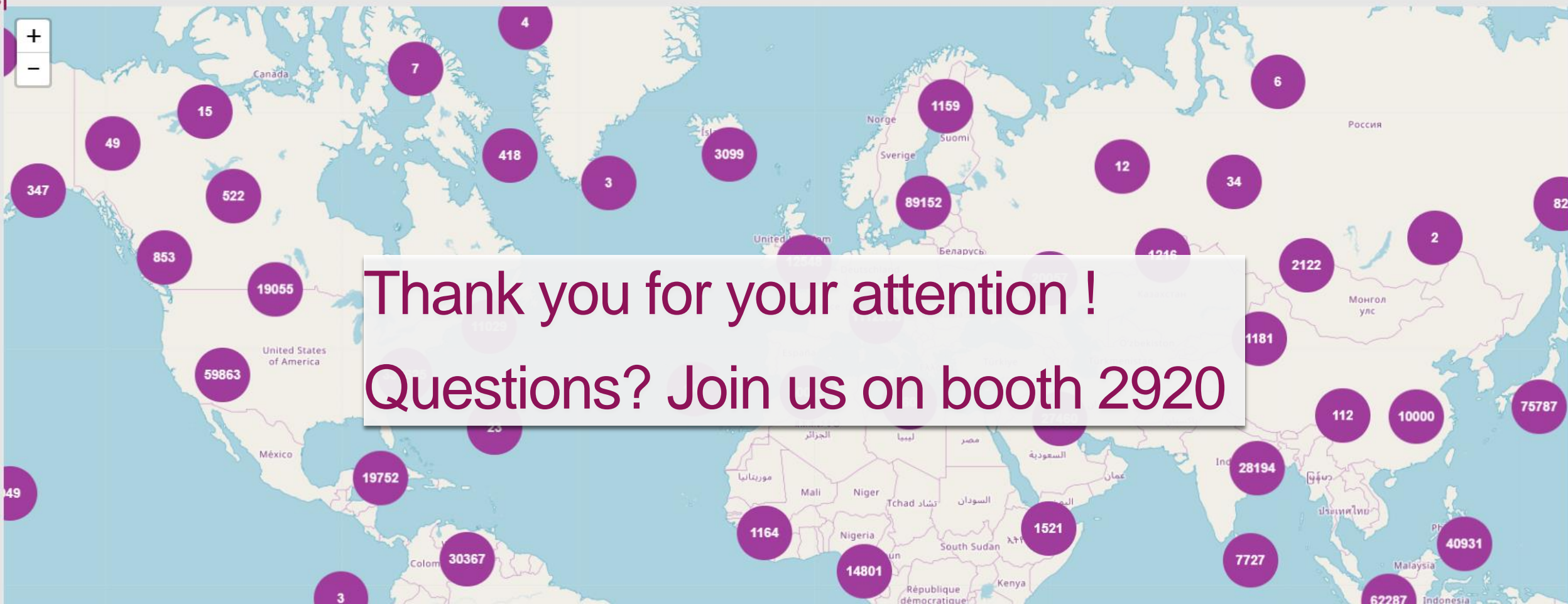
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