

RDA and Authority Data

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RDA and Authority data

- The standard RDA is based entirely on the IFLA Library Reference Model (IFLA LRM)..
- The LRM focuses on the description of resources, be it bibliographic or authority data.
- As an entity-relationship model, authority data are mandatory.
- Since its first editions, RDA itself has offered information on the description of authority data.
- So, no reason to talk about authority data?

Things have changed and evolved

- The requirements and the initial situation in the library world have changed substantially.
- New topics have been added.
- The technical possibilities have improved.

Situation in the Libraries

- Libraries, and here especially the cataloguing departments, have been suffering from dwindling resources for years.
- The pressure for less and faster cataloguing is enormous.
- There are also fewer and fewer appropriately trained staff available.
- This is the situation we find ourselves in all over the world.
- We will have to live with this development in the coming years.

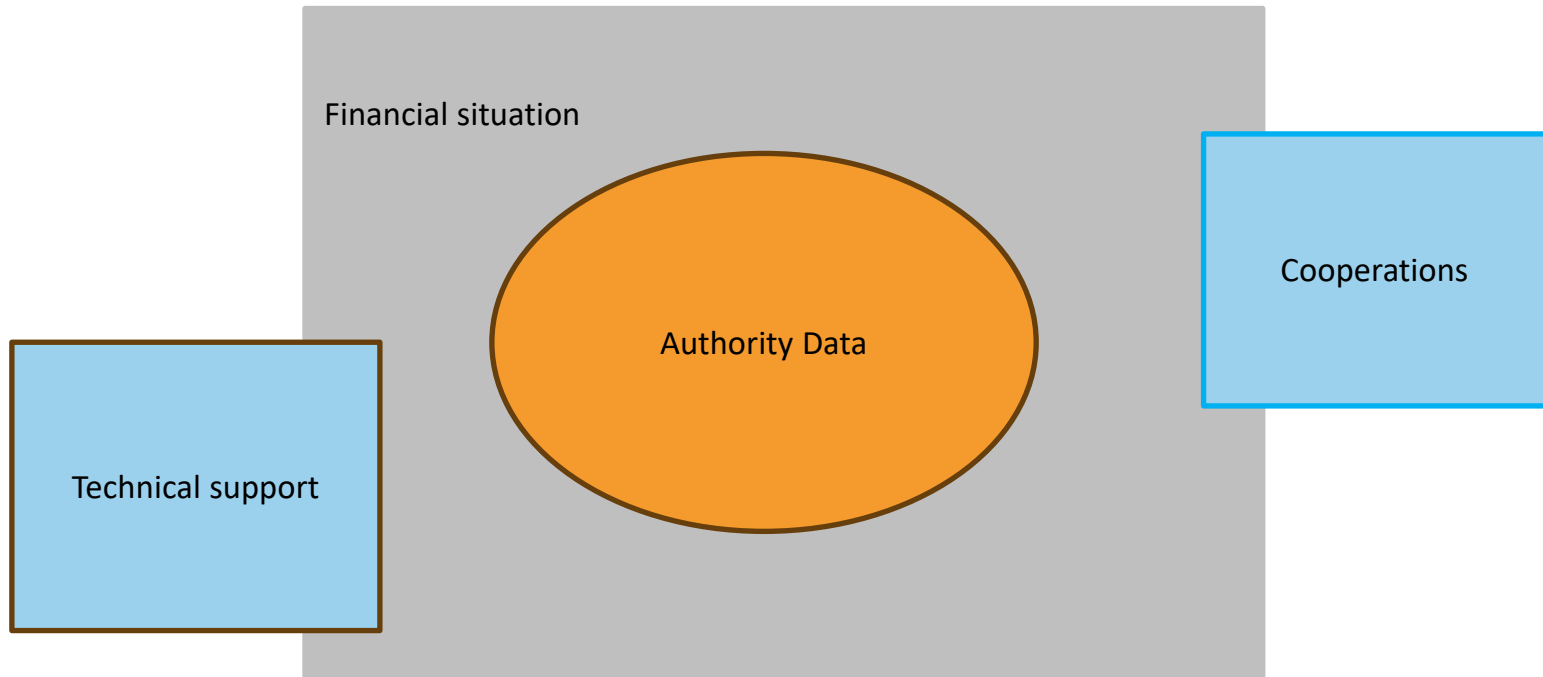
New Topics

- Libraries are no longer in silos.
- Collaboration with other cultural institutions are no longer exotic peripheral issues.
- In recent years, very valuable collaborations have been established here.
- This is a very welcome development that should be supported by all stakeholders.

Technical possibilities

- New technological developments, from reading pens to artificial intelligence, should help us solve some problems and will open up new paths.
- However, these are all just machines that need human intelligence to feed them the necessary information and regulations.

How can we best bring all this together, with the tools we already have now?



Authority data

- Authority data is one of the best-developed tool that we in the libraries have worked out over the years with a great deal of intellectual effort.
- There are large international authority files, maintained by reliable institutions. These databases contain authority data created according to internationally agreed standards.
- RDA is extremely committed to this standard.

Further development is necessary

- RDA as a standard is fundamentally in a process of continuous development. The newer working groups are important parts of this process.
- In the field of authority data, there will be more and more requirements for new entities in the coming years due to greater cooperation with museums and archives.
- E. g. the current requirements from performing arts or audiovisual media communities.

RDA versus LRM?

- RDA is completely committed to the IFLA LRM and all its derivatives like the LRMoo.
- RDA will not introduce any regulations or entities that contradict the LRM.
- On the other hand, RDA must and wants to develop further.

Cooperation with LRM

- In August 2023 the IFLA Bibliographic Conceptual Models Review Group (BCM RG), which is responsible for the LRM, made a fundamental decision.
- It was agreed that the LRM should develop further, under certain conditions.

Cooperation with RDA

- The RDA Steering Committee is actively involved in this process.
- Since August 2023 an official protocol with the IFLA Committee on Standards was approved from both sides.

Conclusion

- Authority data are the greatest common denominator worldwide for cultural institutions, which can be reused and exchanged worldwide and language-independently by means of stable identifiers. This applies to the simpler topics such as names of persons up to the very complex titles of works.
- Standards for cataloguing must become particularly active here in order to ensure consistency and quality at the same time as facing up to new demands.

Thank you for your attention and grateful
for your input!

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