Planning for implementation of official RDA Toolkit

Alan Danskin

National Library of UK

- 1 of 6 UK and Irish legal deposit libraries

London St. Pancras

Boston Spa, West Yorkshire

Cataloguers based at both sites
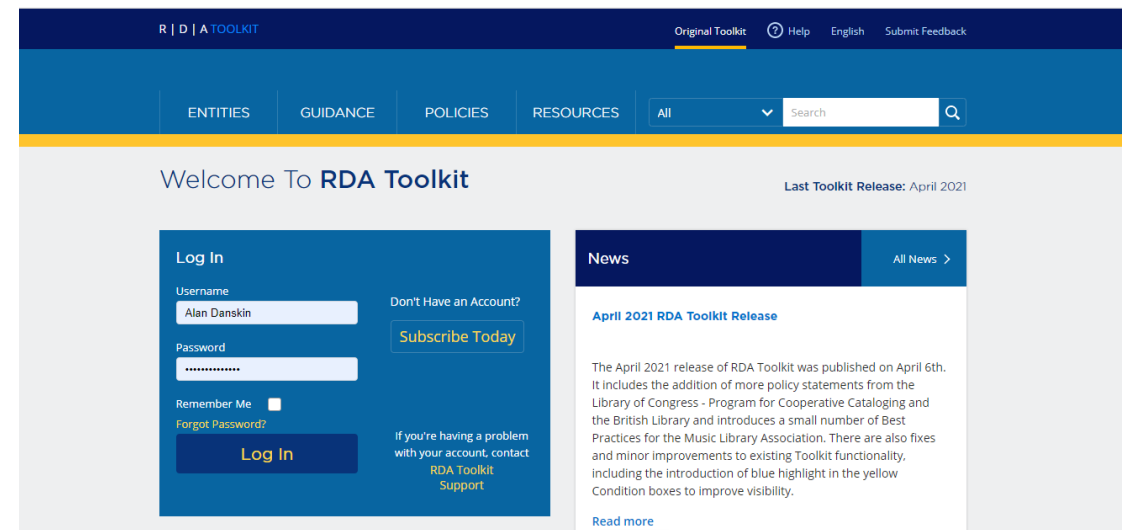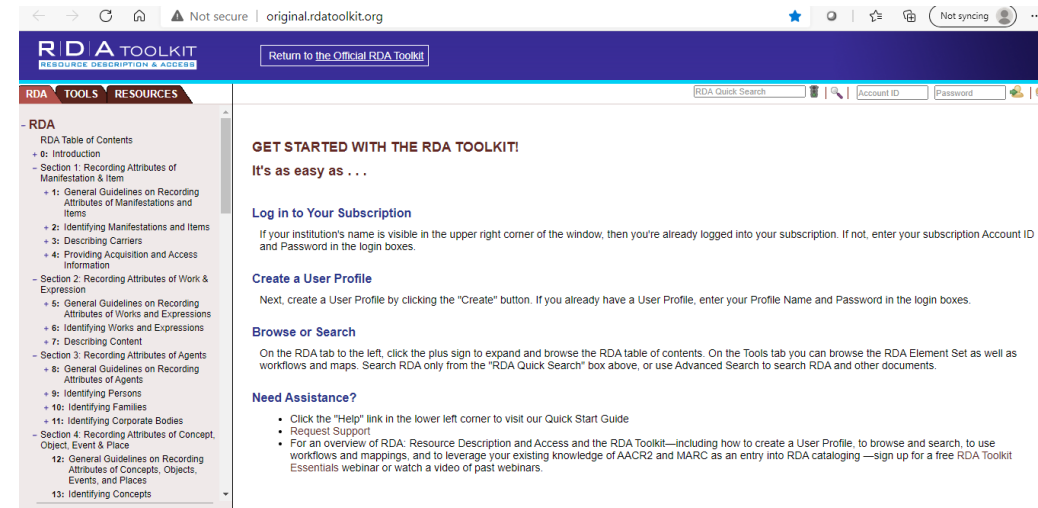
…but mainly at home

Background to the implementation

We are currently using the "original" RDA Toolkit

The implementation of the official Toolkit was expected to take place later this year.

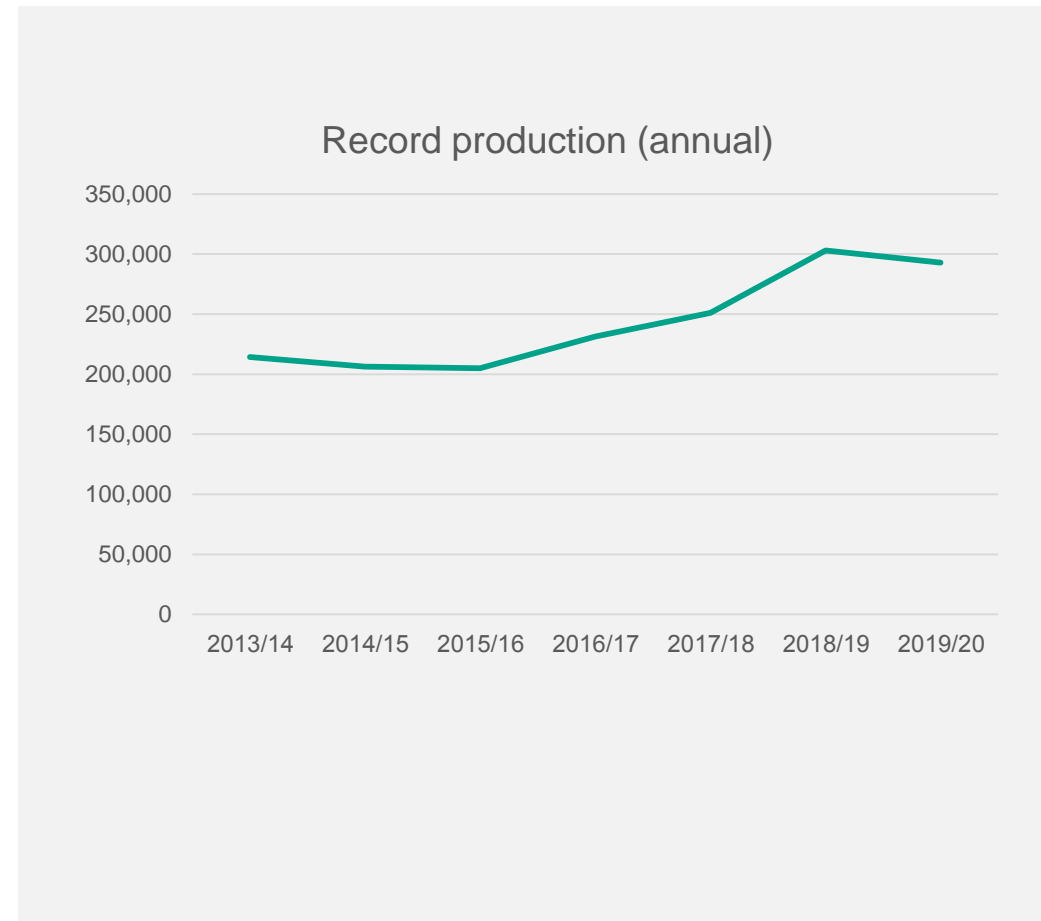But, as I reported previously, has been rescheduled to 2022.

Background to the implementation

RDA is used in our Aleph ILS

RDA is currently used to catalogue published materials: books: serials; maps; scores.

As you can see output has increased by about 50% since implementing RDA…but that may be coincidence

Record production (annual)

350,000	
300,000	
250,000	
200,000	
150,000	
100,000	
50,000	
0	

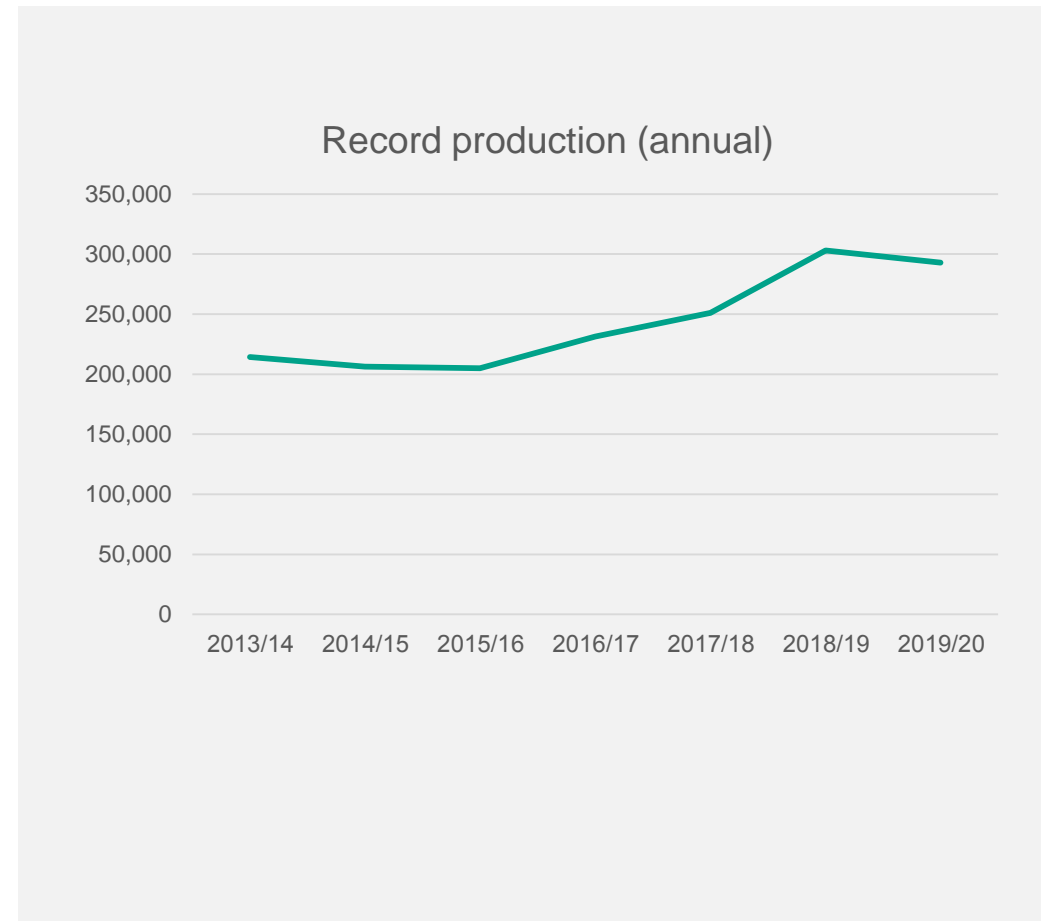2013/14 2014/15 2015/16 2016/17 2017/18 2018/19 2019/20

Audit of the British Library Catalogue 2019/20

"Light touch" Implementation

We are aiming for a light touch implementation

- Covid-19 impact remains uncertain

- We need to maintain output to support services and products

- Our current cataloguing and discovery systems are constraints on realization of benefits from RDA

Record production (annual)

Year	Records
2013/14	~213,000
2014/15	~207,000
2015/16	~205,000
2016/17	~230,000
2017/18	~250,000
2018/19	~303,000
2019/20	~293,000

"Light touch" Implementation

We are aiming for a light touch implementation

- Our Boston Spa site is undergoing a major redevelopment 2021-2025

- Hybrid/remote working for many staff, including cataloguers, extended to 2025

- This will be our first standards implementation to be carried out remotely.

"Light touch" implementation means:

Minimise impact on cataloguers and other stakeholders

Implementation will not occur earlier than July 2022

We do not anticipate any disruption to services arising from implementation of the official Toolkit.

We will continue to catalogue in MARC 21

- We will review impact of any MARC developments on productivity
- We expect to see an increased use of URIs and identifiers in our data

Implementation project

Planning has been more difficult under current circumstances

Approach influenced by "Agile" methodologies adopted by other internal projects

Factoring in extension of RDA to sound recordings

Internal Steering Group – overseeing and directing the project

Policy Working Group – In progress since 2019

Configuration Working Group

Documentation and Training Working Group

Legal Deposit Libraries' Metadata Sub-group on RDA 3R Implementation

Products

Products are mainly documentation:

- Policies

- Revised guidelines and workflows

- Training materials

Some training will need to be delivered remotely to staff

- We have a new "Learning Hub" which enables us to deliver courses to internal and external audiences.

We are discussing collaboration on documentation with Library of Congress and PCC

BRITISH LIBRARY

Closing remarks

RDA will be of long term benefit in realising metadata strategy goals to eliminate silos, improve discovery and converge workflows.

- In the short term, we are minimising the impact by changing as little as possible

- The primary outputs from our light touch implementation will be documentation and training materials.

- These will be shared through the Toolkit where appropriate and through our website and Learning Hub

My colleague Thurstan Young is going to provide more detail on RDA Policy statements and MARC 21 developments related to RDA.

Images

Slide 2:

[Aerial shot of the British Library at St Pancras. Photo credit: Tony Antoniou](#)

[British Library Boston Spa aerial shot (c) British Library](#)

Slide 4 Annual (MARC 21) record production. *Audit of British Library Catalogue 2019/20*

Slide 6

[View of new automated warehouse and new entrance to refurbished Urqhart building, across new landscaped square (Building 2 demolished), credit Slab / Carmody Groarke](#)

Thank you