

From Big Bang to beta

An overview of the 3R Project

Gordon Dunsire, Chair, RSC

Presented at “A Practical Introduction to the
New RDA Toolkit”

June 22, 2018, New Orleans, USA

R | D | A
Resource Description & Access

Impact of LRM

IFLA Library Reference Model (2017)

Agent, Collective Agent, Nomen, Place,
Timespan entities

Shift from attribute to relationship elements

Aggregate manifestations & serial works

Impact of internationalization

Different cataloguing practices

Different authority files and vocabularies

No “one way” of describing an entity

Many ways, many choices

New elements for access points

Impact of other communities

Special library materials

New elements and vocabularies

Archive and museum communities

Collections, curation, provenance

Linked data communities

IRI recording method, vocabulary notation

The Big Bang

One-time creation of all element files

Automated generation using RDA Registry data and template for standard sections

Specification refined over several test runs

The Wee Bang

One-time overlay of standard instructions for relationship elements (ex-designators)

Template uses boiler-plate guidance and instructions

Refined with “re-runs of the wee bang”

The numbers

13 entities

1700+ elements

Work	388	Agent	175
Expression	291	Person	85
Manifestation	282	Collective Agent	34
Item	70	Corporate Body	84
Place	45	Family	46
Timespan	54	Nomen	169
RDA Entity	27		

Focus on elements

Each element has own “page”

Elements grouped by entity “chapter”

Element reference section

Element recording methods

Navigation to “nearest neighbour” elements

Navigation

Search

Exact match, keywords

Entity page elements list

Alphabetical browse; active filter

Relationship matrix

Hierarchical browse; excludes attributes

Glossary

Alphabetical browse

Optional instructions

Many instructions now clearly indicated as options

Nothing is (or was) mandatory
Except “nomen string”

Choice of recording method
Depends on data application

“Core” less useful at global level

Application profiles

What elements must be recorded?

What elements should be recorded?

What elements may be repeated?

What vocabularies are used?

What recording methods are used?

Multiple ways: bookmarks, policy statements, workflows, external documents

Data provenance

Who made the metadata statement?

When was it stated?

Where did the values come from?

What standards were applied?

The trick: treat each statement or set as a work

Then apply RDA

Instruction display

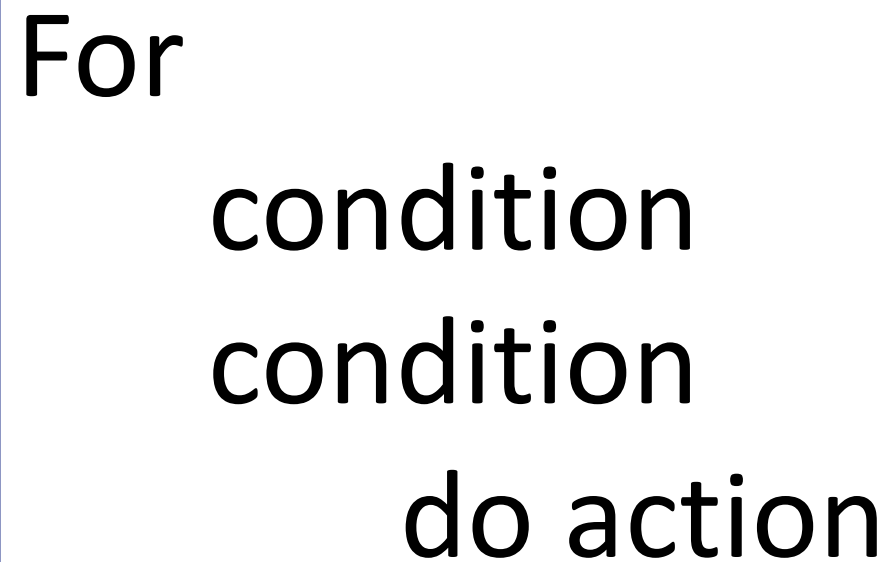
No options nested within options

Exceptions and alternatives are just other options

Structured display



Decision points



For
condition
condition
do action

Shredding

= Reformating current instructions

New element structure

Explicit recording methods

Flatten nested options, exceptions, alternatives

Layout of “for ... do” and “if ... then” conditions

Separation of transcription, recording, and
access point construction

Elements with new labels

Element label changed for consistency
Old label retained as alternative label =
“see” reference in Glossary

Example: “publisher’s name” see “name of publisher”

Soft deprecation

Element is same as a recording method of another element

Element retained, but other element and method is a preferred option

Example: “Details of ...” prefer root element with unstructured description

Non-preferred elements will be reviewed down the line

What's left to do?

Editing for clarity and consistency
(more shredding)

Distinguishing instructions for
name/title and access point elements

New instructions for aggregates and serials

Tweaks, refinements, feedback

We want to hear from you

The product

A package of data elements, guidelines, and instructions for creating library and cultural heritage resource metadata that are well-formed according to international models for user-focussed linked data applications.

A package that meets the resource description and access needs of the 21st century

