

# LRM and RDA : overview of the 3R Project

Gordon Dunsire, Chair, RSC

Presented at “The redesigned RDA Toolkit: what you  
need to know to get ready”,

Montréal, Québec, Canada, 22 October 2018

R | D | A  
Resource Description & Access

# 3R Project

## RDA Toolkit Restructure and Redesign

Modern responsive design

Users of mobile devices

Users with sensory preferences

RDA content infrastructure

Convert to DITA standard

Increase re-use of RDA Reference data

IFLA Library Reference Model

RDA Board strategy

# RDA

“RDA is 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.”

**RDA Toolkit** provides the user-focussed elements, guidelines, and instructions.

**RDA Registry** provides the infrastructure for well-formed, linked, RDA data applications.

# LRM

## 2017: Library Reference Model

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

LRM consolidates the FR family of models

1998: FR for Bibliographic **Records** (FRBR)

2009: FR for Authority **Data** (FRAD)

2010: FR for Subject Authority Data (FRSAD)

2011: Working Group on Aggregates report

# LRM and RDA

RDA was based on most of FRBR, some of FRAD, all of FRSAD (but mostly out of scope), and none of WGoA

LRM is the opportunity to fill in gaps and reconcile incoherencies

# Is LRM suitable for RDA?

LRM “a high-level conceptual model ... intended as a guide or basis on which to elaborate cataloguing rules”

↳ RDA guidance, instructions, elements

“operates at a greater level of generality than FRBRoo, which seeks to be comparable in terms of generality with CIDOC CRM”

↳ RDA cultural heritage communities

LRM “this model is developed very much with semantic web technologies in mind”

↳ RDA linked data communities

# LRM as a model

High-level conceptual model

Entity-relationship structure

Intended for refinement by implementations

By sub-typing entities, relationships, and attributes

# LRM entities

## Retained:

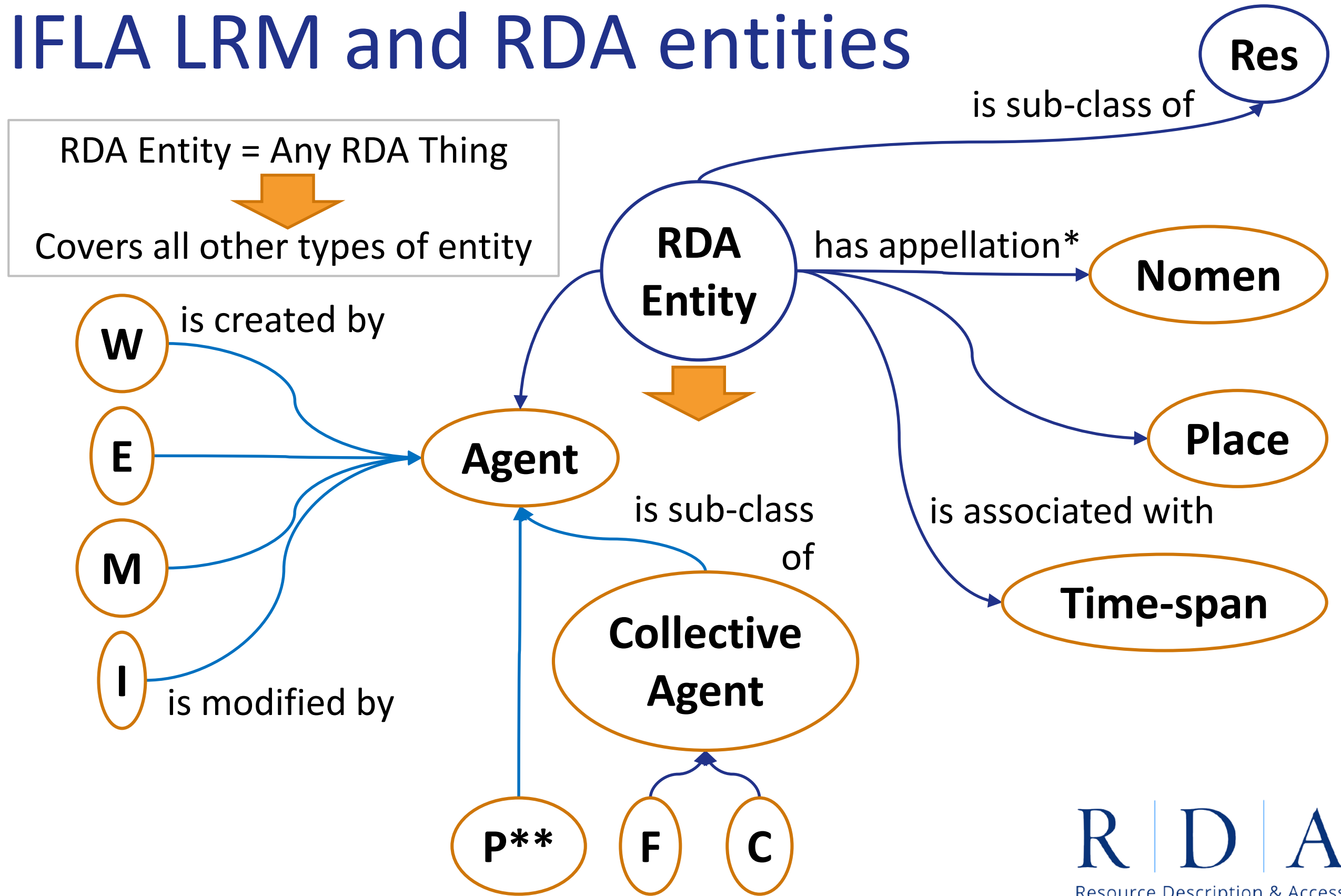
Work, Expression, Manifestation, Item,  
Person\*\*

## Added:

Agent, Collective Agent, Nomen, Place,  
Time-span  
+ Res (super-class of other entities)



# IFLA LRM and RDA entities



# Beta release

Foundational structure for the organization of elements, instructions, and guidance

Combines

- The organization of entities, attributes, and relationships in the IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM)
- The extension of RDA as an implementation of the LRM and resolution of gaps and inconsistencies in RDA
- Explicit provision of recording methods to improve support for RDA data applications

# Elements

Element is the unit of focus in the new Toolkit  
e.g. “performer” has a “page” all to itself

New elements for access points

Distinction between attribute and relationship  
elements is dependent on the recording method

New entities  more relationships  more inverses  
 Many more elements

# 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		

# Modular structure

Instructions are grouped by element and recording method

Finer granularity is more flexible for a wider range of applications

Every element page has the same basic structure

RDA Reference data are maintained and displayed separately from guidance and instructions

Reference data are extracted from the RDA Registry

# RDA Registry

Linked data representations of RDA Reference

Entities (classes)

Relationships and attributes (properties)

Controlled terminologies (concepts)

+ Translations

+ Maps (e.g. to ISBD, MARC Relators, MARC 21)

Open license (BY)

# Registry data in Toolkit

## 3R Project

Basic structure of all element “pages”  
generated from Registry

## Regular releases

Element page

Definition and scope; Element reference;

Related elements

Glossary

Vocabulary encoding schemes

Relationship matrix

# Element page structure

Definition and Scope  
Element Reference

Prerecording

Recording

Recording an unstructured description

Recording a structured description

Recording an identifier

Recording an IRI

Related Elements

Instructions

RDA Reference

R | D | A  
Resource Description & Access



# Recording methods

Extended to all elements

Confined to relationships in original Toolkit

Linked data “method” now explicit

4 methods = “4-fold path”

Unstructured description

Structured description

Identifier

IRI

# Boilerplate

Guidance, instruction, and navigation content components that are re-used in multiple pages in the Toolkit

Re-usable components are updated once  
And translated once

Repetition is a desirable feature of the new Toolkit

- Improves consistency and understanding
- Supports a modular editorial infrastructure
- Reduces costs

# Instructions

There are no rules!

Most instructions are now optional

Accommodates local practice in a global framework

Instructions assigned to recording methods

Much more choice

☞ Flexibility 😊

☞ How to choose? 😞

# Optional instructions

## Internationalization

No “one way” of describing and accessing a resource



Two or more recording methods are valid for many elements



No element is mandatory [except “nomen string”]  
Same as original Toolkit



Most instructions are optional

Application profile is required to manage choice

# Application profile

What elements must be recorded?

What elements should be recorded?

What elements may be repeated?

What vocabularies are used?

What recording methods are used?

What options are used?

# Application profiles in RDA Toolkit

Multiple ways:

Bookmarks and notes

Policy statements

Workflows and other user documentation

External documents

Range of contexts, usage, and sharing

# Bookmark + note

ENTITIES

GUIDANCE

POLICIES

RESOURCES

## place of p

**place of publication**



Use structured description only. Record no more than 3 values.

### Definition and Scope

A place associated with the publication, release, or issuing of a published manifestation.

# Conditions

Many instructions apply only when one or more conditions is met

- Kind of resource being described
- Specific characteristic of resource being described
- Existence of pre-recorded data
- Etc.

“Alternative” = option for the same set of conditions

“Exception” = different set of conditions



## **CONDITION**

More than one value appears on the source of information for the element.

## **OPTION**

Record a value that appears first on the source of information.

## **OPTION**

Record each of one or more values in the order indicated by the sequence, layout, or typography of the source of information.

# Translations

Modular structure supports translation  
Boilerplate; standard phrasing

RDA Reference is translated independently of  
other Toolkit content  
Translated data processed in the same way  
as English data

## RSC/Policy/6 - Translation Policy for RDA and RDA Toolkit

**Document type:**

Policy

**Year:**

2016

**Document number:**

RSC-Policy-6

- [RSC/Policy/6 \[2016/01/28\]](#)

### **RSC Translations Working Group (2015- )**

Chair

Daniel Paradis

See [terms of reference](#) and [current membership/tasks](#) of the RSC Translations Working Group.

# The new RDA Toolkit

A package of data elements, guidelines,  
and instructions ...

A package that meets the resource description  
and access needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

# Thank you!

RDA Steering Committee

<http://www.rda-rsc.org/>

RDA presentations

<http://www.rda-rsc.org/node/560>

RDA Toolkit

<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/>