

To: RDA Steering Committee
From: Gordon Dunsire, Chair, RSC
Subject: Terms of reference for the RSC Rare Materials Working Group

General terms of reference

The RSC Rare Materials Working Group will conduct its business within the general terms of reference for RSC Working Groups.

Background

The RSC develops *RDA: Resource Description and Access* for use by international communities, cultural heritage communities, and linked data communities.

The treatment of materials that are rare because of limited production or survival of extant copies has focused on printed materials commonly found in library collections. The RSC wishes to develop the *RDA* elements, guidance, and instructions to accommodate the wider range of rare materials found in the collections of RDA users.

The RSC expects to expand the coverage and refine the detail of the description of and access to rare items. *RDA* is based on the FRBR, FRAD, and FRSAD conceptual models and is designed to be extended and refined. The RSC is reviewing the impact of the proposed consolidation of those models as the FRBR-Library Reference Model.

The RSC liaised with the ACRL/RBMS Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials Task Force during 2015 on the integration of an RDA-compatible successor to *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials*. This has produced further evidence of the need to develop RDA.

The RSC decided at its meeting in November 2015 to implement a Working Group to carry out tasks related to the treatment of rare materials in *RDA*.

Charge (duties and responsibilities)

The Group is charged to:

- Assist the RSC in developing the treatment of rare materials in *RDA*.