

To: RDA Steering Committee
From: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
Subject: FT2024-05: Revising Data Provenance Guidance

The text below sets out the decisions taken by the RDA Steering Committee during its meeting 15-18 April 2024.

The Technical Team Liaison Officer alerted the RSC to the need to update the Data Provenance Guidance in the RDA Toolkit. The acceptance of the Collections Model in RDA has led to a slight revision of the categorization of *metadata works*. A *metadata description set* was previously defined as “One or more metadata statements that describe and relate individual instances of one or more entities”. It is now defined as “A metadata work that is an aggregating work that is a plan to select and arrange one or more expressions of one or more metadata statements that describe one or more individual instances of RDA entities and embody them in an aggregate. The plan may be part of an application profile”. The concept of a *metadata statement* is essentially unchanged.

Voting members of the RSC approved the new text submitted by the Technical Team Liaison Officer as RSC/FT2024-05 ([RSC/Minutes/456-468](#) Item 461.2).

The following changes will, therefore, be implemented:

Marked-up version

Data provenance provides information about the metadata that is recorded in an element or set of elements. This information can be used to infer the context and quality of the metadata.

For general guidance on recording the provenance of nomens, see Guidance: Nomens and appellations. [Data provenance of nomens](#).

The metadata being described by data provenance is treated as a *metadata work* and may be categorized as a *metadata statement* or a *metadata description set*.

A *metadata statement* is a piece of metadata that assigns a value to an RDA element that describes an individual instance of an RDA entity.

A *metadata description set* is an *aggregating work* that is a plan to select and arrange one or more expressions of one or more *metadata statements* that describe one or more individual instances of RDA entities and embody them in an *aggregate*.

For example, a descriptive catalogue record ~~is a set of statements about that is realized in a specific encoding scheme and embodied by a carrier such as a microfiche or online manifestation~~ is an *aggregate* of expressions of *metadata statements* describing a specific *information resource* that often includes ~~subsets of statements for the work, expression, manifestation, and item that constitute the resource. The catalogue record is a *metadata work* that is realized in a specific encoding scheme and embodies by a carrier such as a microfiche or online manifestation or online manifestation.~~ also embodies a *metadata description set* that selects and arranges the *metadata statements* describing a specific *information resource*.

~~A *metadata work* may include statements about two or more entities. The entities may be related or unrelated.~~

~~A single *metadata statement* is a *metadata work* in itself. It is in turn part of a larger *metadata work* that consists of multiple *metadata statements* about one or more entities. Ultimately every *metadata description set* is part of a larger *metadata work* that is the set of all *metadata statements* about all entities.~~

A *metadata description set* may be a plan that includes statements about two or more entities. The entities may be related or unrelated. The plan may be documented as part of an *application profile*.

A *metadata description set* may also be embodied in an *aggregate* that embodies multiple *metadata description sets*. ~~This~~ The “largest” *metadata description set* is the plan for selecting all *metadata statements* about all entities. It is assumed to be open for ~~the addition of new~~ selecting additional *metadata statements* and is therefore incomplete. The completeness of any “smaller” *metadata description set* is relative to a specific application and may be specified by an *application profile*.

Data provenance can be recorded ~~at any level of granularity of description by defining an appropriate part of a metadata work~~ for a *metadata statement* or a *metadata description set*.

A *metadata work* may be described using any appropriate RDA elements and recording methods.

Clean version

Data provenance provides information about the metadata that is recorded in an element or set of elements. This information can be used to infer the context and quality of the metadata.

For general guidance on recording the provenance of nomens, see Guidance: Nomens and appellations. [Data provenance of nomens](#).

The metadata being described by data provenance is treated as a *metadata work* and may be categorized as a *metadata statement* or a *metadata description set*.

A *metadata statement* is a piece of metadata that assigns a value to an RDA element that describes an individual instance of an RDA entity.

A *metadata description set* is an *aggregating work* that is a plan to select and arrange one or more expressions of one or more *metadata statements* that describe one or more individual instances of RDA entities and embody them in an *aggregate*.

For example, a descriptive catalogue record that is realized in a specific encoding scheme and embodied by a carrier such as a microfiche or online manifestation is an *aggregate* of expressions of *metadata statements* describing a specific *information resource* that often includes statements for the work, expression, manifestation, and item that constitute the resource. The catalogue record also embodies a *metadata description set* that selects and arranges the *metadata statements* describing a specific *information resource*.

A *metadata description set* may be a plan that includes statements about two or more entities. The entities may be related or unrelated. The plan may be documented as part of an *application profile*.

A *metadata description set* may also be embodied in an *aggregate* that embodies multiple *metadata description sets*. The “largest” *metadata description set* is the plan for selecting all *metadata statements* about all entities. It is assumed to be open for selecting additional *metadata statements* and is therefore incomplete. The completeness of any “smaller” *metadata description set* is relative to a specific application and may be specified by an *application profile*.

Data provenance can be recorded for a *metadata statement* or a *metadata description set*.

A metadata work may be described using any appropriate RDA elements and recording methods.