To: RDA Board and RDA Steering Committee
From: Renate Behrens, RSC Chair
Subject: RSC Report, March 2024

This report was prepared by Renate Behrens, RSC Chair, with assistance from the RSC Secretary, Anne Welsh, and input from the rest of the RSC.

Since the last Board meeting, the RSC has met asynchronously in January (RSC/Minutes/444-455).

The RSC published its *Action Plan 2024-2026* (RSC/Chair/2024/1) in January 2024, drawing on the *RDA Board Strategic Plan 2023-2025*, alongside its *Annual Report 2023*.

RDA Toolkit

24 January 2024

"The January 2024 release includes a couple of improvements to the RDA Toolkit, a couple of element name changes, and the introduction of a policy statements from Library and Archives Canada/Bibliothèque et Archives Canada in both English and French (LAC PS and BAC ÉP respectively).

One new enhancement to the Toolkit is a new display of locally shared notes in user's profile collection. Once users are logged into their profiles, they can click on "Bookmarks and Notes" in the top menu bar, and they will now find a separate section for locally shared notes. Reminder: Locally shared notes are shared only with profiles associated with the same institutional account.

The other new feature is that all policy statement sets are now available to view no matter which RDA language you select. For example, users can now read the French language BAC ÉP while viewing the English language RDA text, and vice versa. Please read "Setting Up Multilingual Display in RDA Toolkit" to activate this new feature.
Changes to RDA terminology and practice are listed in the table below. Two of them involve changes to element names and arose from a proposal (RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2) by the Place/Jurisdiction Working Group that was accepted by the RDA Steering Committee at their October meeting.

The release updates the French and Norwegian translations, bringing them up to date with the September 2023 release of the Toolkit. The Finnish translation is current with the English RDA text. Updates to policy statements from the British Library, Library of Congress - Program for Cooperative Cataloging, National Library of Finland and National Library of New Zealand were updated as well. The new LAC PS/BAC ÉP are limited to Manifestation elements in this

release" (January 2024 RDA Toolkit Release | RDA Toolkit). RDA Toolkit subscribers can also access 'Notes on the January 24, 2024 RDA Toolkit Release'.

RDA Registry

The RDA Registry contains vocabularies that represent the RDA entities, elements, and controlled terminologies as RDA element sets and RDA value vocabularies in Resource Description Framework (RDF). Data contained in the Registry populate the Glossary, vocabulary encoding scheme term lists, and sections of each element page in the RDA Toolkit.

Release v5.0.19, January 2024

"This release corrects errors in the lexical aliases in the Unconstrained element set. The suffix .en was missing from the following elements:
- rdau:P61048
- rdau:P61047
- rdau:P61007"

(Release Release v5.0.19 · RDARegistry/RDA-Vocabularies · GitHub).

RDA Content

The following proposals and Fast Tracks were approved in January 2024[1]:

1 FT2024-01: Definition for "printer agent of", etc.

Sought to provide text to the existing definitions of four elements to bring their wording in line with their inverses. Discussed in the January 2024 RSC Meeting (RSC/Minutes/444-455 Item 448.1). RSC/FT2024-01/Decisions published (website | repository) on 17 February and will be implemented by the Technical Team Liaison Officer in the March Toolkit Release.

In the course of the discussion, it became clear that there was a further issue outwith the scope of this Fast Track: whether printed content has to be "manufactured … from type or plates" and the Secretary was asked to prepare FT2024-04: Definition for "printer agent of" etc. and "content from type or plates" (RSC/Minutes/444-455 Item 448.1.3).

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[1] FT2024-02: Definition for "issuing agent of", etc. was discussed in the January 2024 RSC Meeting (RSC/Minutes/444-455 Item 448.2) where it was decided that the Technical Working Group would review the terms and present the RSC with a proposal, Fast Track proposal, or Discussion Paper as they see most appropriate (RSC/Minutes/444-455 Item 448.2.1). RSC/FT2024-02/Decisions was published (website | repository) on 17 February.

2   FT2024-03: Ordinal numbers

Based on feedback from the community in the Guidelines on normalized transcription in the section on Numbers (RDA 60.48.42.92). Several conditions referring to specific languages were highlighted, with the suggestion that these be moved to Community Resources. Discussed in the January 2024 RSC Meeting (RSC/Minutes/444-455 Item 448.3). RSC/FT2024-03/Decisions published (website | repository) on 7 February and has been implemented by the RSC Secretary for publication in the March Toolkit Release.

Working Groups

Examples Working Group

Jessica Grzegorski's (RDA Examples Editor), has established a regular monthly online meeting pattern for the Examples Working Group, with recordings available for those unable to attend a particular meeting. The next meeting will be on 19 March. RSC/Chair/2024/2 updates the membership and charges of the group.

Technical Working Group

RSC/Chair/2024/5 updates the membership and charge of the Technical Working Group.

Translations Working Group

RSC/Chair/2024/6 updates the membership and charge of the Translations Working Group.

Task-and-Finish Working Groups

1   Joint Board/RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence

As requested by the Board, the Chair of the Board and the RSC Chair reached out to members of the RSC for volunteer members of this Working Group. We are pleased to report that the RSC membership of this Working Group will be:

Renate Behrens (RSC Chair)
Charlene Chou (RSC Wider Community Engagement Officer)
Ahava Cohen (Europe Representative to the RSC)

The next stage is for volunteers to come forward from the Board, and for a charge document to be prepared. The RSC Secretary has RSC/Chair/2024/7 in preparation as a DRAFT charge document, and will be happy to add the research question(s) the group will undertake as part of

their work; the date by which the work is to be completed; and any background documents that should be included as references.

2   Discharged Working Groups

In January 2024, RSC Chair Renate Behrens gave official thanks to members of the Official Languages Working Group and the Place/Jurisdiction Working Group for their service and discharged the groups.

RSC/Chair/2024/8, which discharges the Official Languages Working Group has been sent to the Chair of the Working Group, Peter Rolla, today, and will be published on the RSC website (and archived to ALAIR) next week, to give him time to distribute to the Working Group members.

RSC/Chair/2024/9, which discharges the Place/Jurisdiction Working Group will be sent to the Chair of the Working Group, Esther Scheven, and will be published on the RSC website (and archived to ALAIR) next week, to give her time to distribute to the Working Group.

3   Extent

The Extent Working Group has expert members from Canada, Scotland, Switzerland and the USA, and is chaired by Thomas Brenndorfer. Damian Iseminger (Technical Team Liaison Officer) is an ex officio member. It has continued to meet online throughout 2024 and is working towards a discussion paper for the RSC in 2024, covering the topics outlined in section 4 of its charge document, RSC/Chair/2024/3:

- Manifestation: extent of manifestation
- Expression: extent of expression
- Expression: duration
- Manifestation: dimensions
- Manifestation: dimensions of cartographic image
- Manifestation: dimensions of still image
- Work: extent of representative expression
- Work: duration of representative expression

Because this work is ongoing, its charge has been extended from its original period (2022-2023) till December 2024.

4 Religions in RDA Working Group

The Religions in RDA Working Group has expert members from Germany, Israel and the USA. Its ex officio member is Charlene Chou (Wider Community Engagement Officer). It is chaired by David Roth. In its initial period of appointment (2022-2023), it submitted two proposals:

RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/1: Religious Titles

The Religions in RDA Working Group was charged to identify examples of religious and Western bias in the toolkit. One of the issues which we identified was the presence of problematic options related to access points for persons. These options are specific to one religion and their application to other religions is often unclear. Even if there were a clear parallel in another religion, the options assume enough awareness of the tenets of Catholicism to know what would be parallel. Furthermore, the fact that all of the options relate to one religion is inherently biased. A comprehensive list which would include all religions would be impractical to create and would always be incomplete. Therefore, the options should be removed. Instructions on the inclusion of titles for specific religions should be community based and not part of base RDA.

RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/1 is available on the RSC website and with a stable URI in the institutional repository. The discussion at the July Meeting is recorded as Item 408 in RSC/Minutes/393-412 (and with stable URI in the repository).

Its recommendations were approved on a majority vote on the understanding that all these options were covered in RDA by the general option (06.58.35.33) to "Include an appropriate designation associated with a person in a language preferred by the agent who creates the metadata." There was one absence and one acceptance. The RSC accepted Past Chair Kathy Glennan's suggestion (RSC/Minutes/393-412 Item 408.6) to delay implementation until the resolution of issues dealing with the elements term of rank or honour or office and creator corporate body of work and the glossary term official communication.

RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/1/Decisions (website | repository) was implemented in the January 2024 release of the RDA Toolkit.

RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2: Proposal to Revise Term of Rank or Honour or Office

Proposed changes to the instructions for the element Person: term of rank or honour or office (http://rdaregistry.info/Elements/a/P50110). This is related to tasks 2 and 3 of the charge (RSC/Chair/2023/4) to review instructions that address religious agents and to consider where general, internationally applicable instructions should be placed and how they should be framed. This proposal eliminated some conditions, condition options, and options that are specific to Christian denominations from base RDA, added a new general condition and condition option group that is not specific to Christianity, and generalized the condition group

on terms of address for religious vocation. It also proposed a change to the definition of the element to make it applicable to religious denominations beyond those in Christianity.

The original proposal, RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2, is available on the RSC website and with a stable URI in the institutional repository. The discussion in the meeting is recorded as Item 419 in RSC/Minutes/413-443 (and with stable URI in the repository).

RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2 consisted of 3 recommendations. They were all approved by voting members of the RSC, with some changes to the wording proposed by the working group. RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2/Decisions (website | repository) was implemented in the January 2024 release of the RDA Toolkit.

Because its work is ongoing, its charge (RSC/Chair/2024/4) has been extended from its original period (2022-2023) till December 2024.

Collaboration with Other Groups

Following the successful review of liaison documents between the RSC and IFLA, in 2024 a focus of the Chair's work will be reviewing other liaison documents with other international organizations.

Outreach

Members of the RSC continued to contribute to the RDA Toolkit Webinar series and to provide presentations across all three Regions and beyond. Since the publication of the *Annual Report 2023*, these have been our activities:

Renate Behrens, 'Libraries in Upheaval: A Job Profile Put to the Test = Biblioteche in ferment: un profile professionale messo alla prova', Lectio Magistralis in Biblioteconomia, University of Florence, 6 March 2024. Ebook available for download from torrossa.com.

Damian Iseminger, 'Making RDA Work for You: Leveraging the Semantic Coherency of the RDA Element Set', RDA Toolkit Webinar, 26 February. Video recording available on the RDA Toolkit YouTube channel.

Robert L. Maxwell, 'RDA Updates with Robert Mazwell', COSUGI Pre-conference, Utah Valley Convention Center, 5 March 2024.

Process and Communication

Several posts have been made to the RSC News and Announcements page in 2024, including the publication of RSC/Minutes/413-443; RSC/Minutes/444-455; and the Annual Report and Action Plan.

- Charlene Chou Begins Second Term as Wider Community Engagement Officer (4 January)
- Starting 2024 with a Permanent RSC Education and Orientation Officer [Elisa Sze] (4 January)
- New RDA Examples Editor [Jessica Grzegorski] Appointed (5 January 2024)
- [Proposal on] Dual-language naming of Corporate Body and Place (4 March 2024)
- Proposal to revise the element hierarchy for appellations of work groups (7 March 2024)

Further announcements will be posted this week, as the Secretary processes the Fast Track proposals for the April meeting.

Both the Director of ALA Digital Reference and the RSC Secretary have made announcements to RDA-L, including:

- Register as an observer for the RSC January Meeting; call for host for November meeting; plus other RDA Steering Committee news (12 January)
- RSC January Meeting Minutes and other documents (19 February)
- RDA Elements Webinar (23 February)

Other members of the RSC, and especially the Regional Representatives and Wider Community Engagement Officer, cascade information to their communities and the wider RDA cataloguing community.