To: RDA Board
RDA Steering Committee

From: Colleen Barbus, RDA Board Chair
Renate Behrens, RSC Chair

Subject: Working Group on Artificial Intelligence

At the January 2024 RSC Meeting, Colleen Barbus and Renate Behrens informed the RSC of the RDA Board's intention to form a joint working group on Artificial Intelligence (RSC/Minutes/444-455 Item 446.5).

1   Background

Artificial Intelligence is a growth area of interest in cataloguing, librarianship and society in general. It seems timely for the RDA Board and RDA Steering Committee to investigate potential uses and threats present in the production of RDA. With this in mind, the RDA Board suggested a joint Working Group be established in 2024.

As a first step, volunteers were sought from the RSC. Charlene Chou (who also serves on the PCC Task Group on Strategic Planning for AI and Machine Learning) and Ahava Cohen (who managed staff responsible for AI projects at the National Library of Israel) volunteered to serve alongside RSC Chair Renate Behrens and RDA Board Chair Colleen Barbus.

At the March 2024 RDA Board meeting, RSC Chair Renate Behrens reported on the work of the RSC to establish the Working Group, and Board members Christian Aliverti and Judith Cannan volunteered to serve.

2   Membership

Ahava Cohen, Europe Representative to the RSC, Chair

Colleen Barbus, RDA Board Chair
Christian Aliverti, RDA Board
Judith Cannan, RDA Board
Renate Behrens, RSC Chair
Charlene Chou, RSC Wider Community Engagement Officer

James Hennelly, ALA Digital Reference *ex officio*

3   Terms of Reference

The Working Group operates within [RSC/Operations/3](#), the general terms of reference for RSC Working Groups. As a task-and-finish group, the Working Group has a two-year term, 2024-2025.

4   Tasks

1. Review the documents in the reference sources section for fuller context of the issues.

2. Research the following questions:

   - Are there examples of currently live production services in which AI is being used to create catalogue data? If so, are these using RDA or other standards? Which AI technologies are they using?
   - How might AI assist in the implementation of RDA? How might it hinder the implementation of RDA?
   - What are the ethical implications of using AI that might affect RDA?
   - Are there copyright or other intellectual property considerations with regard to AI that might apply to the implementation of the RDA Toolkit?

3. Prepare a report for the RDA Board, and a discussion paper for the RSC. Guidelines for Discussion Papers are set out in [RSC/Operations/5/2024](#).

5. Provide brief progress reports to the RDA Board and the RSC for each meeting. The RSC Secretary will prompt the Working Group Chair before each RSC meeting; the RDA Board Chair will prompt the Working Group Chair before each Board meeting.

6. Provide an interim report to the RDA Board and the RSC in December 2024. The RSC Secretary will prompt the Working Group Chair for this.

7. Provide a final report to the RDA Board and the RSC in December 2025. The RSC Secretary will prompt the Working Group Chair for this.

5   Reference sources provided to the Working Group in 2024

- [United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/78/L.49 Seizing the Opportunities of Safe, Secure and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence Systems for Sustainable Development, 11 March 2024](#)
- [*IFLA Statement on Libraries and Artificial Intelligence*, Agreed by the IFLA Governing Board, 17 September 2020](#)
- [*PCC Tast Group on Strategic Planning for AI and Machine Learning for Cataloging and Metadata: Final Report*, 15 April 2024](#)
- [IFLA Artificial Intelligence Special Interest Group. *23 Resources to Get Up to Speed on AI in 2023*](#)
- [Andrew M. Cox. *The Impact of AI, Machine Learning, Automation and Robotics on the Information Professions: A report for CILIP*, May 2021](#)