RDA past
RDA future

RDA 2019
IFLA satellite
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Chair, RDA Board

A quick glance at:

- where does RDA come from

- where is RDA going?

- has the direction changed?

- how surprised should we be?

In the beginning

Statement of purpose – *JSC Strategic Plan for RDA, 2005-2009*
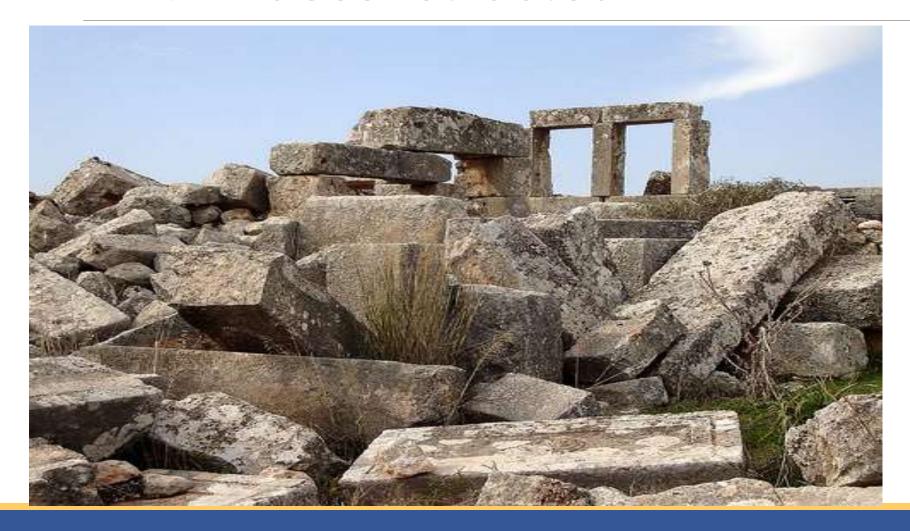
- a new standard … designed for the digital world.

- built on foundations established by the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules* (AACR)
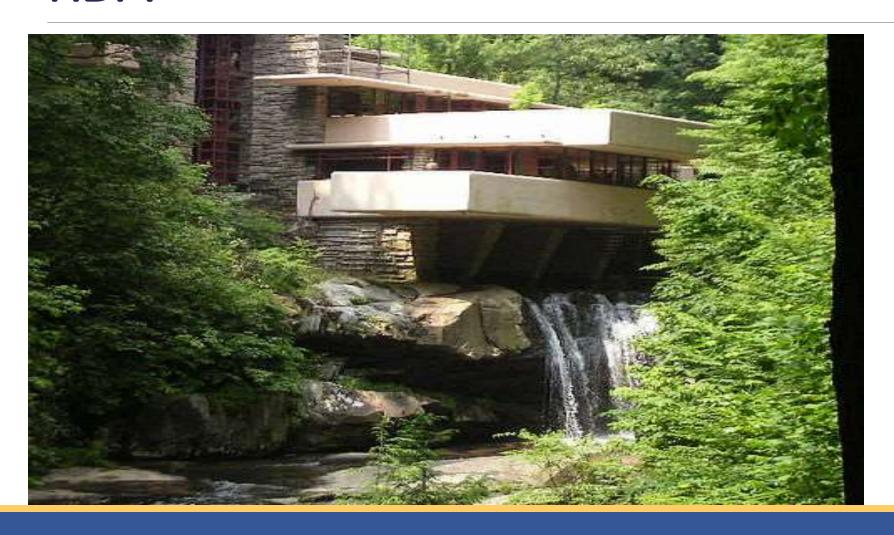
AACR2

stones

plus

framework

AACR2 deconstructed

without the framework

RDA

stones

+

new

framework

RDA 2010:

- forward-looking vision

- compatibility with new technological environments

- closely tied to the internationally accepted bibliographic conceptual models: FRBR + FRAD

- radical break in the approach to cataloguing information:

  from: strings of information designed for humans

  to: data elements – designed for humans and computers

RDA 2010:

- new elements + re-use of the content of AACR2 instructions

- at the moment of publication – still outstanding issues

- enough to start especially since almost everyone was still operating in a MARC environment

RDA in 2010 → RDA in 2019

→ advancing the original vision for RDA

And ...

➢ technological environment keeps changing

➢ maintaining alignment with IFLA's bibliographic conceptual models

➢ our experience using RDA and the Toolkit

➢ RDA becoming a global standard

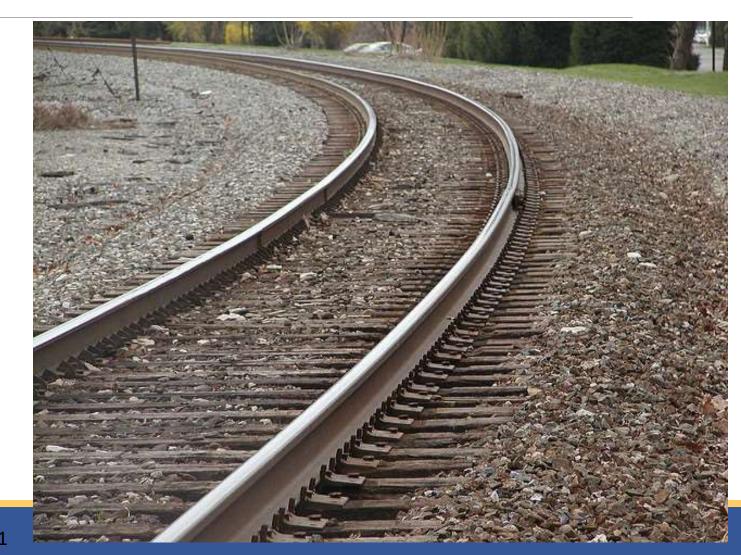# RDA in 2010

a major change
in direction

beginning on a
new track

RDA in 2019

continuing along the track taken in 2010

continuing to the next logical steps

How much change?

new look ➔ it does look different

- impact of the redesign of the technical infrastructure

- impact of alignment with IFLA LRM

- impact of internationalization

3R Project

1st R = RDA

2nd R = Restructure = upgrade the infrastructure to current standards

3rd R = Redesign = improve user experience with the Toolkit

+

stay aligned with international models

Not just a "new release" ⟹ A big renovation project

3R Project: updated infrastructure

- update the software

- rebuild how the instructions are stored: more modular and dynamic

- compliance with accessibility standards for web content according to the W3C guidelines (WCAG)

- better support for translations

3R Project: more web, *less book-like*

- take features that were there and make them work better:

→ instruction and policy statement aligned together on the same screen

designed so update once rather than in many places

→ controlled vocabulary, definitions, scope notes -- in the RDA Registry

this Registry content automatically feeds into the Toolkit text

3R Project: more web, *less book-like*

- change how the instructions are stored

  → "data dictionary" approach

         general guidance chapters

         entities organized as "data dictionary"

  → from chapters (some huge) to files for each data element

- new level of flexibility – can absorb major content changes, such as new entitles

3R : stay aligned with IFLA models

RDA 2010: alignment with IFLA's FRBR and FRAD conceptual models

RDA 2015: alignment with all 3 of IFLA's conceptual models:
FRBR/FRAD/FRSAD

2010-2017: IFLA consolidation of FRBR/FRAD/FRSAD = **IFLA LRM**
(IFLA Library Reference Model, published in 2017)

FRBR/FRAD/FRSAD are now *obsolete*

RDA 2019: alignment with IFLA LRM

3R – fuller achievement of original vision

- designed for the digital environment
    - the content of the standard delivered as a web tool
    - bibliographic information as data --- data about entities and relationships
    - recording precise and unambiguous data for the digital environment
    - data produced is optimized for use in the semantic web

3R – fuller achievement of original vision

- interoperability of data
  - interoperable with data of other cultural heritage communities
  - designed to encourage the cooperative use and re-use of data on the web
    - data and controlled vocabularies
    - data elements – as a whole set or parts

3R – fuller achievement of original vision

- a standard based on a robust theoretical framework – the IFLA bibliographic conceptual models
  - alignment with the IFLA model that is currently valid – IFLA LRM

    - internal consistency
    - international compatibility

3R – fuller achievement of original vision

- internationalization

RDA = an international standard

- a goal and a reality

- in step with internationally accepted cataloguing principles and bibliographic conceptual models

- adopted and implemented around the world

3R – fuller achievement of original vision

RDA = an international standard

➢ a standard that places equal value on all its language versions

➢ a standard to be used, maintained and developed jointly with representatives from all areas of the globe

3R – fuller achievement of original vision

RDA = an international standard

➤ a standard that places equal value on all its language versions

- seamless integration of different language versions within one Toolkit
- visibility of the different language communities using RDA
- a sense of participating in a shared international cataloguing community that stretches across language boundaries
- infrastructure changes necessary to improve the translation process

RDA = an international standard

➢ a standard to be used, maintained and developed jointly with representation from all areas of the globe

- attuned to a diversity of needs

- build in flexibility around the common ground we share

- implement a governance structure that values the participation of all and accurately reflects the international nature of RDA

  - completed for the RDA Board in 2018

  - progressing well for the RDA Steering Committee

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Thank you!

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