The metadata content standard: RDA

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Union Catalog – Services and Tools
Based on a presentation created by the Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR
Overview

What is RDA and why is it needed?

History and support

- Recent changes in the cataloguing environment
- Development of RDA to date
What is RDA?

Resource Description and Access

- Working title for a new cataloguing code based on the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR).
  - World’s most used content standard for bibliographic description and access
Why is it needed?

- To simplify the rules to encourage use as an international content standard for metadata
- Provide more consistency and less redundancy for easier use and interpretation
- Improve collocation in displays through work/expression relationships and a new approach to General Material Designations
Why is it needed?

- Get back to more principle-based rules that build cataloguers’ judgement
  Founded on international cataloguing principles
  Encourage the application of the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records model
History

1841: Panizzi’s rules for British Museum.
1876: Cutter’s rules.
1961: Lubetzky, IFLA and “Paris Principles”.
1978: AACR2.
Supporting structure

Committee of Principals

AACR Fund Trustees/Publishers

Joint Steering Committee

ALA

ACOC

BL

CCC

CILIP

LC

RDA

Project Manager

Editor
Recent history

  - Worldwide experts invited by JSC identified issues:
    - Principles
    - Content vs Carrier
    - Logical structure of the Rules
    - Seriality
    - Internationalization
Recent history

- 1998: FRBR published by IFLA.
  - Reinforces basic objectives of catalogues and importance of relationships for users to carry out basic tasks:
    - Find – Identify – Select – Obtain
    - Structure allows collocation at Work/Expression level
  - Conceptual model of entities, relationships and attributes independent of communication format or data structure
Recent history

  - Regional meetings, world-wide
  - Incorporates FRBR concepts
    - Focussing on current environment of online catalogues and planning for future systems
“Cataloguing” today

Need to provide access to a wider range of information carriers, with a greater depth and complexity of content

- Bibliographic metadata is created by a wider range of personnel
  - Authors, administrators, cataloguers, computers, etc.
    - Varying levels of skill and ability (and cost)
- Many new metadata formats
Formats

Metadata packaging (communication) standards

\[
\text{MAchine Readable Cataloging (UNIMARC, MARC21, MODS/MADS, MARCXML)}
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- Dublin Core, Encoded Archival Description, ISBD, VRA, MPEG7, ...!!!
- Cataloguing rules need to remain independent of any communication format
  - JSC Strategic plan
  - RDA is not MARC21, ok?
JSC Strategic plan goals

- Continue to base rules on principles, and cover all types of materials
- Foster use world-wide, while deriving rules from Anglophone conventions and customs
- Make rules easy to use and interpret
- Make applicable to an online, networked environment
- Provide effective bibliographic control for all types of media
- Make compatible with other similar standards
- Encourage use beyond the library community
Strategic plan targets

New code in 2009

New introductions; content rules and updated examples; authority control; FRBR terminology; simplification to reduce redundancy and improve consistency

Reach out to other communities to achieve greater alignment with other standards

- Web-based product/tool as well as loose-leaf
  With added functionality (e.g. internal and external links to specific rules) and interoperability with cataloguing and access tools

- Demo (http://www.rdaonline.org/) shows integration with data input templates and task-oriented workflow
Structure

- Pt.A: Description
  - General guidelines
    - Identification of the resource
  - Technical (carrier) description (FRBR “Select”)
    - Categories of type and form
  - Content description (FRBR “Select”)
    - Categories of type and form
  - Acquisition and access information (FRBR “Obtain”)
  - Relationships between resources (FRBR “Find”)
    - Resource – Agent (Persons, Corporate bodies, Families)
    - Resource – Resource (Works, Expressions, Manifestations, Items)
Structure

Pt.A: Description

- Arranged by attribute
  - FRBR user tasks
- Source and composition of attribute content
  - Notes
- Use as access point
Structure

Pt.B: Access point control
  - Choice of access points
  - General guidelines
  - Persons, Families, Corporate bodies, Places
  - Works, Expressions, etc.
  - Other information
    - Purpose, scope, authorized and un-authorized forms

Appendices (display standards, ISBD, capitalization, abbreviations, numbers)
Glossary and Index
Timetable

- Jul 05: Prospectus published ✓
- Oct 05-Apr 06: Pt.A: 1-5; constituency review ✓
  - Mar-Jul 06: Development of RDA/ONIX framework and high-level ontology for content/carer formats ✓
- May-Sep 06: Pt.A: 6-7; constituency review ✓
- Mar-Jun 07: Pt.A: 3 (Carrier); constituency review
  - Jun-Sep 07: Pt.A: 6-7 revised; constituency review
- Dec 07-Mar 08: Pt.B; constituency review
- Jul-Sep 08: Complete draft for review
- Early 2009: Publication of RDA
RDA and other standards

RDA/ONIX framework for resource categorization
- Content, carrier
  - http://www.dlib.org/dlib/january07/dunsire/01dunsire.html

RDA/MARC21 mapping

RDA/Dublin core mapping

Discussions with DC/IEEE-LOM
RDA concerns

- RDA = MARC21 (or any other metadata encoding format or syntax)
  No, it is about metadata content, not structure.
- RDA seems bloated
  It is primarily a hyper-document (digital); bloat occurs when drafts are published linearly for review (common content must be duplicated).
- No community will use the whole of RDA; selecting which options to use will significantly reduce the size of “myRDA”.
More concerns

End-users are not involved; no-one has researched what they want

- RDA is based on the FRBR model which itself arises from world-wide consultation and decades of professional practice, and is focussed on user requirements.

- RDA has no proper data-model
  
  FRBR is a formal entity-relationship model.
Recap

RDA is a new standard for resource description and access, designed for the digital environment

- Multinational content standard covering all media
- Independent of technical communication formats

Aimed at all who need to find, identify, select, obtain, use, manage and organize information
Thank you

Participation required!
  ▪ Existing constituencies
    Encourage others in different communities to engage
  ▪ More information from JSC website
    ▪ www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc

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