

GREEK TRANSLATION OF RDA REFERENCE

IFLA RDA SATELLITE

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First of all I would like to thank...

- for the kind invitation,
 - the organisers of this quite important for our sector event and especially
- the *RDA Technical Team Liaison Officer, Gordon Dunsire* as well as
- The *RDA Translations Team Liaison Officer, Daniel Paradis* for inviting and including me here today
but mainly for their constant and professional support and guidance from the very beginning to this day...

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The Greek Translation of RDA Reference process: a Synopsis of Translation and Language Issues

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PART 1

The Greek Translation of RDA Reference

process:

a Synopsis of Translation

and

Language Issues

Introduction

- To begin with, it is a valuable opportunity for sharing briefly but hopefully to the point, some of the major experiences, lessons and challenges posed to me by undertaking (voluntarily, purely out of inner motive) the Greek Translation Project of RDA Reference.

A brief intro:

- Resource Description and Access (RDA) is the new international standard for the description and access of all types of content and media and designed to be used in an international context as a web-based tool for the digital era (Garcia, 2014; Tillett, 2016).

RDA in translation

The RDA Board and RDA Steering Committee (RSC) encourage translations of RDA Reference and RDA Toolkit and offer guidance and instructions to support international communities.

- Translations of RDA comply with the [Translation Policy for RDA and RDA Toolkit](http://www.rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC-Policy-6.pdf) (<http://www.rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC-Policy-6.pdf>)

RDA Translation Policy

- The inclusion of multiple language versions in RDA Toolkit furthers two of the strategic priorities of the RDA Board (RDA Board 2016):
 - Make RDA an internationally recognized standard
 - Increase the adoption of RDA internationally (Kuhagen, 2016, p.1)

Translations: Full or partial translations of RDA published or in development

***RDA
Translations***

Arabic
Catalan
Chinese
Danish
Dutch
Finnish
French

German
Greek
[partial]
Hebrew
Icelandic
Italian
Latvian
Norwegian

Portuguese
Slovak
Slovene
Spanish
Swedish
Ukrainian
Vietnamese

...the Greek translation project

- The idea of translating RDA Reference in Greek
 - ... was conceived sometime in 2016 while working on some other project
 - The initial motive was to ask for permission to use RDA text (instructions and guidelines) while working on the book:
 - “Descriptive data in the 21st century” (Athens: Kleidarithmos, 2017. ISBN: 9789604617777).
- After contacting RSC (27-9-2016), work started shortly and it remains a challenging work in progress ever since.
 - **However, unlike other European countries (e.g. France, Italy, Spain, etc.) there is no WG in national level yet:** Research/translation has been assumed, carried on and maintained up to date individually.
 - As a result, the Greek translation project follows the *partial pattern* according to the RSC guidance.

The Greek translation project aims to ...

- In the spirit of internationalization, the aim is to arrive at a single Greek-language version of RDA Reference equally suitable for all types of Greek libraries, but also for archives and museums if they express an interest in adopting it.
 - **Additionally, great emphasis is given on Greek academic music libraries too.**
- The functional objective is to produce a Greek-language adaptation of the original English text—rather than a literal translation—that would be applicable within a variety of Greek-language work environments.

Translating RDA Reference in Greek

- **First a lot of “deep” reading was done...**
 - trying to fully understand RDA translation-related documentation in order to be precise and accurate, i.e.
 - **RDA Reference procedures, instructions and guidelines...**
- To translate the English text of each RDA data element is just not enough.
 - To be able to give the best possible translation/rendering to each RDA data element,
 - **a full understanding of the deep meaning of the content of each specific definition and scope note is required, but also**
 - **It is essential to be aware of the context of RDA as a whole.**

Translation & Language issues [1]

- As “*Deep*” reading continues...
 - **The process of translation involves:**
 - **Initial terminological analysis of the original text in the source language:**
 - Consistency of highly specialized technical vocabulary
 - The latter requires that translators should possess skills and expertise in cataloguing of all content types and formats, as well as high fluency in both English and the target language – here Greek.
 - Maintenance of the logical and semantic relations in key concepts among the various vocabularies.

Translation & Language issues [2]

- **Terms with multiple renditions:**
 - **New terminology.** These include terms designating totally new concepts:
 - for example, the new vocabulary *agent* enriched with a great number of new data elements, together with the complex syntax e.g., *conductor agent of*, etc., require a far more complicated approach in the target language, and the need to set certain [new] rules for consistency.

Translation & Language issues [3]

- **Terms with no exact equivalent in Greek.**
 - For example, for some terms the option of a wordy (periphrastic) translation/rendition has been chosen, since no meaningful exact equivalent term has been traced to the day of translation, e.g. the RDA term “giant print”, etc.
- **Terms with multiple variants.**
 - For example the RDA term *condensed score* has multiple variants common in Greek library catalogs, i.e., *συμπυκνωμένη παρτιούρα* ή *συνοπτική παρτιούρα* or the term *chorus score* = *σπαρτίτο για χορωδία* ή *παρτιούρα για χορωδία* ή *χορωδιακή παρτιούρα*
- **Terms still uncertain and thus under constant review**
 - For example, in the RDA polarity value vocabulary the RDA terms *positive*, *negative* are considered for purposes of consistency to be feminine in Greek (θετική, αρνητική) taking under consideration that the noun polarity is implied [not included] as stated in the third RDA term of the vocabulary, *mixed polarity*.

Rules for consistency [1]

- **Verbs:**
 - 1st case. When in the original text a verb is at the beginning of the sentence always translate it in the same way (e.g. Includes = Περιλαμβάνει).
 - 2nd case. When in the original text a verb is at the end of the sentence always translate it in the beginning of the sentence or in the most appropriate place according to the intended meaning (e.g. ...are excluded = Δεν περιλαμβάνονται)
- **Adverbs:** Always translate them as adverbs in Greek. Context and Greek grammar rules determine their syntactical place in each sentence.
- **Use of articles:**
 - **definite (the=ο, η, το + plural),**
 - **indefinite (a/an = ένας, μια, ένα)**
 - **Definite article:** always translate it in accordance with the Greek gender (singular or plural) when reference to something common, or specific, etc., is being made.
 - **Indefinite article:** always translate it in accordance with the Greek gender (singular or plural) when reference to something uncommon, or general (not specific), etc., is being made.
 - Do not confuse it with the countable pronoun (ένας, μία, ένα).

Rules for consistency [2]

- Secondary [relative] clauses and [relative] pronouns: that, who, which, etc.
 - Always translate it as a relative clause according to Greek grammar rules, where applicable.
- Participles/Gerunds: *is represented*, *is ... aligned...*, *...used for*, *...used to*, *...based on*, *...intended to be*, *using*, *...consisting of*, *...for storing*, etc.
 - Always translate it as a [relative] clause according to Greek grammar rules, where applicable.
- Conformity for common phrases:
 - Always treat consistently recurring terms and phrases within each discrete vocabulary, e.g.
 - “**A layout that uses ...**”, “**A groove pitch for ...**”, “**A format of notated music...**”, etc.
 - Always treat consistently recurring common terms and phrases among discrete [different] vocabularies, e.g.
 - “that consists of...”, “musical notation”, “moving image”, etc.
 - Always follow the word order of the RDA element sets vocabularies in the label and Toolkit label columns for purposes of consistency with the source term.
 - Always treat consistently the terms Agent, Work, Expression, etc. in the RDA element sets vocabularies, when present, e.g. *conductor agent of = διευθυντής ορχήστρας φορέας του*.
 - Do not omit them when present, unless already implied by the term, for purposes of linguistic economy and native-sounding sentence structures.

Sources for consistent documentation

- Βαλεοντής, Κ. επιμ., 2013. *Γενική και ειδική ορολογία ακουστικής: στιγμιότυπο της βάσης ACOUTERM*, έκδοση 11. [pdf] Available at: http://www.eleto.gr/download/Bodies/TE2OE5_AcousticalTerms_EN_GR.pdf
- Μπαμπινιώτης, Γ., 2005. *Λεξικό της νέας ελληνικής γλώσσας: με σχόλια για τη σωστή χρήση των λέξεων: ερμηνευτικό, ετυμολογικό, ορθογραφικό, συνωνύμων-αντιθέτων, κύριων ονομάτων, επιστημονικών όρων, ακρωνυμίων*. 2η έκδ., 2η ανατύπωση εμπλουτισμένη. Αθήνα: Κέντρο Λεξικολογίας.
- Τεχνικό Επιμελητήριο Ελλάδας, 2016. *ΕΛΟΤ 2789, Πληροφόρηση και τεκμηρίωση - Διεθνείς στατιστικές βιβλιοθηκών*. [pdf] Available at: <http://www.elot.gr/SEP_002789-ISO-el_2016.pdf>
- Τσουκαλά, Α. και Κοντού Π., 2016. *Εγχειρίδιο MARC 21 διάταξη για τα βιβλιογραφικά δεδομένα: μετάφραση και προσαρμογή για την υποστήριξη της καταλογογράφησης της Βιβλιοθήκης του Πανεπιστημίου Αιγαίου*. Αναθεώρηση Νοεμβρίου 2016. [pdf] Available at: http://www.lib.aegean.gr/sites/default/files/node_files/docs/egheiridio_marc_21_diataxi_gia_ta_vi_vliografika_dedomena.pdf
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- EuroVoc, πολύγλωσσος θησαυρός της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης. [online] Available at: <http://eurovoc.europa.eu/drupal/?q=el>
- Hellenic Society for Terminology. <http://www.eleto.gr/gr/reception.htm>
- INFOTERM, 2005. [online] <http://www.eleto.gr/inforterm/greek/search.php>
- TELETERM http://www.moto-teleterm.gr/search_gr.asp
- WordReference, 2018. [online] Available at: <http://www.wordreference.com/engr/>

“Steady” and emerging issues [1]

- High level of complexity of the text and difficulties in translation demand a certain control of the whole translation process regarding terminological consistency and semantic coherence.
- Within this frame, the translator has chosen certain work routines over the years, e.g. to keep a **separate list (RDA File) of all RDA Reference files** (element sets and value vocabularies) already sent to the RSC Translations WG, so as to be able to **track consistency-related issues** for RDA terms and phrases among RDA vocabularies.
- As a result to the above process, the translator seeks to **make a complete list of common words and phrases**, i.e. that appear frequently and repeatedly all through the text of RDA Reference vocabularies. e.g. *“relates”*, *“variant”*, *“expression”*, *“notation”*, *“consisting of”*, *“that consists of”*, *“has related”*, etc.

“Steady” and emerging issues [2]

RDA’s alignment to LRM has brought new concepts and vocabularies, e.g. Nomen properties, Place properties, Time-span properties, etc.

- Due to the alignment process certain issues emerged as well, related to
 - translation difficulties of new terms in the target language.
 - The fact that almost **1348 RDA Reference terms-element sets** (x 7 columns) are now characterized as “**deprecated**”
- Within this frame,
 - the **RDA element sets to be translated in Greek have been expanded to 11**, while at the same time,
 - The previous RDA element sets have not only been updated (name, definition, etc.), but also have been enriched/expanded as well (e.g. the RDA file Agent properties has been expanded from about 342 terms to 1053x7).
 - All vocabularies are continuously reviewed and constantly revised when either inconsistency issues arise or it’s required due to updates or changes in the standard.

Requirements – Principles [1]

- According to Arsenault, Paradis, and Riva (2014), as with all translations:
 - Mastery of the target language is essential for the production of a fluid text that reads as well in translation as it does in the original.
 - A translator must take care to avoid loan words or non-native-sounding sentence structures.
 - A translation of a content standard must be accurate and beautiful, which requires a very deep understanding of the original, both in terms of linguistic structures as well as in terms of content.

Requirements – Principles [2]

- With regard to the above, but also according to the international principles and standards (ISO 1087-1:2000 & ISO 1087-2:2000) as provided by the Hellenic Society for Terminology (ELETO), there are **7 (seven) principles** which govern the formation of new terms or the choice of the preferred term among synonyms:
 - **Transparency**, e.g., braille code = κώδικας μπράιγ (the term stands out in Greek).
 - **Consistency**: (see previous slides for Rules of consistency).
 - **[Linguistic] Appropriateness**, e.g. vocal score → preferred term σπαρτίτο (NOT παρτιτούρα για φωνή); the term is considered more appropriate, i.e. understood by the Greek music-related community.
 - **Derivability and compoundability**, e.g., identify, identifier, identification or moving, movement, or notation, notated, *Dancewriting* = χορογραφία, *double line spacing* = διπλό διάστιχο, etc.

Requirements – Principles [3]

- **Linguistic economy**, e.g., RDA agent properties vocabulary: *is costume designer* = είναι ενδυματολόγος, *is minute taker* = είναι πρακτικογράφος, *is makeup artist* = είναι ψιμυθιολόγος, etc.
- **Linguistic correctness**. For example, the RDA term *autographer* = αυτογραφέας, (NOT αυτογράφος) or *recordist* = καταγραφέας, όχι καταγράφος (following grammar rules for the use of the suffix –έας as stated in the Dictionary of Standard Modern Greek / M. Triantafyllidis), but *court reporter* = στενογράφος (NOT στενογραφέας)
 - See http://www.greek-language.gr/greekLang/modern_greek/tools/lexica/triantafyllides/search.html?lq=%22-%CE%AD%22&dq=> for more
- **Preference for native language**, e.g., *format* = μορφότυπο (NOT φορμάτ ή format)
 - See for more http://www.eleto.gr/download/Orogramma/Or102_V05.pdf

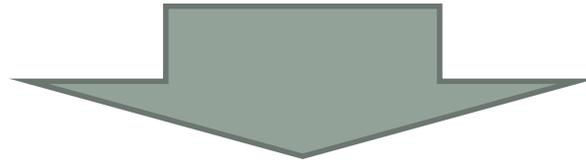
PART 2
***The RDA Reference Procedures:
a Synopsis of translation policies***

Current RSC Translations WG procedures, discussion lists & workspaces

- New procedures:
 - **June 5, 2018:** Being invited to join the new discussion list for translators of RDA <*rdatranslators@lists.ala.org*>
 - **June 18, 2018:** Being invited to join and learn how to use the workspace **rdatranslations**
<<http://rdatranslations.pbworks.com/w/page/125774399/RDA%20Translations%20%3A%20Home%20Page>>

RDA Translations : Home Page

- <http://rdatranslations.pbworks.com/w/page/125774399/RDA%20Translations%20%3A%20Home%20Page>



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 Comments (0)

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RDA Reference translation procedures [1]

- RDA Reference includes **all RDA Elements, their definitions** and any related scope notes, and all **value vocabulary terms** and **definitions**.
- [Procedures for translating RDA Reference](#)
- [Links to csv files in Google Drive](#)
- [List of deprecated value vocabularies](#)
- [RDA translation resources \(on Google Drive\)](#)

RDA Reference translation procedures [2]

- **Procedures for value vocabularies**
- **Procedures for element sets**
- [...]
- **Download links for value vocabularies**
- <http://rdatranslations.pbworks.com/w/page/127487981/Download%20links%20for%20value%20vocabularies>
- **Links to csv files in Google Drive [element sets]**
- <http://rdatranslations.pbworks.com/w/page/132193419/Links%20to%20csv%20files%20in%20Google%20Drive>
 - ISO Code: el-GR Name: Greek
 - <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Fm4JBCY5UxCIKZZpgWSilayFwM9pBSMw?usp=sharing>

RDA Element Sets

- **11 RDA element sets** are currently being revised in Greek according to instructions. When the translation is completed, an email is sent to the [RDA Translations Team Liaison Officer](#) to let him know that the files are ready to be downloaded.
 - **1348 terms have been translated since 2016. Now the vocabularies are being revised and updated in accordance with the 3R project.**
- The RDA Translations Team Liaison Officer is responsible to download the files and import them into the staff Registry.

• **Elements**

- [Classes](#) [13 elements]
- [Agent properties](#) [1053 elements]
- [Expression properties](#) [531 elements]
- [Item properties](#) [136 elements]
- [Manifestation properties](#) [394 elements]
- [Nomen properties](#) [164 elements]
- [Place properties](#) [51 elements]
- [Time-span properties](#) [57 elements]
- [RDA Terms properties](#) [147 elements]
- [Work properties](#) [591 elements]
- [RDA Entity properties](#) [29 elements]

Greek RDA Value Vocabularies

44 RDA value vocabularies are being developed to this day:**28**
vocabularies in Greek (about 306 terms translated)

Vocabulary Name and Download Link	File name	Comparison Report (except if vocabulary is new or has not changed)
RDA Aspect Ratio Designation	AspectRatio	AspectRatio.html
RDA Bibliographic Format	bookFormat	bookFormat.html
RDA Broadcast Standard	broadcastStand	broadcastStand.html
RDA Carrier Extent Unit	RDACarrierEU	RDACarrierEu.html
RDA Carrier Type	RDACarrierType	RDACarrierType.html
RDA Cartographic Data Type	RDACartoDT	RDACartoDT.html
RDA Colour Content	RDAColourContent	RDAColourContent.html
RDA Configuration of Playback Channels	configPlayback	configPlayback.html
RDA Content Type	RDAContentType	RDAContentType.html

Greek RDA Value vocabularies (contin.)

- [RDA Extension Plan](#)
 - [RDA File Type](#)
 - [RDA Font Size](#)
 - [RDA Form of Musical Notation](#)
 - [RDA Form of Notated Movement](#)
 - [RDA Form of Tactile Notation](#)
 - [RDA Format of Notated Music](#)
 - [RDA Groove Pitch of an Analog Cylinder](#)
 - [RDA Format of Notated Music](#)
 - [RDA Frequency](#)
 - [RDA Generation](#)
 - [RDA Layout](#)
 - [RDA Media Type](#)
 - [RDA Mode of Issuance](#)
 - [RDA Polarity](#)
 - [RDA Recording Methods](#)
 - [RDA Status of Identification](#)
 - [RDA User Tasks](#)
 - [RDA Video Format](#)
- **Deprecated value vocabularies:**
 - **[RDA Base Material \(Deprecated\)](#)**
 - **[RDA Conventional Collective Title](#)**
 - **[RDA Production Method for Tactile Resource \(Deprecated\)](#)**

PART 3
Conclusions

Conclusions – Lessons learned [1]

- The complexity of the project itself worked well so far thanks to:
 - a functioning work routine, as well as
 - the constant guidance and supervision of RSC and
 - the dedication and constant availability of the liaison-translator.
- However, there are issues that would have been handled differently, if certain things were known from the start.
 - One of the biggest issues remains to adopt those techniques that will contribute to ensuring consistency in style and terminology when one has to deal with lengthy and rich in semantics data files.
 - Some practices include:
 - Read through each RDA Reference file carefully to recognize its data elements, its semantics, its pattern, its dependencies with other sections in and out of this vocabulary.

Lessons learned [2]

- **Be flexible and consistent**
 - Be flexible requires: ability and readiness to change or adopt new practices and work routines when necessary.
 - Remember, every rule and one or more exceptions [their frequency may require setting new rules].
- Be consistent, requires:
 - **Setting rules for consistency:**
 - Generally applicable
 - Where applicable
 - Keeping record of all the **sources used in documentation each time**
 - Keeping record of all the **common phrases and/or words used:**
 - In the same vocabulary
 - Among vocabularies
 - In the label columns
 - In any column
 - **Keeping record of all the work routines/practices followed:**
 - Generally
 - Specifically
 - Examining the best appropriate work routines while working and ask for immediate guidance when uncertain or confused

Lessons learned [2]

- Contributing to the project requires (or demands) that each partner must have all of the following skills:
 - **Excellent knowledge of the target language** (here Greek)
 - **Excellent knowledge of the source language** (here written technical English)
 - **Excellent knowledge of the standard** (RDA)
 - **Excellent knowledge of RDA translation policies and procedures**
 - **Cataloguing knowledge and expertise** (many standards, all formats, all kinds of data, i.e. bib, authorities, holdings, etc.)
 - **Attention to detail and accuracy**
 - **Computer skills**
 - **Availability over the years**
 - The Greek project becomes “**3** years old” in September 2019.
 - The Project demands and requires more of everything of the above (and many more not included here for the sake of economy).

Conclusions-Challenges [1]

- Since 2018 it has become clear that RDA text is fluid, constantly changing.
- As the project continues, conceiving the importance and the massiveness of the work undertaken is inevitable.
- Since the liaison-translator works as a volunteer, two open issues remain:
 - the **future** of the Greek Translation Project and
 - the **continuous updating** of RDA Reference translation in Greek.
- Also, there are some other major issues that the Greek libraries sector should start examining in the not so distant future, such as:
 - **The official translation of RDA,**
 - **Its subsequent publication in the RDA Toolkit and**
 - **Assigning a national, official GR-RDA Editorial Committee,** equipped with the necessary skills and expertise on one hand, able and willing to work not only with stability, but also with dedication on the other.

Conclusions – Challenges [2]

- Being involved means:
 - Partnerships are necessary to accomplish the main target...it is deemed essential that **the Greek LIS sector will be provided with a Greek version of RDA Toolkit**, not just of RDA Reference, to make the transition to the new standard feasible.
- It is essential to learn from the example of our neighbouring countries (i.e., France, Italy, Spain, Turkey):
 - **In developing partnerships among several national agents:**
 - The National Library of Greece (NLG)
 - The Hellenic Academic Libraries Link (HealLink)
 - The Hellenic Academic Music Libraries Consortium (HAMLIB)
 - etc.
 - **In providing representatives to constitute the membership of the Greek editorial committee for RDA.**
 - **In designating the publisher of the Greek version of RDA in print format.**
 - **In designating who will assume leadership in managing the work of the committee** (i.e. planning the meetings, producing minutes of the meetings, hiring professionals, liaising with ALA, etc.) (Arsenault, Paradis and Riva, 2014, p.3).

Conclusions – Benefits

- **Translating RDA Reference in Greek**, means:
 - Be part (a liaison) of the international (global) RDA Translation “Family”.
 - Be able to contribute, co-form and shape the [still] “fresh”, and under continuous development **RDA** and its **Vocabularies in Greek**.
 - Provide a wide range of technical vocabularies in Greek for use both in and out of the Greek (Hellenic) libraries sector.
 - To suggest new approaches and to provide for updated controlled terms used in descriptive and authority library metadata produced by Greek cataloging agencies.

RDA is ...

- **A non stop project ...**
- **An evolving standard ...**
- **A standard that makes us all approach “our” cataloguing world through new “lenses” ...**
- An opportunity to learn from our “wrongs and rights”
- An opportunity to prove that some ideas have no country...all we have to do is join ...
 - An opportunity to put aside our own convenience and our “good old safety” ... no matter how difficult that may seem at first.

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