

RDA: An Introduction

What it is and what you need to know

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Outline

- What is RDA?
- Influences on RDA: FRBR, FRAD and ICP
- Comparison with AACR2
- Translation
- Implementation in Canada

2

RDA, the standard

- new cataloguing code that replaces AACR2
- removal of Anglo-American bias
- informed by FRBR and FRAD
- designed for use in digital environment
- consistent, flexible and extensible framework
- compatible with international principles, models and standards
- focus on organizing information for the benefit of the user
- useable outside the library community

Rick J. Block, Columbia University

About RDA

RDA is:

- designed for describing all types of resources
- designed to be more flexible in an international setting
- designed to make it easier for library data to interact with other metadata

RDA is not:

- a display standard
- an encoding standard

4

RDA Timeline

- International Conference on the Principles and Future Development of AACR (Toronto, 1997)
- Strategic plan for AACR3 first developed in 2002
- Editor appointed in 2004
- Draft of part 1 of AACR3 issued in late 2004
- RDA conceived in 2005
- Drafts between 2005-2009
- Published June 2010
- U.S. Test Period (October-December 2010)
- Implementation: late 2011/early 2012
- *LAC's full implementation is dependent of availability of French translation*

5

Who is responsible for the development of RDA?

- Members of the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA (JSC) :
 - American Library Association
 - Australian Committee on Cataloguing
 - British Library
 - Canadian Committee on Cataloguing
 - Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
 - Library of Congress
- <http://rda-jsc.org/rdafaq.html>

6

Goals of RDA

- The guidelines and instructions will be designed to:
 - Provide a consistent, flexible and extensible framework for both the technical and content description of all types of resources and all types of content.
 - Be compatible with internationally established principles, models, and standards.
 - **FRBR, FRAD, and ICP (International Cataloguing Principles)**
 - Be usable primarily within the library community, but be capable of adaptation to meet the specific needs of other communities.

Source: Strategic plan for RDA, 2005-2009

7

Goals of RDA

- Records created with RDA will:
 - enable users to find, identify, select and obtain resources appropriate to their information needs
 - be compatible with records created with AACR2
 - be independent of the format, medium or system used to store or communicate the data
 - be readily adaptable to newly-emerging database structures

Source: Strategic plan for RDA, 2005-2009

8

Goals of RDA

- RDA will be developed as a resource description standard that is:
 - optimised for use as an online tool
 - written in plain English, and able to be used in other language communities
 - easy and efficient to use, both as a working tool and for training purposes

Source: Strategic plan for RDA, 2005-2009

9

From Panizzi to AACR2

- 1841: Panizzi's Rules for the Compilation of the Catalogue
- 1876: Cutter's Rules for a Dictionary Catalog
- 1961: "Paris Principles"
- 1967: AACR, British and North American versions
- 1969: Lubetzky's Principles of Cataloging
- 1971: International Standard Bibliographic Description
- 1978: AACR2 with revisions in 1988, 1998 and 2002

10

RDA: moving beyond AACR2

RDA goes beyond AACR2

- not just for the library
- designed for current and future environments
- based on a sound theoretical model
- flexible and extensible to support the description of all types of resources
- connecting with other cultural heritage metadata communities

11

From AACR2 to RDA

- changing cataloguing environment
 - new types of resources
 - new types of publications
 - changes how we work (online, networked environment)
- different user expectations
- different forms of media and methods of publishing
- collaboration with other communities
- inherent problems with the rules
- need for principle-based guidelines

12

Some Vocabulary

- entities
- relationships
- core elements
- attributes
- data elements
- FRBR model
Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records
- FRAD model
Functional Requirements for Authority Data

13

AACR2 to RDA vocabulary

author, composer, etc.	creator
physical description	description of the carrier
main entry	preferred access point representing a work or expression
headings	access points
see reference	variant access point
see also reference	authorized access point for a related entry

14

Influences on RDA

- AACR2
- FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records)
- FRAD (Functional Requirements for Authority Data)
- International Cataloguing Principles, developed by the IME-ICC (IFLA Meeting of Experts on the International Cataloguing Code)

15

Addresses user tasks

FRBR:

- Find
- Identify
- Select
- Obtain

FRAD:

- Find
- Identify
- Contextualize
- Justify

ICP's highest principle = “convenience of the user”

16

General Principles (ICP)

- Convenience of user
- Representation
- Common usage
- Accuracy
- Sufficiency and necessity
- Significance
- Economy
- Consistency and Standardization
- Integration
- Defensible, not arbitrary
- If contradict, take a defensible, practical solution.

17

FRBR and FRAD in RDA

- each chapter records data associated with one particular user task
- uses the vocabulary and concepts of FRBR and FRAD
- organized according to the entities identified in FRBR and FRAD
- explicit explanation of the relation between the instructions and the user tasks
- emphasis on relationships and on clarifying the nature of the relationships

18

Basics of FRBR

FRBR is a generalized representation of the bibliographic universe using an entity-relationship model.

The model includes

- User tasks (find, identify, select, obtain)
- 3 groups of entities
- Characteristics of the entities (attributes/elements)
- Relationships among entities

19

Bibliographic Entities

work
expression
manifestation
item

FRBR Group 1
products of intellectual or artistic endeavor

person
family
corporate body

FRBR Group 2
responsible for group 1 entities

concept
object
event
place

FRBR Group 3
subjects (includes groups 1 & 2)

20

Group 1 Entities

work

a distinct intellectual or artistic creation

expression

intellectual or artistic realization of a work in the form of alpha-numeric, musical or choreographic notation, sound, image, object, movement, etc., or any combination of such forms

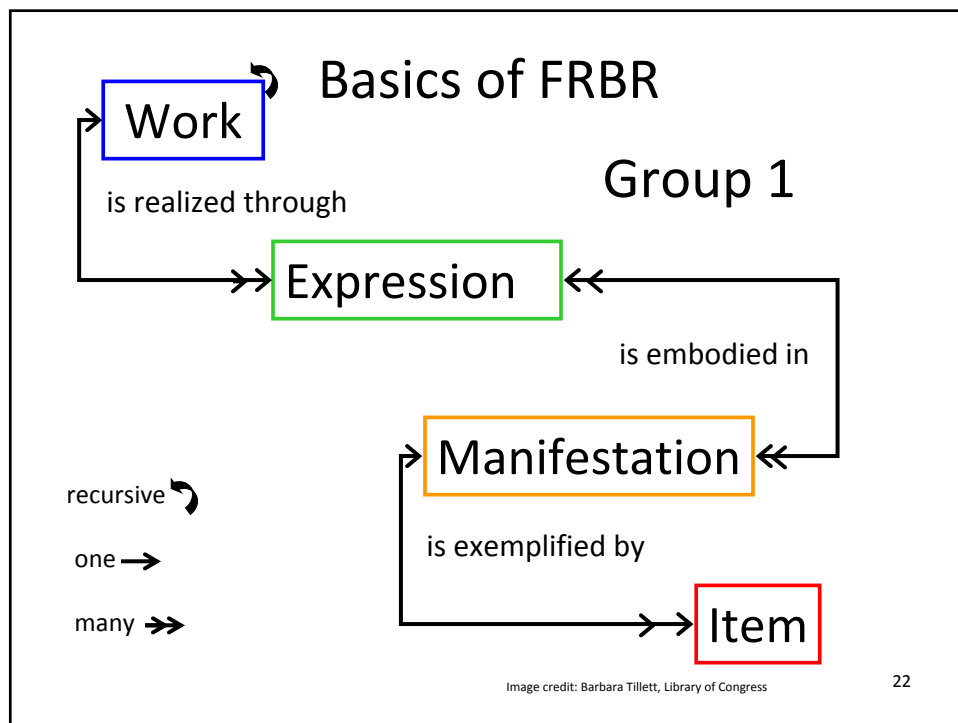
manifestation

physical embodiment of an expression of a work

item

single exemplar or instance of a manifestation

21



Attributes

examples of attributes:

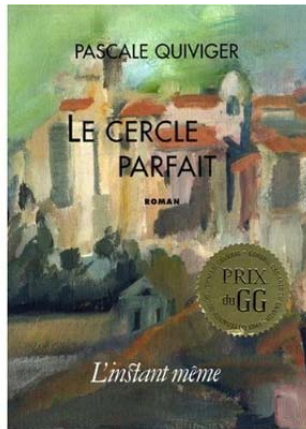
work:	title
manifestation:	publisher, date of publication, extent
item:	identifier (e.g. barcode), provenance
person:	dates, gender
corporate body:	place, dates
object:	term

23

Relationships in FRBR and FRAD

expression item	<i>translation of exemplar of</i>	work manifestation
work item manifestation	<i>created by owned by produced by</i>	person family corporate body
work manifestation	<i>based on reproduction</i>	work manifestation
person family	<i>member of founded</i>	family corporate body

24



- a realization of the work, Le Cercle Parfait
- an embodiment of the original French expression
- an exemplar of the L'Instant Même 2003 manifestation
- an item

25

Group 1 Entities and User Tasks

- I want to read Pascale Quiviger's Le Cercle Parfait
I need to find the work
- I need to read Le Cercle Parfait, and my mother tongue is English, so I want an English translation of Le Cercle Parfait
I need to find a particular expression
- It was originally published by L'instant même in 2003
I need a particular manifestation
- I need to find the copy I borrowed because it is overdue
I need a particular item

26

Group 1 Entities and Libraries

- we build our collections by selecting **manifestations** that we want to buy
- we select manifestations
 - for the **expression** that the manifestation embodies
 - for a **manifestation** attribute such as the type of carrier (*e.g. print volume or online resource*)
- our bibliographic records are records for **manifestations**
- we buy, receive, label, barcode and loan **items** that are exemplars of the manifestation
- our subject headings are for the **work** or **expression**
- preferred titles of a work bring together **manifestations** of the same **work** or **expression**

27

What Is An Element?

RDA: A word, character, or group of words and/or characters representing a distinct unit of bibliographic information.

AACR2: Similar definition to above **but** also forms part of an area of the description.

28

Elements in AACR2

- data embedded in areas or paragraphs
- different types of data embedded together in long character strings
- data recorded in ambiguous elements
- assumes that a human will read and interpret information in record

29

Elements in RDA

RDA element contains data either about:

a single attribute of an entity

OR a single relationship between entities

- only 1 kind of data in an element
- ambiguity is removed
- distinct and defined elements for each kind of data

30

Core Elements

Support the key user tasks (as identified in the FRBR and FRAD models)

- identify and select a manifestation
- identify works and expressions embodied in a manifestation
- identify the creator or creators of a work
- find a person, family, or corporate body associated with a resource
- identify a person, family, or corporate body

31

Improved Description of Resources

- GMD has been replaced with 3 elements
 - Content Type
 - e.g. cartographic image, notated music, spoken word, text, still image, two-dimensional moving image
 - Media Type
 - e.g. audio, computer, microform, video
 - Carrier Type
 - e.g. audio disc, microfiche, online resource, videodisc, volume
- RDA has controlled vocabularies
- More than one term may be used

32

Internationalization

- RDA aims to remove the Anglo-American bias found in AACR2
- RDA was developed in English but is intended to be used in other languages
- Allows the use of scripts, numerals, and dates other than those used by English and Occidental countries
- Metric system is preferred but there is an option to use another system
- Books of the Bible entered directly under “Bible”
 - “O.T.” or “N.T.” no longer used before the name of a book from the Bible.

33

More user-friendly

- Record inaccuracies and errors as you find them in the element. Add notes correcting inaccuracies or errors if it is considered important for identification or access
 - No more “[sic]” or “[i.e.]”
- Fewer abbreviations
 - volumes : illustrations (some in colour) ; 29 cm
- Transcribe the element as it appears on the source. Do not abbreviate.
 - Deuxième édition revue et corrigée
 - **NOT** : 2e éd. rev. et corr.
 - Éditions Alexandre Stanké inc.
 - **NOT** : Éd. A. Stanké inc.
- Copyright dates identified as © or copyright

34

More user-friendly

- No more Latin abbreviations
 - “et al.” is replaced by a description of the omitted information:
 - [and four others]
 - “i.e.” becomes “that is”
 - “S.l.” becomes “Place of publication not identified”
 - “s.n.” becomes “publisher not identified”
 - “ca.” becomes “approximately”
- Conventional symbols are replaced by clear explanations. e.g. :
 - [44] p. becomes 44 unnumbered pages
 - + p. in the 300 field becomes “incomplete”

35

Fewer limitations

- No limit on the number of elements recorded for the following elements:
 - statement of responsibility
 - When there are more than three people: option to omit all but the first name and summarize the omission, e.g. [and four others]
 - parallel titles
 - place of publication
 - publisher name
- No limit on the number of access points recorded for collections of works
- No limit on the number of access points recorded for creators of works

36

Simplified instructions

Works with shared responsibility

AACR2 : Title main entry if the responsibility is shared between three or more people

RDA : Authorized access point for the first named person, family or corporate body (or the first named if primary responsibility is not obvious)

Collections of works by different people or communities

AACR2 : Title main entry for the first name work when no collective title (with added entries for other titles if there were no more than three in the collection)

RDA : Separate access points for each work (and/or title supplied by cataloguer)

Treaties, etc.

AACR2: Title main entry when there are more than three parties

RDA: Treaties are entered under the party named first or under title if the first-named party cannot be determined

37

Take What You See

AACR2

Title: The w[o]rld of television

RDA

Title: The wrld of television

Variant title: The world of television

Note: Title should read The world of television

38

Fewer Abbreviations

Publication: Second revised edition 2008

AACR2: 2nd rev. ed.

RDA: Second revised edition

AACR2: [S.l.] : [s.n.], 1990.

RDA: [Place of publication not identified] : [Publisher not identified], 1990

AACR2: 8 v. in 5

RDA: 8 bibliographic volumes in 5 physical volumes

39

No More “Rule of Three”

AACR2

Cinquefoil : new work from
five Ottawa poets / Mark
Frutkin ... [et al.]

RDA

Cinquefoil : new work from
five Ottawa poets / Mark
Frutkin, Rebecca Leaver,
Seymour Mayne, Susan
Robertson, Nicola Vulpe.

or

Cinquefoil : new work from
five Ottawa poets / Mark
Frutkin [and four others].

40

AACR2:	Author	Polk, Sharon.
	Uniform title	Community band concerts
	Title	Community band concerts / Sharon Polk. Fall harvest festivals / Terri Swanson.
	Contains:	Swanson, Terri. Fall harvest festivals
RDA:	Title	Community band concerts / Sharon Polk. Fall harvest festivals / Terri Swanson.
	Contains	Polk, Sharon. Community band concerts.
	Contains	Swanson, Terri. Fall harvest festivals
OR	Title	[Two United States Midwest memoirs]
	Contents	Community band concerts / Sharon Polk -- Fall harvest festivals / Terri Swanson.
	Contains	Polk, Sharon. Community band concerts.
	Contains	Swanson, Terri. Fall harvest festivals.
Source: Library of Congress		41

Dates of Publication and Copyright

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AACR2 <p><i>Published:</i> New York : Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.</p> <p><i>Published:</i> Cambridge, Mass. : Candlewick Press, c2006.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDA <p><i>Published:</i> New York : Palgrave Macmillan, 2011, ©2011.</p> <p><i>Published:</i> Cambridge, Massachusetts : Candlewick Press, [2006], ©2006.</p>
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42

No more Polyglot

AACR2	Aesop's fables. Polyglot.
RDA	Aesop's fables. Greek Aesop's fables. Latin Aesop's fables. English Aesop's fables. German
AACR2	Aesop's fables. English & German
RDA	Aesop's fables. English Aesop's fables. German

43

Relationships

- Between a person/family/corporate body and a resource
- Between one resource and another resource
- Between one person/family/corporate body and another person/family/corporate body

44

Person, etc., and a resource

- Two methods:
 - Authorized access point
 - Identifier (future)
- Relationship designators in Appendix I
- Recorded in bibliographic and/or authority data

45

Between resources

- Three methods:
 - Authorized access point
 - Description (structured or unstructured)
 - Identifier (future)
- Relationship designators in Appendix J
- Recorded in bibliographic and/or authority data

46

Between one person, etc., and another person, etc.

- Two methods:
 - Authorized access point
 - Identifier (future)
- Relationship designators in Appendix K
- Recorded in authority data

47

What Will Implementation Look Like?

- implementation will be in MARC 21
- data will still be ambiguous
 - Many RDA elements will map to one MARC subfield
- potential for the future
- designed to be in line with metadata that can be used in the online networked environment

48

Translation: Roles and Responsibilities

- Author of English text – JSC
- Co-Publishers - ALA, CLA and Facet Publishing, the publishing arm of CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals)
- Copyright holders – 3 Co-Publishers

49

AACR2 Translation Model

- Translation rights granted by copyright holders
 - Royalties paid to AACR Revision Fund
- ★ AACR2 = 25 translations


50

The past: Règles de catalogage anglo-américaines

- License granted to Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED) by copyright holders
- Collaboration between ASTED, National Library of Canada (now Library and Archives Canada) and Bibliothèque nationale du Québec (now Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec)
- *RCAA2* published and sold by ASTED

51

RDA Translation Model

- RDA Toolkit  New Model
- Single multilingual product allowing users to switch to different language versions
- ALA to seek partners to undertake translation (e.g. ASTED)
- ALA Publishing to manage online subscriptions and provide support for RDA Toolkit, from anywhere in the world

52

RDA

Ressources : Description et Accès

- Coordinated by ASTED
- Collaboration between ASTED, BAnQ, BnF, LAC and others

** LAC's full implementation of RDA is dependent on availability of a French version*

53

Translation Issues

- Technical issues:
 - XML
 - integration into RDA Toolkit
 - content + interface
- Resource issues:
 - availability of financial/human resources

54

Terminology Issues

- Sources to aid translation:
 - FRBR, International Cataloging Principles and ISBD available in French from IFLA site
 - Existing French translation of AACR2
 - Existing French translation of MARC 21 formats

55

Terminology Issues

- Complex language, context dependent, e.g.:
- Preferred name
- Preferred sources
- Unmediated

56

Implementation Plans at Library and Archives Canada

- Full implementation of RDA at LAC is dependent on the availability of a French version of RDA.
- Decisions on which RDA options and alternatives LAC will follow will be made in conjunction with the other Anglo-American national libraries to minimize differences in practice.
- LAC will not deliver training but will make any documentation that is developed freely available to any interested institutions.

57

Implementation Plans at Library and Archives Canada

- Library of Congress Policy Statements (LCPS)
- Reviewing LAC's existing rule interpretations for relevancy and revise as necessary
- Decide which options/alternatives to follow
 - Collaboration with CCC and BAnQ as well as with other JSC national libraries

58

Implementation Plans at Library and Archives Canada

- Preparing AMICUS to accommodate new MARC fields
- Impact for Canadian Union Catalogue reporting
- Evaluate impact on products
- Plan for conversion of legacy access points

59

Canadian Committee on Cataloguing

- Review training documentation developed by the Canadian library community
- Reviewing the list of deferred issues
- Assist in deciding which options/alternatives to follow

60

CLA TSIG

Technical Services Interest Group

- Maintain roster of trainers
- Maintain online archive of documentation and training materials
- Sponsor workshops
- Survey to assess training needs

61

Canadian Union Catalogue on AMICUS

- Records created using RDA are intended to integrate with AACR2 records in existing databases.

62

Towards the future

- Experimentation with RDA element set by other communities
- Registry – schemas
- Integration with systems
- Move to relational/object-oriented database structure
- FRBR displays

63

RDA post-implementation

- Deferred issues + new issues
- RDA Toolkit: schedule for updates, how?
- Change to governance model

64

Understanding RDA

- ✓ A set of practical instructions based on the theoretical framework of FRBR/FRAD
- ✓ Data that responds to user needs
- ✓ Implementation is just the beginning
- ✓ Expanding scope to include other cultural heritage communities
- ✓ Designed for now and the future

65