

***Resource Description &
Access (RDA)—U.S. testing***

**AALL Cataloging &
Classification Meeting
*July 26, 2009***

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Background

- **LC Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control**
- ***On the Record***
 - **“Suspend work on *RDA*”**
- **LC worked with National Agricultural Library (NAL) and National Library of Medicine (NLM) to plan for U.S. testing**



RDA Goals

- **The guidelines and instructions in RDA 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
- Be usable primarily within the library community, but be capable of adaptation to meet the specific needs of other communities



RDA Goals

- **Descriptions and access points produced applying RDA guidelines and instructions will:**
- Enable users to *find, identify, select, and obtain* resources appropriate to their information needs
- Be compatible with descriptions and access points devised using AACR2, and present in existing catalogues and databases
- Be independent of the format, medium or system used to store or communicate the data
- Be readily adaptable to newly-emerging database structures



RDA Goals

- **RDA will be developed as a resource description standard that is:**
- Optimised for use as an online tool (although a print edition will also be published)
- 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



Proposed testing methodology

- **Assumptions—**

- **Test results will be shared**
- **Only final version of *RDA* to be tested**
- ***RDA* will be tested in existing systems**
- ***RDA* data created during test made available for use, reuse, testing**
- **Non-formal testers invited to share *RDA* created data**



Testing partners

- **26 partners selected, including LC, NAL, NLM**
- **Partners include cross-section**
 - **Types, sizes, formats, content, content codes used**
 - **Libraries, consortia, educators, vendors**
 - **Program for Cooperative Cataloging libraries**
 - **OCLC**



Testing timeline (tentative dates)

- **Test days 1-90 (Jan. – Mar. 2010)**
 - Familiarization with *RDA* content & online functionality
- **Test days 91-180 (April – June 2010)**
 - Partners produce records using *RDA*
- **Post-test days 1-90 (July – Sept. 2010)**
 - LC/NAL/NLM complete analysis & make decision to adopt *RDA*



Core test titles

- **25 titles to be cataloged by all**
- **Range of analog and digital**
- **To include**
 - **Textual monographs**
 - **AV materials**
 - **Serials**
 - **Integrating resources**



Core test titles

- **Each partner to**

- **Catalog each core title using *RDA* and using normal content code (e.g., *AACR2*, *DACS—Describing Archives: a Content Standard*)**
- **Have different staff use the two different content codes**
- **Use normal communication format, e.g., MARC 21, MARCXML, Dublin Core**



Other titles using *RDA*

- **Partners to catalog regular receipts using *RDA* (at least 25), e.g.,**
 - Foreign languages
 - Cartographic materials
 - Music scores
- **Authority data should be created if normally done for both core and regular titles**



RDA options

- **Decisions still to be made on applying *RDA* options**
 - **Set options prior to test for all titles?**
 - **Set options prior to test for core titles only?**
 - **Use information gleaned from test to set options later?**



Feedback on creating *RDA* data

- **Mechanisms will be set up for submission of test data**
 - **Actual records for core titles**
 - **Survey responses for regular titles**
 - **Survey Monkey**
 - **Basecamp**



Evaluative factors: What do we want to learn?

● **Categories**

- **Questions to be answered**
- **Level of personnel**
- **Source of answers**
- **Type of answer/data, e.g.,**
 - **Objective**
 - **Subjective**
 - **Local management decision**



Evaluative factors: What do we want to learn?

- **Record creation**
- **Record use**
- **Training & documentation needs**
- **Using an online tool**
- **Systems & metadata**
- **Technical feasibility**
- **Workflows**
- **Costs & benefits**

Next steps

- **Summer/fall: LC/NAL/NLM will**
 - Prepare training materials
 - Prepare documentation
 - Plan for internal testing
 - **Collaborate with partners and stakeholders, e.g.,**
 - Other national libraries
 - Vendor community
 - Program for Cooperative Cataloging
 - ALA Publishing



LC's internal plans

- **Prepare training materials**
- **Prepare documentation**
- **Determine which staff will participate**
- **System changes, e.g., for RDA driven MARC 21 updates**
- **Help desk needs**




Contact information

- **U.S. Testing Resource Description and Access (RDA)**

<http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/rda/>

- **Beacher Wiggins**
 - **Director for Acquisitions & Bibliographic Access**
 - **Library of Congress**
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- **Thank you!**
 - **Questions**