Finding your way with RDA
session 1

an ORDAC community presentation – 7 June 2023
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Overview topics from the RDA Guidance

- Familiar vs new
- RDA entities & elements
- Some key terminology
- RDA conformancy
- Navigating element pages
What’s familiar

**Objectives**
- Responsiveness to user needs
- Cost efficiency
- Flexibility
- Continuity
- Internationalisation

**Principles**
- Differentiation
- Sufficiency
- Relationships
- Representation
- Accuracy
- Common usage or practice
- Uniformity

**User tasks** *(fisoe)*
- Find
- Identify
- Select
- Obtain
- Explore

Taken from the IFLA Statement of International Cataloguing Principles (ICP)
"The metadata standards used in archives, museums, publishing, and other communities related to libraries were taken into consideration in the design of RDA. The goal is to attain an effective level of interoperability between those standards and RDA."
RDA entities

LRM Entities

Res

Work
Expression
Manifestation
Item
Agent
Person
Collective Agent
Nomen
Place
Time-span

RDA Entities

RDA Entity

Work
Expression
Manifestation
Item
Agent
Person
Collective Agent
Corporate Body
Family
Nomen
Place
Timespan
RDA elements

**Relationship elements**: An RDA relationship element **records a value** that is an instance of an RDA entity

**Attribute elements**: An RDA attribute element **does not record a value** that is an instance of an RDA entity

"a value that is an instance of an RDA entity" means I can make a statement relating one element to another

**Original RDA** - attribute, it stops here
Date of publication: 1998

**Official RDA** - relationship, it can be looked at both ways

<Manifestation> *has date of publication* <Timespan> e.g. "Once were warriors" *has date of publication "1990"
<Timespan> *is date of publication of* <Manifestation> e.g. "1990* is date of publication of "Once were warriors"

No more "RDA core" elements - community decision
Application profiles

Key points
• An application profile guides you on mandatory/mandatory if applicable/optional, how many, when, etc.
• Specific to a given context/community
• Most are still in development
• You can write your own or use someone else's
A Metadata Description Set is one or more metadata statements put together according to some kind of plan.

Information resource examples

A metadata description set can be partially conformant with RDA "if some, but not all, of its metadata statements are conformant with RDA"
Conformant RDA

Description must include resource entities
  e.g. a manifestation must be exemplified by at least one item

Description must meet coherent and minimum requirements.

"Add other elements to descriptions of one or more resource entities that are deemed useful for identification or access."

Coherent description
+ Minimum description
+ Effective description
= Conformant RDA description

Minimum for Manifestation: must include an appellation of manifestation and an appellation of work or expression

Appellation = A combination of signs that is used to label an entity for identification and reference.

Key takeaways
• Conformant RDA relates to description of information resources and description of resource entities
• Focus on RDA elements and ignore the other parts - if the values of the RDA elements you are including in your metadata description set are conformant, then you have an RDA conformant description
Element pages

contributor person of text

contributor person to aggregate

copyright date

creator agent of manifestation

creator collective agent of manifestation

creator corporate body of manifestation
## Domain and Range

### Manifestation: copyright date

**Domain**
- Manifestation

**Range**
- Timespan

**Alternate labels**
- The thorn birds

**Domain:** Manifestation

**Range:** Timespan

**has copyright date**

**Domain:** The thorn birds

**has copyright date**

### Expression: content type

**Domain**
- Expression

**Range:** Timespan

**Attribute**
- "value"

**Domain:** Expression

**Range:** Timespan

**has content type**

**Domain:** The thorn birds

**has content type**

**Attribute**
- "text"
Soft-deprecated elements
parallel title proper

Definition and Scope
A nomen that is a title proper in another language or script.

Prerecording
The following option is recommended.

OPTION
Do not use this element; use Manifestation: title proper instead to record a value.
Recording methods

Unstructured description
A recording method that is a human-readable string that is an uncontrolled full or partial description of an entity or an uncontrolled term describing an aspect of an entity. Includes a note, a transcription, a name or title as it appears in a source of information, and an uncontrolled term.

Structured description
A recording method that is a human-readable string that is a full or partial description of an entity that is based on a string encoding scheme, or is a controlled term that describes an aspect of an entity. Includes an access point or a controlled term taken from a vocabulary encoding scheme.

Identifier
A recording method that is a machine-readable string that is assigned to an entity in order to differentiate the entity from other entities within a local domain, or a notation for a term from a controlled vocabulary that is assigned to an aspect of the entity. Includes an identifier or notation taken from a vocabulary encoding scheme.

IRI
A recording method that is a machine-readable string that is assigned to an entity in order to differentiate the entity from other entities, or to an aspect of an entity, within the global domain of the semantic web and open linked data.
Vocabulary encoding schemes, String encoding schemes

Vocabulary encoding scheme (VES)
A named structured list of representations of controlled values for elements. A vocabulary encoding scheme includes an RDA list of terms or their corresponding value vocabularies in the RDA Registry, an ISO code list, a standard terminology, an authority control system, etc. Simple keyword indexes are excluded.
Examples: Library of Congress Name Authorities, Library of Congress Subject Headings, VIAF, Wikidata as well as term lists (Content type, Carrier type, Media type)

String encoding scheme (SES)
A recording method that is a machine-readable string that is assigned to an entity in order to differentiate the entity from other entities, or to an aspect of an entity, within the global domain of the semantic web and open linked data.
Example 1: put surname first followed by a comma and space then the first name...
Example 2: semi-colon between name of series and series numbering
Reading condition statements

Interpret as:

Local place name is present
AND
Larger place name is not present
AND
Larger place name is needed
Summing up

Today’s highlights:
• LRM – IFLA’s Library Reference Model
• LRM vs RDA entities
• Application profiles
• Metadata Description Sets
• Resource entities (Work, Expression, Manifestation, Item)
• Understanding what's in an element page
• Domain and Range of elements
• Soft-deprecated elements
• Recording methods (unstructured description, structured description, identifier, IRI)
• Condition statement "and"
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