

**To:** RDA Steering Committee  
**From:** Kathy Glennan, Chair, RSC  
**Subject:** Technical Working Group: Terms of reference, 2021 membership and tasks

This document sets out the members, terms of reference, and specific tasks for the Technical Working Group.

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## 1 General terms of reference

The Technical Working Group will conduct its business within the general terms of reference for RSC Working Groups (see [RSC/Operations/3](#)).

This is a standing Working Group. The chair is a voting member of the RDA Steering Committee (RSC), serving as the Technical Team Liaison Officer.

## 2 Background

The RSC develops *RDA: Resource Description and Access* for international use with a range of encoding schemes typically employed in library and related applications. The underlying domain model is based on the IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM) conceptual model. In addition, the [RDA/ONIX Framework for Resource Categorization](#) is used to derive content and carrier categories specified in RDA.

Metadata produced using RDA must be well-formed and able to meet the needs of applications operating in a variety of implementation scenarios. The number of RDA applications is increasing as a result of the success of RDA, requiring the RSC to further develop the substructures between the underlying models and functional requirements of RDA.

The technical standards environment of RDA is also developing, and the RSC needs to monitor potential impact of changes.

## 3 Charge (duties and responsibilities)

The Group is charged to:

- Assist the RSC in developing RDA in technical areas such as models, structures, semantics, and standards.
- Assist ALA Publishing in developing and maintaining the RDA Registry.
- Assure technical conformance with the RDA ontology as requested by communities and users

#### 4 Membership

- Damian Iseminger (Chair and Technical Team Liaison Officer; Library of Congress, USA)
- John Attig (Pennsylvania, USA)
- Ben Chadwick (Education Services Australia)
- Gordon Dunsire (Edinburgh, Scotland)
- Deborah Fritz (TMQ, USA)
- Sarah Hartmann (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek)
- Szabina Ilácsa (National Széchényi Library, Hungary)
- Ebe Kartus (Wider Community Engagement Officer) (ex officio)
- Honor Moody (RDA Examples Editor) (ex officio)
- Ricardo Santos Muñoz (Biblioteca Nacional de España)

#### 5 Tasks

1. Support the work of the RSC and provide expert advice.
2. For change proposals made to the RSC:
  - a. Ensure that the proposed change conforms to the RDA/LRM ontology.
  - b. Ensure that the proposed change does not introduce redundancy in the RDA ontology.
  - c. Advise on generalizing the technical context of a proposed change: can the change be broadened to benefit other areas?
3. Liaise with the Application Profiles Working Group.
4. Liaise with the Dev Team.
5. Monitor the changes to the ISSN standard and advise on the technical effects on RDA.
6. Monitor the changes to the ISBD standard and advise on the technical effects on RDA.
7. Monitor linked data ontologies in other cultural heritage institutions.
8. Coordinate and maintain mappings and alignments between RDA elements and
  - a. MARC 21
  - b. UNIMARC
  - c. Dublin Core
  - d. ISBD namespaces
  - e. BIBFRAME
  - f. Wikidata
9. Prepare the conformance checklist.

10. Investigate and report on modelling of collections of items (including curator agent of work element proposal from NARDAC).
11. Prepare discussion paper on performance aggregates.
12. Initiate expression excerpts modelling review.
13. Participate in the review of modelling extent (working with the new task-and-finish working group).
14. Develop RDA Ontology metadata vocabulary.

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