

MINUTES
MAY 2023 JOINT MEETING
RDA Board and RDA Steering Committee
ALA Headquarters, Chicago
16-17 May 2023

Attending: John Trevor-Allen, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (RDA copyright holder), RDA Board Chair
Colleen Barbus, American Library Association (RDA copyright holder)
Christine Oliver, Canadian Federation of Library Associations (RDA copyright holder)
Christian Aliverti, Europe Representative to the RDA Board
Judith Cannan, North America Representative to the RDA Board
Julia Hickie, Oceania Representative to the RDA Board
Haliza Jailani, Asia Representative to the RDA Board
Rania Osman, Africa Representative to the RDA Board
Catalina Zavala, Latin America and the Caribbean Representative to the RDA Board (attending online)
James Hennelly, Director, ALA Digital Reference (RDA publisher)
Renate Behrens, RSC Chair
Kathy Glennan, RSC Past Chair
Charlene Chou, RSC Wider Community Engagement Officer
Charlotte Christensen, RSC Oceania representative
Ahava Cohen, RSC Europe representative
Szabolcs Dancs, RSC Translations Team Liaison Officer
Damian Iseminger, RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer
Robert Maxwell, RSC North America representative
Honor Moody, RDA Examples Editor
Elisa Sze, RSC Education and Orientation Officer
Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary

As this is the first joint meeting of the RDA Board and the RSC, agenda numbering starts from 000.

Executive Session

000 Housekeeping. James Hennelly welcomed everyone to ALA Headquarters and provided the information needed to find their way around over the next few days.

001 Welcome from the Chair of the Board. John Trevor-Allen introduced himself and welcomed everyone on behalf of the RDA Board. He also expressed how useful the Board has found the last few days of the Board meeting and how much he is looking forward to the connections and face-to-face meetings.

002 Welcome from the RSC Chair. Renate Behrens introduced herself and echoed John Trevor-Allen's sentiments. She stressed the opportunities for brainstorming opened up by being together face-to-face. Renate also thanked James Hennelly, Jen Gongerek and ALA for hosting.

003 Introductions. The RDA Board and RSC members introduced themselves to each other.

004 Internationalization. John Trevor-Allen stressed internationalization as a key aim of RDA and chaired a discussion on where we are now and where we would like to be.

This wide-ranging discussion covered topics including the importance of interoperability; non-Roman scripts; multilingual communities; the fact that "international" doesn't just mean embracing different countries but different cultures and, often, being open to different communities within the same country.

005 Governance model. John Trevor-Allen highlighted the [organization chart](#) prepared by Kathy Glennan and asked the meeting whether they currently felt that the current model is working. The meeting concluded that an outreach campaign on how people can have their voices heard would be advantageous. Renate Behrens highlighted that we have started our year well with the [RDA Toolkit from Kathy Glennan on how to make a proposal](#) and that we have to keep repeating this message. The meeting agreed that a key message to take to the wider cataloging community is that they have agency not only to suggest changes but to become involved in RDA development, through the Regional Groups (EURIG, NARDAC and ORDAC), through Working Groups, and, for those without current regional groups, via the Widening Community Engagement Officer in the first instance.

006 Terms of Board membership. Renate Behrens led a discussion on the terms of Board membership. Discussion largely focused on outreach, recruitment and orientation of new members.

007 Feedback from the Regions. Renate Behrens asked each region's Board member and / or RSC representative to share their current progress. Because these are informal reports of

ongoing actions, they are not shared publicly in the minutes. The last public reports from the RSC Europe and RSC North American Representatives can be seen in the appendix to [RSC/Minutes/344-361](#) (Appendix items 346.1 and 346.2 respectively). The last public report from the RSC Oceania Representative can be seen in the appendix to [RSC/Minutes/362-372](#) (Appendix item 362.1).

008 Update on the RSC Working Groups. Renate Behrens shared the progress of the current Working Groups. All four current Working Groups (Place/Jurisdiction, Extent, Official Languages and Religion) are focused on topics to do with our aim of internationalization. As far as possible a balance of members from different regions was included in each Working Group.

Because these are interim reports, they are not published in the minutes. The Places Working Group focused on the term “jurisdiction” and has written a proposal to clarify the issue ([RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1](#)) which will be discussed in the RSC Meeting on 18 May.

009 Education and Training -- Renate Behrens stressed the importance of Education and Training as a topic for RDA and asked for comments from Elisa Sze, Charlene Chou and Honor Moody.

009.1 Teaching RDA in the LIS Classroom. Elisa Sze gave a summary of her achievements so far in her position as RSC Education and Orientation Officer, referring to the Terms of Reference for her position, the interviews she has conducted, the report she has published ([RSC/Papers/2022/1 – Teaching RDA in the LIS Classroom](#)), and [the webinar](#) she gave in February.

009.2 Wider Community Engagement Charlene Chou provided an update on her recent activities. When she started in her role, she started to work on a strategy but also has been organising cataloging workshops in various areas. She provides an annual [RDA Update](#) to the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL). Charlene is always happy to be in touch with members and potential members of the RDA cataloging community.

010 Chairs’ thanks. Renate Behrens and John Trevor-Allen expressed their thanks to everyone for their participation.

Approved by the RDA Board and the RSC
29 May 2023

APPENDIX

005 Governance model

RDA Interrelationship Diagram

Kathy Glennan, March 24, 2021

