The New Expression of RDA (not RDA 2.0)

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Why not 2.0?
And other things you might want to know
A New Expression

• Keeping content from the original Toolkit wherever possible
  ▪ If not in conflict with IFLA Library Reference Model
  ▪ Sometimes will “soft deprecate” an element
    o Because there’s a preferred way to record a particular piece of data

• Significantly reorganized
  ▪ No longer a cataloging manual; instead separate pages for several thousand elements
    o Don’t panic, you don’t have to use all of them!

• Relationship elements, not “relationship designators”
  ▪ New way to think about these
  ▪ Their inverses are also elements
A New Expression

- Element pages standardized
  - Definition and scope
  - Element reference
    - Includes domain/range, alternate labels, and MARC mappings
  - Prerecording – Is this the element to use for my data?
  - Recording – What data do I choose to record?
    - Recording methods – How do I record the data?
      - Sections for unstructured description, structured description, identifier, and IRI
  - Related elements
A New Expression

• Agent entity breakout
  ▪ Created separate elements for relationships that apply to all types of agents
  ▪ Explicitly declared, rather than relying on the hierarchy
    □ Improves training; won’t have to remind catalogers to look for general relationships under “Agent” instead of “Person”
  ▪ Resulting element labels not great for end-user display, e.g.:
    □ Author agent
    □ Author person
    □ Author collective agent
    □ Author corporate body
    □ Author family
    ... but you could use a different label
    (Systems people, are you listening?)
Beta RDA Toolkit
Current Status

• Still in active development
  ▪ May be updated at any time
  ▪ No revision history tracking
  ▪ Element and Guidance chapters still being written and/or refined

• Working to stabilize the English text by April
  ▪ Needed by
    o Translators
    o Creators of policy statements, best practices, and application profiles
    o Authors of derivative/supporting books (like *RDA Essentials*)
After Stabilization – Toolkit Content

• Continue to refine the Toolkit interface
  ▪ Introduction of the visual browser (expected in April)
  ▪ Add citation numbering, help, and further end-user enhancements

• Introduce revision history for the RDA text – after each formal update
  ▪ Provide a list of instructions that have been revised, added, or deleted, and a brief summary of the reason for the action
  ▪ Archive of PDFs for the altered instructions
  ▪ User can use an application outside of the Toolkit to compare these

• No substantive changes to the text until the beta version becomes the official RDA
  ▪ May be able to add/clarify some elements, but nothing that would require significant re-translation
After Stabilization – Development

- Identify future development needs for the RDA text and assign them to the RDA communities or working groups
  - “Post 3R” topics will include
    - Extent of Manifestation
    - Extent of Expression
    - Refinement of Collective Agent
    - Eliminating “pseudo-elements”
      - Including what’s currently in RDA 6.28 (special instructions related to musical works and expressions)
      - Also those special instructions for legal works/expressions, religious works/expressions, and official communications
After Stabilization – Development

• Determine new ways of working for the RSC
  ▪ Continue to implement new governance structure and move to being more of an executive body
  ▪ Develop new, streamlined proposal process
    o Plan to make substantive changes on a quarterly rather than annual basis
    o But still need transparent process that allows for community feedback
  ▪ Will discharge existing RSC Working Groups and re-form the ones that are needed
    o Don’t worry, music is on that list!
    o Working Groups to take the lead on identifying issues and proposing solutions in specialized areas
After Stabilization – Orientation

• ALA Publishing to provide orientation (for all users of the Toolkit, regardless of community) via:
  ▪ Live webinars
  ▪ Online courses
  ▪ YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/c/RDAToolkitVideo)
  ▪ Other online resources

• RSC to continue posting presentations (etc.)
  ▪ http://www.rda-rsc.org/rscpresentations

• Training needs to be developed by communities of practice
  ▪ Should include application profiles, best practices, etc.
Moving Out of Beta
Requirements

• RDA text is stable (goal: April 2019)
• Translations (goal: Dec. 2019)
  ▪ Key translations complete: Finnish, French, German, and Spanish
  ▪ Other established translations in progress
• Policy Statements completed and published on the site (goal: Dec. 2019)
  ▪ Five of the current eight need to be functional
• RSC and RDA Board must unanimously agree that the 3R Project is complete
New Site Official – early 2020

- Countdown clock on original site starts
  - Will remain up for one final year
- RDA users expected to transition to post-3R Toolkit during this year
- Formal proposal process reopens for modifying RDA
  - The RSC must determine what belongs in RDA itself and what is more appropriate for policy statements
Questions?

Ask me at: RSCChair@rdatoolkit.org