Resource Description and Access

... how did we get here?

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Outline

- Major events and studies influencing RDA
  - Stockholm Seminar and FRBR
  - Barbara Tillett’s work
  - Toronto Conference
  - RDA-ONIX alignment
  - Delsey’s *Logical structure* work
  - Paris Principles update
  - FRAD and FRSAD

- RDA
Stockholm Seminar on Cataloguing (1990)

- IFLA-sponsored seminar with participants from around the world
- Agreement on the need for a re-examination of existing international cataloguing practices
- Proposed an IFLA-sponsored study to:
  - Examine the relationships between the data elements in bibliographic records and the user needs to be met.
  - Recommend an internationally acceptable basic level of functionality and a set of basic data requirements for records created by national bibliographic agencies.
  - *i.e. what do we really need in our records?*

The findings were reported in the (1998) IFLA publication: *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records*
Methodology of the study:

- A user-based approach
- No a priori assumptions
- An entity analysis technique
  - entities
  - attributes
  - relationships
- Consideration of all users, all formats
- Independence from any particular cataloguing code
Fundamental User Needs

- To *find* (e.g. materials on a given topic, by a given author).
- To *identify* (e.g. confirm that the record retrieved corresponds to the document or format sought)
- To *select* (e.g. have enough information to decide which of multiple records best suits the user’s needs for language, format, etc.)
- To *obtain* (e.g. have enough info to find on shelf, order, access electronically, etc.)

- Since first publication of FRBR: To *navigate* (e.g. among records in a database, headings in an index)
- Other suggestions have been: to *manage* and to *preserve*
Entity Analysis technique

- Identified the “entities” in bibliographic records that would support fundamental user needs.
- Grouped the entities into 3 groups.
- Determined basic relationships among the entities.
- Identified the most significant attributes of the entities. (RDA: “core”)
Group 1 entities

- Works
- Expressions
- Manifestations
- Items

Are the products of intellectual or artistic endeavour
Group 2 entities

- Persons
- Corporate bodies
- Families

are responsible for the production or custodianship of group 1 entities
Group 3 entities

- Concepts
- Objects
- Events
- Places

serve as subjects of “works” (along with group 1 and 2 entities)
Relationships of Group 1 entities to each other

Work is realized through Expression is embodied in Manifestation is exemplified by Item
Examples of “Works”

- Robertson Davies’ Fifth Business
- Da Vinci’s Mona Lisa
- Mozart’s Magic Flute
- The Bible
- The Hurt Locker
Examples of “Expressions”

- Text
- Music notation
- Sound
- Still image
- Moving image
- Three-dimensional object
- Combinations of the above
Examples of “Manifestations”

- Printings
- Optical discs
- Magnetic tapes
- Microfilm reels
- Digitizations accessed online
Sample entities and their relationships to each other:

**Work:**
- The Novel
- The Movie

**Expression:**
- Orig. Text
- Transl.
- Critical Edition
- Orig. Version

**Manifestation:**
- Paper
- PDF
- HTML

**Item:**
- Copy 1 (Autographed)
- Copy 2
Relationships are not just hierarchical:
Work $\rightarrow$ Expression $\rightarrow$ Manifestation $\rightarrow$ Item

- Work to work
  - sequels, supplements, chapters within
- Expression to expression
  - revisions, abridgements, translations
- Manifestation to manifestation
  - reproductions, simultaneous editions
- Item to item
  - signed copies, bound-together copies
Examples of relationships between Group 2 and Group 1 entities

- Authors, artists, composers
  - create *Works*
- Editors, translators
  - “realize” *Expressions*
- Publishers, printers
  - issue or manufacture manifestations
- Donors, libraries
  - own items
Here is a sample MARC record showing some FRBR entities and attributes

Work - red
Expression - blue
Manifestation - green
Item - orange
Seven categories of bibliographic relationships (2001)

1. Equivalence relationships
2. Derivative relationships
3. Descriptive relationships
4. Whole-part relationships
5. Accompanying relationships
6. Sequential relationships
7. Shared characteristic relationships
International Conference on the Principles and Future development of AACR:

- Raised a number of “issues” with the cataloguing code.
- Some issues have already been addressed in updates to AACRII, For example: redefinition of “seriality”, introduction of “mode of issuance”
SERIALITY

Static
(no seriality)

or

Successively-issued
Serials
Series
Multi-parts

Integrating

Monos
with suppl.

Databases
Loose-leafs
Web sites

Books, e-texts,
maps, sound
recordings,
etc.
Other issues are still outstanding:

- **Content vs. carrier** and the dissatisfaction with GMDs.
- Problems with the **logical structure** of the code (inconsistencies, not extensible to new media).
- Need for greater **internationalization** of the code.
Content vs. carrier

- RDA and the ONIX community have collaborated on resource “categorization”
- Three new elements in RDA will replace GMD:
  - Content type
  - Media type
  - Carrier type
Logical Structure


- Problems identified, for example:
  - Chapter per “class of material”
  - Focus on “document” implying an item-in-hand
  - Published/unpublished vs. “online”
  - Focused on “fixed” attributes rather than changing attributes common in “online” resources
Internationalization

- IME-ICC work
- The new “Statement of International Cataloguing Principles” (2009) (which also uses the FRBR model and language):
  - Update to the Paris Principles (1961)
IME-ICC General principles

General principles:
1. Convenience of the user.
2. Common usage.
3. Representation.
4. Accuracy.
5. Sufficiency and necessity.
7. Economy.
8. Consistency and standardization
9. Integration.

The rules in a cataloguing code should be *defensible* and *not arbitrary*. It is recognized that these principles may contradict each other in specific situations and a defensible, practical solution should be taken.
Functional Requirements for Authority Data

Functions of Authority Data:

- Document decisions
- Serve as reference tool
- Control forms of access points
- Support access to bibliographic file
- Link bibliographic and authority files
User tasks:

- **Find** *(e.g. information on an entity and its associated resources)*
- **Identify** *(e.g. confirm that the entity described corresponds to the entity sought)*
- **Contextualize** *(rda: clarify) (e.g. clarify the relationship between two or more entities, or between an entity and a name it is known by)*
- **Justify** *(rda: understand) (e.g. understand why a particular name or title is chosen as the “preferred” name or title)*

**Entities:**

- Frbr Group 1 *(work, expression, manifestation, item)*
- Frbr Group 2 *(person, family, corporate body)*
  - RDA
FRAD basic relationships

Bibliographic Entities

known by

Names and/or Identifiers

basis for

Controlled Access Points
Still in draft: focusing on Frbr Group 3 entities (concept, object, event, place) → RDA

Basic principles, thus far:

- **Find** *(e.g. a subject corresponding to the user’s stated criteria)*
- **Identify** *(e.g. a subject based on specific attributes or characteristics)*
- **Select** *(e.g. a subject appropriate to the user’s needs)*
- **Explore** *(e.g. relationships among subjects in order to understand the structure of the subject domain)*
Let’s quickly explore the highlights of how these developments manifest themselves in the new code (details will come later in the afternoon):

- **General introduction:**
  - Scope: states support of basic user tasks from FRBR and FRAD: FISO, FICJ (or RDA clarify & understand)
  - Principles: guided by IME-ICC:
    - Differentiation, sufficiency, relationships, representation, accuracy, attributions, language preference, common usage or practice, uniformity
    - “principles” not “rule by example”
  - Core Elements:
    - Guided by FRBR/FRAD “high value” elements to support user tasks, ISBD mandatory elements
RDA Description

- Section 1: describing manifestations and items
  - All physical formats, not one per chapter (Delsey)
  - Media/carrier types (from RDA/ONIX work)

- Section 2: describing works and expressions
  - Content types (from RDA/ONIX work)

- Section 3: describing persons, families, corporate bodies (FRBR group 2)

- Section 4: describing concept, object, event, place (FRBR group 3: first three still at placeholder stage)
RDA Relationships

- Section 5: Primary Work-expression-manifestation-item relationships (primary FRBR group 1)
- Section 6: Relationships to people, families, corp bodies (FRBR group 2 to group 1)
- Section 7: Subject relationships (FRBR group 3 to group 1) (placeholder)
- Section 8: Relationships among group 1 entities (includes Tillett’s categories)
- Section 9: Relationships among FRBR group 2 entities
- Section 10: Relationships among group 3 entities (placeholder)
RDA Appendices

Further influence of FRBR and other work:

- Abbreviations: fewer!
  (cf. IME-ICC principle of “Representation”)  
- Record syntaxes are now in appendix
  - MARC21, ISBD (supports: Internationalization)
- Relationship designators (FRBR and Tillett)
- Glossary (FRBR language)
In summary

- RDA is really a convergence of the pathways of a number of initiatives over the past twenty years.
Questions?

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