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RDA: Resource Description and Access
A New Approach to Cataloguing
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University of British Columbia Library
BCLA Annual Conference
April, 2007

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Outline for today
- Why a new standard?
- RDA Goals
- RDA Content – What will be new?
- Preparing for RDA

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Why a new standard?
- Opportunity to simplify our rules
  - Encourage use as a content standard for metadata schema
  - Encourage international applicability
- Need for more consistency and less redundancy, for easier use and interpretation
- Chance to modernize
  - We’ve moved from card catalogue to online environment but we still have card-based terminology and rules in our cataloguing code.
Why not just keep revising AACR2?

- AACR2
- 1978
- 1988
- 1998
- 2002

Opportunities

- Opportunity to address some long-standing problems
- 1997 International Conference on the Principles and Future Development of AACR
- Principle-based
- Build on cataloguer’s judgment
- Use IFLA’S FRBR/FRAD conceptual models as foundation

A new cataloguing environment

- Wide range of information carriers, wider depth and complexity of content
- Metadata created by a wider range of personnel
- Many new metadata formats (ONIX, Dublin Core, EAD, etc.)
International developments

- IFLA's Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR)
- An updating of the Paris Principles (IME ICC) – now being vetted by cataloguing rulemakers worldwide.
- IFLA Meeting of Experts on an International Cataloguing Code

RDA Goals...

RDA will be...

- A new standard for resource description and access
- Designed for the digital environment
- Developed as a web-based product
- Description and access of all digital resources (and analog)
- Resulting records usable in the digital environment (Internet, Web OPACs, etc.)
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RDA will be...

- "Multinational content standard providing bibliographic description and access for a variety of media and formats collected by libraries today"
- Developed for use in English language environment; intended for use also in other language communities
- Independent of a communication format (e.g., MARC21).

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RDA will...

- Support FRBR user tasks
- Find, identify, select, obtain
- Enable users of library catalogues, etc. to find and use resources appropriate to their information needs

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RDA Content...
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New Terminology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AACR2 terms</th>
<th>RDA terms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heading</td>
<td>Access point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorized heading</td>
<td>Preferred access point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform title</td>
<td>Preferred title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main entry</td>
<td>Primary access point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Added entry</td>
<td>Secondary access point</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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RDA structure:
A work in progress!

AACR2

- Part I: Description (class of materials)
- Part II: Access

RDA

- Part A
  - Part I: Description (data elements)
- Part II: Relationships
- Part III: Access Point
  - Choice and Control

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- AACR2 – organized by class of material
  - difficult to apply to digital resources and new media
- RDA – organized by data elements
  - extensible to new media
  - Applicable at all levels of granularity
Part A
Chapters 0-5

0. Introduction
1. General guidelines for resource description
2. Identification of the resource - FRBR "Identify"
3. Description of "carrier" FRBR "Select"
4. Description of "content" - FRBR "Select"
5. Acquisition and access information - FRBR "Obtain"

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Chapter 6 and 7
These chapters will focus on the relationships between FRBR entities

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FRBR Entities
- Group 1: Products of intellectual and artistic endeavour
  - Work
  - Expression
  - Manifestation
  - Item
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FRBR Entities

- Group 2: Those responsible for the intellectual & artistic content
  - Person
  - Corporate body
  - Family

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Part A Ch. 6-7
"Relationships"

- Chapter 6: Relationships between FRBR Group 1 and Group 2 entities
  - Persons
  - Corporate bodies
  - Families

- Chapter 7: Relationships between FRBR Group 1 entities
  - Works
  - Expressions
  - Manifestations
  - Items

FRBR user task "Find"

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Part B

Access Point Control

- Choice of access point
  - Primary vs. secondary
  - General guidelines for Access point control
  - Guidance from FRAD
  - Preferred and variant forms for:
    - Persons, Families, Corporate bodies, Places
    - Works, expressions
  - Other information used in access point control (entity identifiers, sources of info, etc.)
  - Guidelines dealing with the importance and use of roles associated with entities.

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RDA

Some challenges for the RDA authors...

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RDA

Continuity vs. change

Question:

• "Why didn't you just throw out AACR2 and start over?"

Answer:

• Keep the best of what we have
• Compatibility with existing records is essential!

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RDA

Content vs. coding and display

• RDA will be a content standard not a display standard and independent of coding standards.

• RDA will contain new data elements, redefined data elements (implications for coding)
  • New elements to replace the QMD
  • Clarified definition of "notes"

• RDA records will be able to be displayed in an ISBD display if desired
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**RDA**

**Transcription**

- More "take what you see"
- Inaccuracies
- Full forms vs. abbreviations

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**RDA**

**New workflows**

- More options for automated data capture from resources themselves.
- More options for reuse and repurposing of external metadata, e.g. from publishers, from creators

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**RDA**

**Content/Carrier**

- Terms for Content and Carrier
  - RDA/ONIX collaboration on resource "categorization"
  - Three new elements in RDA to replace GMD and SMD:
    - Content category
    - Media category
    - Carrier type
  - Fulfill FRBR "select" user task
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**Mandatory Elements**

- Some elements will be identified as "required" instead of three levels of description.
- Other elements will be identified as "required if applicable" or "optional".

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**Work still in progress...**

- Mode of Issuance
- Internationalization
- Persistent Identifiers and URLs
- Appendices
- Access Points for Families
- Examples
- Glossary

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**RDA draft review Schedule**

- Chapter 3 (Carrier) March-July 2007
- Chapters 6 and 7 June-Sept 2007
  - Ch. 6: Persons, families, corporate bodies associated with a resource
  - Ch. 7: Related resources
- Complete Draft of RDA July-Sept 2008 at IFLA ... here in Canada!
- Final Version Early 2009
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Preparing for RDA...

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Coding RDA records in MARC 21

- Most RDA data elements can be incorporated into MARC 21
- A few changes:
  - New data elements to replace GMDs
  - Possibly some other modifications necessary to MARC 21 will be identified as progress on RDA continues

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Retrospective maintenance?

- No - Significant changes to existing records will not be required
- Need for retrospective adjustments when integrating RDA and AACR2 records will be minimal
Making decisions / choosing options

- RDA will offer many alternatives, options
- Only a few required elements
- Who decides how to apply RDA?
  - National libraries
  - Co-operative programs
  - Your library

Training for RDA

- Cataloguers will need some orientation to RDA
- Groups that already provide training are beginning to make plans
- Supplementary tools – “Where’s that rule?” will be produced
- Online product will assist with learning

RDA Online Prototype

Here is a link to the prototype online version of RDA for you to try out:
www.rdaonline.org
Commenting on RDA drafts

- RDA drafts available at: www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rda.html
- Informal discussion: subscribe to RDA-L (link on page above)
- Formal comments: within Canada, contact the CCC Secretariat at ccc-l@lac-bac.gc.ca

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Thank you!