


Slide 1



# RDA: Resource Description and Access

A New Approach to Cataloguing

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Slide 2



## 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.

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### Why not just keep revising AACR2?



- AACR2
  - 1978
  - 1988
  - 1998
  - 2002

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### 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

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### 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.)

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### 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

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### RDA Goals...

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### 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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**RDA** New Terminology

AACR2 terms	RDA terms
Heading	Access point
Authorized heading	Preferred access point
Uniform title	Preferred title
Main entry	Primary access point
Added entry	Secondary access point

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**RDA** RDA structure: A work in progress!

AACR2	RDA
Part I: Description (class of materials)	<b>Part A</b> Part I: Description (data elements)
Part II: Access	Part II: Relationships
	<b>Part B</b> Part III: Access Point Choice and Control

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**RDA**

- 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

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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"**

**FRBR user task "Find"**

- 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

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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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Some challenges for  
the RDA authors...

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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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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 GMD
  - Clarified definition of "notes"
- RDA records will be able to be displayed in an ISBD display if desired

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 **Transcription**

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

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 **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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 **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
- Part B: Access Point Control **Dec 2007 –Mar 2008**
- 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

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 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

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 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

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 RDA Online Prototype

Here is a link to the prototype online version of RDA for you to try out:

[www.rdaonline.org](http://www.rdaonline.org)

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### Commenting on RDA drafts

- RDA drafts available at:  
[www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rda.html](http://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](mailto:ccc-l@lac-bac.gc.ca)

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