To: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR  
The Committee of Principals for AACR

From: Deirdre Kiorgaard, Chair, JSC

Subject: Strategic plan for RDA 2005-2008

Related documents:
5JSC/RDA/Prospectus/Rev  
5JSC/RDA/Objectives and Principles  
RDA Communication Plan

A Strategic Plan was first developed for AACR in 2002, and revised in 2003 and 2004.

The current Strategic Plan has been comprehensively revised to reflect goals and strategies for the development of RDA — Resource Description and Access.

The Joint Steering Committee and the Committee of Principals share overall responsibility for the plan. The JSC, the CoP, the Co-publishers, the RDA Project Manager, the RDA Editor and the JSC Chair each have responsibilities in relation to specific aspects of this plan.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR RDA

RDA — Resource Description and Access will be a new standard for resource description and access, designed for the digital world.

Built on foundations established by the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR), RDA will provide a comprehensive set of guidelines and instructions on resource description and access covering all types of content and media.

RDA will enable users of library catalogues and other systems of information organization to find, identify, select, and obtain resources appropriate to their information needs.

GOALS FOR RDA

1. RDA will be ready for publication in 2008.

2. The guidelines and instructions in RDA will be designed to:

   - Provide a consistent, flexible and extensible framework for both the technical and content description of all types of resources and all types of content.
   - Be compatible with internationally established principles, models, and standards.
3. Descriptions and access points produced through the application of RDA guidelines and instructions will:

- Enable users to find, identify, select, and obtain resources appropriate to their information needs.
- Be compatible with those descriptions and access points devised using AACR2, and present in existing catalogues and databases.
- Be independent of the format, medium or system used to store or communicate the data.
- Be readily adaptable to newly-emerging database structures.

4. RDA will be developed as a resource description standard that is:

- Optimised for use as an online tool (although a print edition will also be published).
- Derived from English language conventions and customs, written in plain English, and able to be used in other language communities.
- Easy and efficient to use, both as a working tool and for training purposes.

STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

1. To ensure that RDA is ready for publication in 2008, we will:

- Develop, implement and maintain a Business Plan.
- Establish an effective project management structure, including the appointment of a project manager.
- Balance community input with the need for RDA to be ready for publication within the timeframe.
- Employ appropriate risk management processes.

2. To ensure that the guidelines and instructions in RDA meet the goals for consistency, flexibility, etc., outlined under Goal 2 above, we will:

- Resolve problems associated with the class of materials concept and the related issue of GMDs.
- Resolve residual problems associated with cataloguing resources that change over time, including multipart resources.
- Revise and modernise terminology to eliminate unnecessary library jargon, and eliminate ambiguous and inconsistent terminology.
3. To ensure that descriptions and access points produced through the application of RDA meet the goals for functionality, compatibility, etc., outlined under Goal 3 above, we will:

- Directly relate the elements of the description and access points to the user tasks that they support.
- Revise the instructions to facilitate collocation at the FRBR work and expression levels.
- Incorporate the concept of authority control.
- Revise the instructions relating to the choice of access points to address issues associated with the concept of “authorship” as it is currently reflected in AACR2 and restrictions imposed by the “rule of three.”
- Separate instructions on the recording of data from those on the presentation of data.

4. To ensure that RDA is developed as a resource description standard that meets the goals for ease and efficiency of use outlined under Goal 4 above, we will:

- Work with a web designer to develop an online tool according to functional specifications that reflect how RDA will be used.
- Provide conceptual background within RDA to assist the user of the instructions to understand the process to be followed.
- Write new text in plain English, and revise existing text wherever practicable.
- Provide a revised Glossary, and incorporate definitions into the text where needed.
- Consult with educators and trainers, and plan for activities that support the implementation of RDA.