

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Gordon Dunsire, Chair, JSC
Subject: Protocol between the JSC and the ISBD Review Group

Related documents:

6JSC/Chair/13/Shared documents Documents shared between the JSC and the ISBD Review Group

6JSC/Chair/10 Terms of reference for the JSC RDA/ONIX Framework Working Group

Background

"RDA provides a set of guidelines and instructions on formulating data to support resource discovery. RDA provides a comprehensive set of guidelines and instructions covering all types of content and media."

"The International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) is intended to serve as a principal standard to promote universal bibliographic control, that is, to make universally and promptly available, in a form that is internationally acceptable, basic bibliographic data for all published resources in all countries. From the beginning, the main goal of the ISBD has been to provide consistency when sharing bibliographic information. [It] ... determines the data elements to be recorded or transcribed in a specific sequence as the basis of the description of the resource being catalogued. In addition, it employs prescribed punctuation as a means of recognizing and displaying data elements and making them understandable independently of the language of the description."

The JSC records that it met with representatives of the ISBD (Serials) Working Group and the ISSN Network in Washington in 2000 which "agreed to harmonize several provisions in their respective standards which relate to the description of serials and integrating resources" and that "harmonization remains a goal for all three communities". Harmonization between ISBD, ISSN, and RDA was also discussed by the JSC, ISBD Review Group, and the ISSN Network at the JSC meeting in Glasgow in 2011. The ISBD Review Group records "JSC and ISBD RG agreed to discuss the creation of synchronization protocols to deal with changes in either standard".

There are now several documents published as a result of this interaction which are intended to support harmonization, interpreted as functional interoperability of the results of applying the ISBD or RDA instructions to create bibliographic metadata. A list of background and shared harmonization documents is given in *6JSC/Chair/13/Shared documents*.

The membership structure of the JSC does not accommodate direct representation of groups outside the JSC constituencies. The Chair or another member of the JSC acts as a proxy for communication between the JSC and such groups.

The JSC has a nominated liaison representative on the ISBD Review Group.

The ISBD Review Group has a nominated representative on the JSC RDA/ONIX Framework Working Group.

Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to support the maintenance and development of functional interoperability between data created using the RDA and ISBD instructions and element sets.

Methodology

The protocol is intended to be light-weight to avoid significant changes to the current practices, priorities, and workflows of the JSC and the ISBD Review Group.

The protocol is supported by the use of shared documents containing alignments and mappings between components of RDA and ISBD. The JSC develops such documents during an annual cycle for agreeing to significant amendments of RDA, while the ISBD Review Group undertakes significant revision of ISBD on a 4-5 year cycle. The JSC and ISBD Review Group are responsible for maintaining their versions of the shared documentation.

The usual channel of communication between the two groups is the JSC consulting liaison to the ISBD Review Group, who is responsible for routine communication, transmitting proposals and reports, reviewing each group's activity for potential issues, and monitoring changes to the shared documentation.

The Chair of the JSC Chair will act in place of the JSC consulting liaison if there is a gap in representation, and in other appropriate circumstances.

Duties of the JSC

The JSC will:

- Nominate a consulting liaison to the ISBD Review Group.
- Consider proposals for developing RDA to improve the functional interoperability of RDA and ISBD at its annual meeting and according to its policy and procedures.
- Inform the ISBD Review Group of potential or impending changes to RDA which may impact on shared and ISBD documentation.

- Publish shared documents submitted as proposals or discussion papers to the JSC, according to the JSC's policy and procedures.
- Minimise the delay in publishing new versions of shared documents to maintain synchronization with versions published by the ISBD Review Group.

Duties of the ISBD Review Group

The ISBD Review Group will:

- Nominate a representative to the JSC RDA/ONIX Framework Working Group.
- Consider proposals for developing ISBD to improve the functional interoperability of ISBD and RDA during the usual review cycle for ISBD.
- Inform the JSC of potential or impending changes to ISBD that may impact on shared and RDA documentation.
- Publish shared documents submitted as proposals or discussion papers to the JSC, according to the ISBD Review Group's policy and procedures.
- Minimise the delay in publishing new versions of shared documents to maintain synchronization with versions published by the ISBD Review Group.