

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Gordon Dunsire, Chair, JSC
Subject: Terms of reference for the JSC Relationship Designators Working Group

General terms of reference

The JSC Relationship Designators Working Group will conduct its business within the general terms of reference for JSC Working Groups.

Background

The JSC develops *RDA: Resource Description and Access* for international use with the range of encoding schemes typically employed in library and related applications. The underlying domain model is based on the FRBR, FRAD, and FRSAD conceptual models.

Metadata produced using *RDA* must be well-formed and able to meet the needs of applications operating in a variety of implementation scenarios. The number of *RDA* applications is increasing as a result of the success of *RDA*, requiring the JSC to further develop the substructures between the underlying models and functional requirements of *RDA*.

The conceptual models specify coarse-granularity, high-level relationships between entities. These are accommodated in *RDA* as relationship elements.

RDA provides a mechanism for refining the granularity of relationships using a hierarchical arrangement of relationship designators. Designator labels and definitions are given in appendices in *RDA Toolkit*: Appendix I, Appendix J, Appendix K, and a new Appendix M to be added during 2015. New designators and changes to existing designators are proposed by JSC members and developed using the Fast Track process.

The JSC has discussed whether designators should reflect the way that resources describe themselves, for example in statements of responsibility, or be based on a controlled categorization of relationships based on wider sources of information. The JSC has concluded that *RDA* should continue to combine both approaches, but there is insufficient agreement or information to develop detailed guidance for the development and improvement of *RDA*'s coverage of entity relationships.

The Toolkit appendices provide designators for relationships between different types of entity (FRBR Group 1 and FRBR Group 2 entities in Appendix I) and between entities of the same type (FRBR Group 1 in Appendix J and FRBR Group 2 in Appendix K). The JSC is now developing a mixture of same-entity and cross-entity relationships between FRBR Group 1 entities in Appendix M, and wishes to do add cross-entity relationship between FRBR Group 2 entities in Appendix K. The JSC is also anticipating adding new entities such as Place, together with appropriate designators for relationships to existing *RDA* entities. These

developments are likely to necessitate a change in the way that designators are presented in the Toolkit.

The JSC wishes to review and improve the treatment of designators for relating entities in *RDA*.

The JSC decided at its meeting in November 2014 to implement a Working Group to carry out tasks related to these issues.

Charge (duties and responsibilities)

The Group is charged to:

- Assist the JSC in the revision and development of relationship designators for describing relationships between entities in *RDA*.