

Representative & Liaison Report Form

Upon completing this form, please see the instructions at: www.ala.org/ala/alcts/alctsmanual/alctsforms/forms.htm. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the ALCTS office at alcts@ala.org.

Thank you.

Name:	John Attig
Reporting to:	CCS Executive Committee
Representative to:	Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
Meeting Date:	Various
Meeting Time:	
Chairperson:	Deirdre Kiorgaard, National Library of Australia
Members Present:	All
Members Absent:	

Report of Business

Suggested topics include: achievement of objectives established for this meeting; progress toward achievement of ALCTS Strategic Plan objectives (see https://members.ala.org/alcts/strat_tact/HELP_Welcome.php); recommendations for board action; summary of actions, decisions, discussion (*be concise and highlight major actions*).:

Report of the ALA Representative to the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

I took over as ALA Representative to the JSC on April 2, 2007, from Jennifer Bowen. The three months since then have been particularly eventful for the development of *RDA: Resource Description and Access*. In addition to a week-long meeting of the JSC and the Committee of Principals for RDA in Ottawa, April 16–20, representatives of the JSC participated in a particularly significant meeting in London with representatives of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) and the IEEE Learning Objects Model community to discuss their respective data models.

London Data Model Meeting, April 30/May 1 2007

RDA has been subject to severe criticisms for not having *well formed metadata*. The Joint Steering Committee has been interested in outreach to metadata communities, including the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative. Don Chatham of ALA Publishing attended last year's DC meeting in Mexico, and was impressed by the people he met and the quality of the work being done; he saw the potential for collaboration and encouraged the JSC to meet with them – and funded the meeting in London.

At the same time, in response to the criticisms, the JSC and the RDA Editor had been documenting the metadata schema implicit in RDA and its relation to library standards like FRBR as well as to Internet standards for metadata, including the DC Abstract Model.

At the meeting in London, the two communities found much common ground. The JSC found a partner willing to collaborate on a formal definition of the RDA Element Set using standard Internet conventions; they were also interested in formal definition and registration of some of the RDA internal vocabularies. For their part, the metadata communities agreed that they would benefit from complex metadata specifications based on FRBR model, provided that the specifications were presented in a standard format in order to promote interoperability; they agreed to collaborate on an application profile based on FRBR and FRAD. Finally, the wider internet community will benefit from a rich stock of complex vocabularies, defined in a standard manner in order to support semantic web concepts.

The JSC and the Committee of Principals is still analyzing the recommendations of the London meeting. They are very positive, but are equally committed to complete the RDA project on schedule. This means that the projects will need to be carried on simultaneously with RDA development, and by different people; funding will also be needed. More broadly, these projects in effect move significant components of RDA into the public domain; this means that the RDA initiative, which is financially supported by sales of RDA products, may need to be reconceived with a different sort of support

mechanism; and RDA products may need to justify themselves to their potential audience based on detailed content and functionality.

RDA Product News

ALA Publishing has sent out an RFP for software development to support an online editing environment for developing and maintaining RDA and for the RDA Online product. A vendor will be chosen and begin work in July; the first results are expected to be available for the JSC to review at their October 2007 meeting in Chicago.

RDA Implementation

The national libraries have begun to meet to talk about RDA implementation.

An ALCTS task force on RDA orientation and implementation begins its work at Annual.

The JSC has already begun talking to MARBI about MARC 21 implementation issues; by Midwinter 2008, a complete mapping and a set of recommendations will be ready for discussion.

RDA Content Development

Chapter 3 is out for comment; it covers the description of the carrier.

Chapters 6 and 7 were just released; they cover choice of access points and description of relationships.

Part B on form of access points is under development and will be out for review at the end of 2008.

The major issue with Part B is the extent of change in access points that the library community is willing to support. The position of the JSC is that no changes to AACR2 rules that would require changing existing access points will be made unless there are good reasons for the change. However, there are significant changes for which good, principal-based reasons can be advanced:

- Changes in choice of primary access point (main entry), such as elimination of the Rule of Three;
- Changes in the basis for uniform titles, following the draft Statement of International Cataloguing Principles (which prefers uniform titles based on titles commonly known in the language and script of the catalogue);
- Discontinuing the use of abbreviations.

Such changes can be justified by principle, but would require a significant number of access points to be changed. The JSC is proceeding cautiously in dealing with such issues.