

RDA Update Forum – 20 January 2007

Notes from the talk by Beacher Wiggins, Director of Acquisitions & Bibliographic Access, Library of Congress

I am here in a dual capacity: As a member of the Committee of Principals (CoP), which has responsibility for RDA, and as a senior manager at one of the national libraries that has responsibility for implementing RDA. The CoP is comprised of three large national libraries (Library of Congress, Library and Archives Canada, British Library) and the library associations in the United States (ALA), Canada (CLA), and Great Britain (CILIP).

We all want a positive outcome for RDA. Here are some concerns:

1. acceptance of RDA as a replacement set of rules to AACR2
2. ease of adoption
3. orientation for users with a minimum of training
4. a fixed timeline for implementation

The concerns I have are shared by my national library colleagues in Canada and Great Britain, though they may express their concerns slightly differently.

The library community needs a new set of rules. The CoP is anxious for RDA to be that replacement. The CoP is mindful that a new code must be accessible and easy to implement with a minimum of cost and disruption. We can't afford the costs incurred during implementation of AACR2. The CoP believes that training must be minimized. Practicing catalogers should be 'oriented' rather than 'trained'. CoP is keenly concerned that timeline remain on track, since:

1. the longer the timeline, the more costly the process
2. the longer the timeline, the greater likelihood of losing momentum
3. the longer the timeline, the more difficult it becomes for libraries to plan and adopt RDA

LC, like its sister national libraries, will play an integral role with helping to implement RDA, as was the case with AACR2. LC will prepare needed documentation and offer guidance. I've stressed to Barbara Tillett and my colleagues from the British Library and Library and Archives Canada, who strongly concur, that documentation should be pared down and streamlined. We don't want numerous and lengthy LCRI's as we have with AACR2. All training documents will be shared with the community to ease the transition process.

Marjorie and Jennifer will give details about RDA plans and how the JSC has addressed the concerns of the CoP. Thank you.

(Notes taken by Norm Meideros)