

To: RDA Steering Committee
From: Gordon Dunsire, Chair, RSC
Subject: Terms of reference for the RSC Places Working Group

Related document: This RSC document is a minor revision of its counterpart JSC document (6JSC/Chair/12); only minimal updating of names has occurred.

General terms of reference

The RSC Places Working Group will conduct its business within the general terms of reference for RSC Working Groups (see RSC/Policy/4).

Background

The FRBR conceptual model underlying *RDA: Resource Description and Access* treats metadata about places in two distinct ways.

1. The entity "Place" is included in Group 3 that comprises entities that are the "subjects of intellectual or artistic endeavour", and is assigned the single attribute "Term for the place".
2. The entity "Corporate body" in Group 2 also encompasses organizations that act as territorial authorities, exercising government functions.
3. Otherwise, place is treated as an attribute, for example "Place of Publication/Distribution" is an attribute of the entity "Manifestation" and "Place Associated with the Corporate Body" is an attribute of the entity "Corporate Body".

This approach is reflected in RDA.

RDA Chapter 16 "Identifying Places" is the only developed FRBR Group 3 entity in RDA, and only the FRBR attribute, renamed "Name of the Place", is developed within the chapter.

For places that are governments/jurisdictions, some attributes (e.g., type of jurisdiction) and the instructions for creating authorized access points are found in RDA Chapter 11 "Identifying Corporate Bodies."

There are some 16 attributes of other RDA entities with the word "place" in their labels, and several other attributes which include place as part of their scope, such as "address" and "location" attributes.

An outcome of the 2012 JSC meeting discussion on 6JSC/ALA/19 was to encourage work by ALA on further proposals for place names, including the elimination of abbreviations

for place names and adding instructions for treating larger/smaller places as relationships. Proposals impacting on both of these specific issues were submitted in 2013: 6JSC/BL/10 and 6JSC/DNB/2.

The JSC decided at its meeting in November 2013 to implement a Working Group to carry out tasks related to the treatment of places in RDA.

Charge (duties and responsibilities)

The Group is charged to:

- Assist the RSC in developing the treatment of places in RDA.