

## RDA and library systems

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## Overview

- What is RDA?
- Background and history
- Impact on library systems

## What is RDA?

- Resource Description and Access
- A new standard for metadata for information resource description and access, designed for the digital environment
  - Multinational content standard covering all media
  - Aimed at all who need to find, identify, select, obtain, use, manage and organize information
  - Independent of technical communication formats
  - To be published in 2009 as an online product
- Based on the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR)
  - World's most used content standard for metadata for bibliographic description and access

## History of AACR

- Development starts in the UK with Panizzi's rules for British Museum in 1841
- And in the USA with Cutter's rules in 1876
- First attempt at common rules and guidelines, albeit with UK/US differences, with AACR in 1967
- Differences eliminated with AACR2 in 1978
- Influenced by international developments since 1961
  - Lubetzky, IFLA and "Paris Principles".
  - IFLA and International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) in 1969

## Recent history

- International Conference on the Principles and Future Development of AACR, Toronto in 1997
- Publication of Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) by IFLA in 1998
- IFLA updates and re-affirms Paris Principles in a world-wide series of meetings held between 2004 and 2007

## "Cataloguing" today

- Need to provide access to a wider range of information carriers, with a greater depth and complexity of content
- Bibliographic metadata is created by a wider range of personnel
  - Authors, administrators, cataloguers, computers, etc.
    - Varying levels of skill and ability (and cost)
- Many new metadata formats
  - MARC + DC, IEEE-LOM, EAD, VRA, etc.

## RDA and other standards

- RDA/ONIX framework for resource categorization
  - Content, carrier
    - <http://www.dlib.org/dlib/january07/dunsire/01dunsire.html>
- RDA/MARC21 mapping
- RDA/Dublin core mapping
- Discussions with DC/IEEE-LOM

## Impact on library systems

- Cataloguing modules in vendor LMS
  - Cataloguing workflows (single and multi-operator)
    - RDA sections arranged in a logical workflow, and elements follow FRBR order
  - Metadata input and amendment templates
    - Content rules can be tied to fields
  - Context-sensitive support
    - Help when recording an element for a specific content or carrier type
  - Customisation
    - Local notes, examples (organisational and/or personal)

## Impact (2)

- Online catalogues
  - Possibility of using RDA for context-sensitive help for experienced users
    - Plain English, no abbreviations, no Latinisms
      - Farewell et al.
  - Little difference if metadata based on AACR
    - RDA > MARC requires little or no change
  - Potential big difference for catalogues using under-developed content guidelines

## Secondary impact

- Application of FRBR on online catalogues brings significant benefits for users
  - Mono-hierarchical relationships between Work, Expression, Manifestation and Item entities for the products of intellectual or artistic activity
  - Enables better navigation of search results
    - W > E > M > I gives more detail at each level
  - Reduces redundant duplication of metadata
    - One work, one title
      - Not 250 manifestations, 250 identical titles
- Full benefit dependent on consistent, coherent and complete metadata content = RDA

## Beyond the local

- Impact on union catalogues and metadata aggregations
  - Better consistency and coherency of metadata content improves functionality, particularly in physical aggregations
    - Shared, centrally-copied, harvested
  - Less benefit in distributed union catalogues (e.g. Z39.50)
    - Common policies on mapping metadata content to indexes are required
  - RDA has guidance on access points and authority records

## Links

- AACR and RDA
  - [www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc)
- RDA demonstrator
  - <http://www.rdaonline.org/>
- Contact me
  - [g.dunsire@strath.ac.uk](mailto:g.dunsire@strath.ac.uk)