

To: ALCTS Board of Directors
ALCTS/CaMMS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access

From: Dominique Bourassa and Stephen Hearn, ALA Representatives to the North American RDA Committee (NARDAC)

Subject: Report on NARDAC and RDA-Related Activities, February-June 2019

NARDAC

The North American RDA Committee (NARDAC), the entity that represents the North American region on the RDA Steering Committee (RSC), is at the midpoint of its second year.

The 2019 membership of the committee consists of:

ALA Representatives:

- Dominique Bourassa, Yale University, NARDAC Chair
- Stephen Hearn, University of Minnesota

Library of Congress (LC) Representatives:

- Damian Iseminger, NARDAC Coordinator of Web Content
- Kate James, Back-Up Representative to the RSC

Canadian Committee on Cataloguing (CCC) Representatives:

- Thomas Brenndorfer, Guelph Public Library, NARDAC Representative to the RSC
- Nathalie Mainville, Library and Archives Canada

NARDAC met virtually via GoToMeeting four times since ALA Midwinter: February 11, March 18, April 17, and May 29. During meetings, Kate, who is part of the RSC Core Team, kept NARDAC informed of the development of the new RDA Toolkit, while Thomas updated NARDAC on RSC activities. We discussed activities of our respective communities (CC:DA, CCC, and LC) and their engagement with the RDA 3R project.

In the months since Midwinter, NARDAC members have engaged in several outreach activities to the ALA community.

- The regular RDA Forum at ALA Annual and Midwinter is a standing venue for reporting by ALA's NARDAC representatives to the ALA membership. NARDAC chair Dominique Bourassa presented at the Midwinter RDA Forum, January 26, 2019.
- CC:DA revived the CC:DA 3R Project Task Force under the leadership of Robert Maxwell, Brigham Young University. The NARDAC chair collected comments on the beta text of RDA from the task force members and forwarded them to RSC.
- Damian Iseminger presented with Paul Frank and Judith Cannan on how RDF has influenced the 3R project at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., February 8, 2019.
- NARDAC chair Dominique Bourassa presented "The RDA Toolkit: From Fear to Cheer in an Hour," April 4, 2019 at the NETSL Annual Spring Conference.

NARDAC has also reviewed and provided comments on documents from the regional RDA committees and NARDAC constituencies:

- Review by ORDAC (Oceania RDA Committee) of the collective agent entity;
- Draft of an RDA application profile framework from EURIG (European RDA Interest Group);
- Request by ARLIS/NA for a new RDA work element “curator.”

NARDAC has also worked in an advisory role to RSC regarding the 3R project:

- At the request of RSC, NARDAC representative to the RSC Thomas Brenndorfer worked on an extensive review of RDA’s appellation elements and on how to handle pseudo-elements, i.e., subtypes of elements such as legal and musical works with specialized options. NARDAC members assisted in the review.
- In addition to the review comments from the CC:DA 3R Project Task Force, NARDAC members also provided comments on the RDA beta text which were compiled and forwarded to the RSC.

As detailed in the second section of this report, at the end of April 2019 the text of RDA was stabilized, meaning that no substantive changes to the text will be made until early 2020. NARDAC has discussed its role in this interim period and beyond. The tools and processes which will be used to communicate and track proposals for RDA changes after the period of stabilized text has ended are still under discussion at RSC.

At the most recent NARDAC meeting in May, NARDAC discussed its plans for reporting at the ALA Annual Conference via the RDA Forum and its report to CC:DA and the ALCTS Board. It was also noted that when Beacher Wiggins leaves the RDA Board and Kate James steps down from her role as RDA examples editor for RSC, both at the end of 2019, there will be no representation from the Library of Congress on either of these bodies. NARDAC discussed options for ensuring continued communication between LC, RSC, and the RDA Board.

RDA activities

The following report summarizes the activities of the RDA Steering Committee (RSC) from February-June 2019.

RSC membership and governance changes

- Kate James’s term as Examples Editor will end on December 31. Honor Moody (Harvard University) has been chosen to replace her. Honor’s term as Examples Editor Elect began on May 1; her two-year term as Examples Editor will begin on January 1, 2020.
- On May 31, the RSC disbanded the RSC working groups that had been dormant due to the 3R project. The Technical Working Group and the Translations Working Group are standing groups and thus will not be dismissed.
- The RSC is planning to form an Application Profile Working Group. Creation of an RSC Archives Working Group is on hold.

3R Project Highlights

- *Beta Toolkit*

Three major releases affecting content, display, and functionality of the RDA Toolkit were posted since ALA Midwinter: February 21, April 30, and May 22.

Highlights include the ability to create links without logging into a profile, improved filtering of search results, a footer with the page publication date, a PDF print button, and the implementation of the sought-after citation numbering.

The project to add a visual browser to the beta Toolkit was suspended. Instead, a breadcrumb navigation has been added to give more options to users navigating through the Toolkit. To increase user experience, the RSC plans to explore ways to further improve navigation within the Toolkit.

For a description of changes associated with rollouts, see <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/node/176>, <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/node/185>, and <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/node/189>.

- *Stabilization of the English text*

Stabilizing the English text of RDA was the RSC's highest priority. The RSC accomplished this goal in three steps: the first step consisted in finalizing the RDA vocabularies and element set in the RDA registry; the second, in finalizing the instruction wording in the RDA entity and element chapters; and the third, in finalizing the guidance and resource chapters.

Comments and suggestions from individuals and communities were taken into consideration when making changes to the text of RDA. Many were implemented. The RSC is planning to send responses to communities' feedback. RSC responses to comments from the 3R Task Force and NARDAC have been received and distributed.

Highlights of changes to RDA instructions since ALA Midwinter include:

- Revision and addition of instructions in many elements, such as name of person, access point for manifestation, etc.;
- Introduction of new elements for more precise linking, among which are contributor agent to aggregate and designation of version;
- Hard or soft deprecation of some elements, such as other distinguishing characteristics of work and other distinguishing characteristics of expression;
- Revision and addition of instructions in guidance chapters.

The stabilization of the English text of RDA, published in the April 30 release of the beta Toolkit, marks a milestone towards the completion of the 3R project. The stabilized text can now be used as the basis for translations, policy statements, RDA examples, and supplementary materials such as textbooks.

- *Completion of the 3R project*

The text of RDA having been stabilized, the next phase of the 3R Project has started. This phase of development focuses on translating RDA, adding policy statements to the beta Toolkit, etc.

The translation work, led by Daniel Paradis, Chair of the Translation Working Group, has already begun. The work of the translators is expedited by a staged process, translation software tools, and the consistent re-uses of phrases and sentences throughout RDA. The work of policy statement writers should begin shortly.

During this next phase of development, the RSC will continue to work on outstanding issues. Some changes to RDA will be possible. They include, among others, minor editorial changes, additions of conditions/options within an existing element, additions and revisions of RDA examples, and enhancements to the beta Toolkit interface. However, some changes that could not be included in the stabilization of the English text of RDA will have to come back as proposals. In the coming months, the RSC will develop procedures for making change proposals to RDA.

The RSC and ALA Publishing continue to welcome feedback through the “Submit Feedback” link on the beta Toolkit.

At the earliest, the projected date for completion of the 3R project is early 2020. Until then, the original RDA Toolkit remains the official text of RDA. After the completion of the 3R project, the RDA Toolkit is planned to be updated quarterly.

For more information on the stabilization of the English text of RDA and the next steps in the 3R Project, consult <http://www.rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC-Chair-2019-1.pdf>

Outreach

- On January 25, the RSC held a day-long preconference on RDA in Seattle, at ALA Midwinter.
- The RSC is planning another day-long preconference to be held on June 21, at ALA Annual. Four NARDAC members (Dominique Bourassa, Damian Iseminger, Kate James, and Thomas Brenndorfer) will participate in the event as table leaders.
- The RSC sponsored a session titled “A Deeper Dive into RDA,” on January 29, during ALA Midwinter. The session, which replaced the regular meeting of CC:DA, included the following presentations:
 - Gordon Dunsire, RDA Technical Team Liaison Officer, presented “Nomen and Appellations”;
 - Thomas Brenndorfer presented “Appellation Elements” and RDA/ONIX Framework;
 - Kate James presented “Relationship Elements”;
 - James Hennelly, Director of RDA Toolkit, and Gordon Dunsire, presented “Application Profiles and Policy Statements”;
 - Kathy Glennan, RSC chair, presented “New Ways of Working?: The RSC in the Post 3R Era.”
- Gordon Dunsire presented on the changes to the RDA vocabularies and registry at “RDA Linked Data Update” at the RDA Linked Data Forum held on January 23, during ALA Midwinter.

- On March 19, Gordon Dunsire and Renate Behrens, EURIG Representative to the RSC, presented “Anyone can say Anything about Any Thing; RDA: Eine globale Metadatensprache für Kultureinrichtungen,” at Bibliothekskongress Leipzig 2019.
- Three NARDAC and RSC members participated in the meeting of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging Operations Committee held on May 2. NARDAC member Damian Iseminger presented “Aggregates in the IFLA Library Reference Model and RDA.” The RSC chair discussed the stabilization phase of the 3R Project and gave a demonstration of the beta Toolkit. Ed Jones, member of the Aggregates Working Group, presented “Diachronic Works, the IFLA Library Reference Model and RDA.” In addition, Damian, Kathy, and Ed served on a Q&A panel as RDA experts.
- On May 10, the RSC chair and James Hennelly participated in the ALA Publishing webinar “Getting a Handle on the New RDA Toolkit.”
- Presentations are available on the RSC website (<http://www.rda-rsc.org/node/589>) and on the RDA YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd5pa3AoQlr17wESE9YHcnw>).
- Two series of orientation webinars to be presented in the summer are being planned with ALA eLearning. The [Special Topics Workshop series](#) will have five sessions held on Mondays in July-August 2019. The [New Concepts Workshop series](#) will have five sessions held on Wednesdays in July-August 2019. The series will be repeated later in the year. Feedback on the beta Toolkit is shaping the content of the webinars. Topics covered will include relationship elements, aggregates and diachronic works, etc.

Next RSC Meeting

- The next RSC meeting will be in Santiago, Chile, the week of October 21.