

RDA Update

Kathy Glennan, University of Maryland

Report on the session, "RDA: Update, Discussion, and Implementation Plans," sponsored by the Bibliographic Control Committee

Kathy Glennan (University of Maryland), Chair of MLA's Descriptive Cataloging Subcommittee and voting member of ALA's Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA), and Mark Scharff (Washington University in St. Louis), MLA's liaison to CC:DA, provided an update on the progress of creating and implementing *RDA: Resource Description and Access*, the cataloging standard under development to replace AACR2.

Their joint PowerPoint presentation addressed how MLA fits into the overall development structure, the past and current time lines for producing RDA, some promised features of the new online interface, the probable impact on MARC21, the latest reorganization of the rules, an overview of potential implementation scenarios, and the remaining issues needing resolution.

The RDA development process arose out of the International Conference on the Principles and Future Development of AACR (1997: Toronto), with new draft rules issued by the Joint Steering Committee for the Development of RDA (JSC) for constituency review beginning in Dec. 2004 and continuing through the present. Regular assessment by various international groups has caused significant rethinking of the overall organization of RDA, on a fairly regular basis. The JSC expects to release the final, complete draft of RDA for constituency review in July. They will make this available on [their Web site](#), along with other supporting documents.

The JSC expects to roll out a working prototype of RDA at the August 2008 IFLA conference, with final publication in early 2009 and implementation later that year. Keeping to this timetable requires extremely tight deadlines for review. In addition, MARBI (ALA's Machine-Readable Bibliographic Information committee) must specify all the necessary changes to the MARC21 Bibliographic and Authority Formats at the upcoming ALA Annual Meeting to accommodate RDA.

The latest RDA reorganization more closely ties the instructions to the FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records) and FRAD (Functional Requirements for Authority Data) models, including the use of more of the entity/attribute terminology. In addition, RDA must be able to function under different implementation scenarios, running the gamut from our current unlinked flat record structure to an object-oriented database structure.

Separate current efforts on the part of MLA's Bibliographic Control Committee and the music specialists at the Library of Congress have resulted in separate rule change proposals. These include making a clearer separation between adaptations (new works) and arrangements (new expressions) and further simplification and clarification of the instructions as they relate to music.

The JSC still has much to resolve before the final publication of RDA, including review of constituency comments on over one half of the draft instructions, deciding just how much of the existing AACR2 practices should change at this time, completing and reviewing the glossary and general introduction and testing the new online interface.

The Music Library Association will still have an opportunity to provide feedback in the RDA development process, so the Subcommittee on Descriptive Cataloging welcomes your comments on RDA at any time.