

RDA Implementation Plans

Damian Iseminger, New England Conservatory

March 24, 2010

The Testing of RDA by the U.S. National Libraries (the Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine, and the National Agricultural Library) and its test partners is set to commence in July of this year. The test partners are: Backstage Library Works, Brigham Young University, Harold B. Lee Library, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Clark Art Institute Library, University of Chicago, College Center for Library Automation (Florida), Columbia University, Douglas County Libraries, Colorado, Emory University, GSLIS Group, Minnesota Historical Society, Morgan Library and Museum, North Carolina State University Libraries, University of North Dakota, North East Independent School District, San Antonio, Texas, Northeastern University, OCLC Metadata Contract Services, Ohio State University Libraries, State Library of Pennsylvania, Quality Books, Stanford University Libraries, and George Washington University.

Last, but certainly not least, is the OLAC/MLA funnel, led by Kelley McGrath with Kathy Glennan and Mark Scharff acting as consultants to the funnel. The current roster of those from MLA who will be participating include: Linda Blair, Eastman School of Music; Mary Bruesch, University of New Mexico; Sarah Cohen, Allen Music Library, Florida State University; Grace Fitzgerald, University of Iowa; Jean Harden, Univ. of North Texas Music Library; Mary Huisman, University of Minnesota; Damian Iseminger, New England Conservatory of Music; Karen Peters, UC Santa Barbara; Alan Ringwood, University of Texas at Austin; and Hermine Vermeij, UCLA.

As I stated earlier, the testing is set to begin in July of this year, which is when the RDA Toolkit is scheduled to be released by ALA Publishing and about which more will be said in a little bit. The first three months of the test (July-Sept.) will be spent gaining familiarity with RDA. Test partners are free to create records using RDA and may contribute them to OCLC; however these records will not be part of the official test. This time period will also allow each participating institution to decide which options in the RDA text it will follow and those which it will ignore.

The formal testing period will begin in October and will continue through to December 31. The materials tested will consist of two classes of materials: 25 titles that will be cataloged by each institution, referred to as the common set; and a set of at least 25 titles, selected by each testing partner, referred to as regular materials. The common set will include 10 textual monographs, 5 audio/visual materials, 5 serials, and 5 integrating resources. Digitized version/surrogates of the actual items will be provided to the participants. All of the common set will be in English. For the common set records, only descriptive data will be provided by the participants; no subject analysis will be done. All cataloging will be expected to be original; searching of local, consortia, or national databases is forbidden. Each test partner will catalog all 25 resources using AACR2 and RDA, but no one individual cataloger will catalog the same resource using both AACR2 and RDA. It is expected that each cataloger will catalog a minimum of 5 titles using

RDA. What this means for the MLA/OLAC funnel is unclear at this point. If five is a minimum for each cataloger, this would mean that the funnel would be cataloging the common set 4 times. However this concern may be unfounded as LC expects to catalog the common set at least 5 times.

Each testing institution is also expected to catalog a minimum of 25 titles from their regular workflow using RDA, with 10 being the minimum number of titles that an individual cataloger must catalog while using RDA. Each institution will catalog according to its normal procedures. For example, if normal workflow consisted of subject analysis and authority work, it is expected that RDA materials will follow the same workflow. PCC institutions participating in the test are also expected to process these materials providing appropriate PCC coding, so it is possible that PCC records will start appearing in OCLC using RDA as the content standard.

The Coordinating Committee will spend the last three months (Jan.-Mar.) analyzing all submitted records. Communication with the test participants will be done via detailed surveys through Survey Monkey.

It is expected that institutions who contribute cataloging to OCLC, either directly through the client or via batch loading, will continue to do so. All test partners will receive an OCLC authorization for creating institution records, so that multiple records for one resource (using either AACR2 or RDA) can be collocated on to the master record for that resource. Testing participants will also use the export functionality of the Connexion client to download their records in UTF-8 so that they may be sent to the LC test database via email. For those working directly in the Connexion client, OCLC will provide a set of RDA constant data records to assist in the creation of RDA records in MARC. OCLC also hopes to have RDA inspired changes to the MARC formats installed in the middle of May. It is unclear if the updates to the MARC formats approved by MARBI at the ALA Midwinter Meetings, many of which were music inspired, will be included in the installation. These changes will be detailed by Kathy Glennan later in this session. At this point, it is unclear how OCLC will deal with authority records created using RDA.

Finally, a few words about the publication of RDA. RDA was always envisioned from its inception as an online product. Therefore no print product will be provided. Instead access to RDA will be provided through the RDA Toolkit, published by ALA Publishing. For those who are interested in seeing a demo of the toolkit, videos of a webinar given in February of this year are available at <http://www.rdaonline.org/>. The planned pricing of the RDA Toolkit is as follows. The annual license fee will be \$325, and only covers one user. Each additional concurrent user will cost \$55 for 2-9 concurrent users, \$50 for 10-18 concurrent users, and \$45 for 20 or more concurrent users. So, for example, an institution wishing to have 5 concurrent users would pay \$600 for 1 year of access to RDA ($\$325 + (5 \times \$55) = \$600$). It should be pointed out that each institution can have an unlimited number of user profiles, but has a limited number of concurrent users. Free access to the RDA Toolkit will be available from June through August, for those who wish to take RDA on a test-drive. Access will continue to be free to those participating in RDA testing.