Information session intended for technical services employees of Quebec university libraries
Québec and Montréal, November 16-18, 2010

RDA
RESOURCE DESCRIPTION AND ACCESS
Introduction to the RDA standard

presented by Laura May, Library and Archives Canada
RDA, the standard

- new cataloguing code that replaces AACR2
- removal of Anglo-American bias
- informed by FRBR and FRAD
- designed for use in digital environment
- consistent, flexible and extensible framework
- compatible with international principles, models and standards
- focus on organizing information for the benefit of the user
- useable outside the library community

Rick J. Block, Columbia University
RDA is:

• designed for describing all types of resources
• designed to be more flexible in an international setting
• designed to make it easier for library data to interact with other bibliographic data

RDA is not:

• a display standard
• an encoding standard
RDA Timeline

- First release: June 2010
- U.S. national libraries testing and evaluation: 2010-2011
- Other national libraries: preparing for implementation
- Translation: September 2010-
- Earliest implementation: mid-2011
- LAC’s full implementation is dependent of availability of French translation
Who is responsible for the development of RDA?

Members of the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA (JSC):
- American Library Association
- Australian Committee on Cataloguing
- British Library
- Canadian Committee on Cataloguing
- Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
- Library of Congress

http://rda-jsc.org/rdafaq.html
The guidelines and instructions will be designed to:

- Provide a consistent, flexible and extensible framework for both the technical and content description of all types of resources and all types of content.
- Be compatible with internationally established principles, models, and standards.
  - FRBR, FRAD, and ICP (International Cataloguing Principles)
- Be usable primarily within the library community, but be capable of adaptation to meet the specific needs of other communities.

Source: Strategic plan for RDA, 2005-2009
Goals of RDA (2)

- Records created with RDA will:
  - enable users to find, identify, select and obtain resources appropriate to their information needs
  - be compatible with records created with AACR2
  - be independent of the format, medium or system used to store or communicate the data
  - be readily adaptable to newly-emerging database structures

Source: Strategic plan for RDA, 2005-2009
• RDA will be developed as a resource description standard that is:
  • optimised for use as an online tool
  • written in plain English, and able to be used in other language communities
  • easy and efficient to use, both as a working tool and for training purposes

Source: Strategic plan for RDA, 2005-2009
From Panizzi to AACR2

- 1841: Panizzi’s Rules for the Compilation of the Catalogue
- 1876: Cutter’s Rules for a Dictionary Catalog
- 1961: “Paris Principles”
- 1967: AACR, British and North American versions
- 1969: Lubetzky’s Principles of Cataloging
- 1971: International Standard Bibliographic Description
Origins of RDA

- International Conference on the Principles and Future Development of AACR (Toronto, 1997)
- Strategic plan for AACR3 first developed in 2002
- Editor appointed in 2004
- Draft of part 1 of AACR3 issued in late 2004
- RDA conceived in 2005
- Drafts between 2005-2009
- Published June 2010
Influences on RDA

- Anglo-American cataloguing tradition
- International cataloguing principles, developed by the IME-ICC (IFLA Meeting of Experts on the International Cataloguing Code)
- FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records)
- FRAD (Functional Requirements for Authority Data)
From AACR2 to RDA

- changing cataloguing environment
  - new types of resources
  - new types of publications
  - changes how we work (online, networked environment)
- different user expectations
- different forms of media and methods of publishing
- collaboration with other communities
- inherent problems with the rules
- needs for principle-based guidelines
Translation: Roles and Responsibilities

- Author of English text – JSC
- Co-Publishers - ALA, CLA and Facet Publishing, the publishing arm of CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals)
- Copyright holders – 3 Co-Publishers
AACR2 Translation Model

- Translation rights granted by copyright holders
- Royalties paid to AACR Revision Fund

🌟 AACR2 = 25 translations
The past: Règles de catalogage anglo-américaines

- License granted to Association pour l’avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED) by copyright holders
- Collaboration between ASTED, National Library of Canada (now Library and Archives Canada) and Bibliothèque nationale du Québec (now Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec)
- RCAA2 published and sold by ASTED
RDA Translation Model

- RDA Toolkit New Model
- Single multilingual product allowing users to switch to different language versions
- ALA to seek partners to undertake translation (e.g. ASTED)
- ALA Publishing to manage online subscriptions and provide support for RDA Toolkit, from anywhere in the world
Coordinated by ASTED
Collaboration between ASTED, BAnQ, BnF, LAC and others

* LAC’s full implementation of RDA is dependent on availability of a French version
Translation Issues

- Technical issues:
  - XML
  - integration into RDA Toolkit
  - content + interface
- Resource issues:
  - availability of financial/human resources
Terminology Issues

- Sources to aid translation:
  - FRBR, International Cataloging Principles and ISBD available in French from IFLA site
  - Existing French translation of AACR2
  - Existing French translation of MARC 21 formats
Terminology Issues

Complex language, context dependent, e.g.:
- Preferred name
- Preferred sources
- Unmediated
Implementation Plans at Library and Archives Canada

- Full implementation of RDA at LAC is dependent on the availability of a French version of RDA.
- Decisions on which RDA options and alternatives LAC will follow will be made in conjunction with the other Anglo-American national libraries to minimize differences in practice.
- LAC will not deliver training but will make any documentation that is developed freely available to any interested institutions.
Library of Congress Policy Statements (LCPS)
Reviewing LAC’s existing rule interpretations for relevancy and revise as necessary
Decide which options/alternatives to follow
  • Collaboration with CCC and BAnQ as well as with other JSC national libraries
Implementation Plans at Library and Archives Canada

- Preparing AMICUS to accommodate new MARC fields
- Impact for Canadian Union Catalogue reporting
- Evaluate impact on products
- Plan for conversion of legacy access points
Canadian Committee on Cataloguing

- Create workflows
- Develop training documentation for LAC and Canadian library community
- Reviewing the list of deferred issues
- Assist in deciding which options/alternatives to follow
Technical Services Interest Group

- Maintain roster of trainers
- Maintain online archive of documentation and training materials
- Sponsor workshops
- Survey to assess training needs
Records created using RDA are intended to integrate with AACR2 records in existing databases.
Towards the future

- Experimentation with RDA element set by other communities
- Registry – schemas
- Integration with systems
- Move to relational/object-oriented database structure
- FRBR displays
RDA post-implementation

- Deferred issues + new issues
- RDA Toolkit: schedule for updates, how?
- Change to governance model