

Introduction to



Utah Library Association

May 14, 2010

Robert L. Maxwell

Chair, Special Collections and Formats Catalog Department

Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University

robert_maxwell@byu.edu

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Judy Kuhagen of the Library of Congress for helpful suggestions on this presentation. Some of the slides are also based on presentations by Barbara Tillett, Chief, Library of Congress Policy & Standards Division, and Adam Schiff, Principal Cataloger, University of Washington Libraries.

What is RDA?

A new standard for information organization
(a.k.a. cataloging), meant to replace AACR2

Its title: *Resource Description and Access*

Its publication date: June 2010



This first session is meant to be general, for a general audience, i.e. not just catalogers. Hope people from public services and administration are hear. The second session, in an hour, will go into the nuts and bolts of changes from AACR2.

Why do we need a new standard? AACR2 was first published in 1978. Although it has been updated many times through the revision process that was established by the JSC, it is largely designed for an environment dominated by the card catalog. The [International Conference on the Principles and Future Development of AACR](#) that was held in Toronto in 1997 identified substantive problems with AACR2. Although the updates issued in the years following that conference addressed some of these problems, it became clear that a fundamental rethinking of the code was required to respond fully to the challenges and opportunities of the digital world.

Who's in charge here, anyway?

- AACR2 was developed and maintained by an international body called the Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR.
- RDA has been developed and will be maintained by the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA (“the JSC”)

JSC Members

- The American Library Association
- The Australian Committee on Cataloguing
- The British Library
- The Canadian Committee on Cataloguing
- The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
- The Library of Congress



The JSC develops the text.

The Committee of Principals

The JSC makes decisions about the content of RDA. The Committee of Principals (COP) is responsible for policies relating to RDA, especially decisions about publication and funding. The COP consists of representatives of:

- The American Library Association
- The British Library
- The Canadian Library Association
- The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
- Library and Archives Canada
- The Library of Congress
- The National Library of Australia

The Co-Publishers

Copyright in RDA is held by the “co-publishers”:

- The American Library Association
- The Canadian Library Association
- The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals

They jointly serve as publishers of RDA



The Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access

- ALA's representative to the Joint Steering Committee is currently John Attig
- Before presenting ALA's position on anything to do with RDA, John consults with ALA's Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access, the body which formulates ALA position and policy on cataloging issues

Foundations of RDA

- *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records* (FRBR; 1998)
- *Functional Requirements for Authority Data* (FRAD; 2009)
- *IFLA Statement of International Cataloguing Principles* (ICP; 2009)

FRBR

- A conceptual model of the bibliographic universe
- Based on the entity-relationship model developed for computer databases

FRBR/FRAD Entities

- Group 1: The products of intellectual or artistic endeavor. Sometimes called “the primary entities.”
 - **Work:** a distinct intellectual or artistic creation
 - **Expression:** the intellectual or artistic realization of a *work* in some form (e.g. alpha-numeric, musical notation)
 - **Manifestation:** the physical embodiment of an *expression* (e.g. a print publication)
 - **Item:** a copy of a *manifestation*

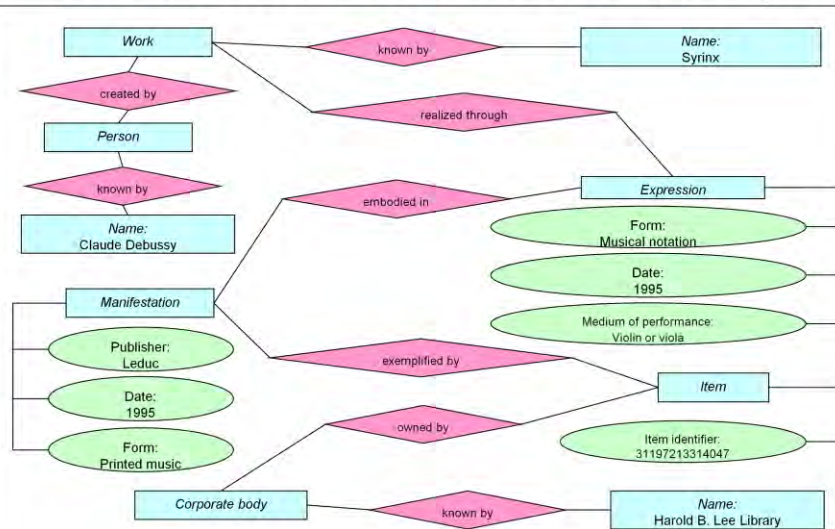
FRBR/FRAD Entities

- Group 2: entities responsible for Group 1 entities
 - Person
 - Family
 - Corporate body
- Group 3: entities that can be subjects of works
 - All group 1 and 2 entities
 - Concepts
 - Objects
 - Events
 - Places

FRBR Relationships

- In the FRBR model relationships are crucial
- Any entity can be related to any other entity in a variety of ways
- In a FRBR based database these relationships would be clear and users should be able to move from one entity to related entities easily

FRBR Entities and Relationships



Statement of International Cataloguing Principles (2009)

- International statement developed over six years, intended as a replacement for the 1961 Paris Principles
- Gives underlying principles that form the basis of cataloging standards and practices, including RDA
- http://www.ifla.org/files/cataloguing/icp/icp_2009-en.pdf

Statement of International Cataloguing Principles (2009)

- Convenience of the user
- Common usage
- Representation
- Accuracy
- Sufficiency and necessity
- Significance
- Economy
- Consistency and standardization
- Integration



35

2.1. Convenience of the user. *Decisions taken in the making of descriptions and controlled forms of names for access should be made with the user in mind.*

2.2. Common usage. *Vocabulary used in descriptions and access should be in accord with that of the majority of users.*

2.3. Representation. *Descriptions and controlled forms of names should be based on the way an entity describes itself.*

2.4. Accuracy. *The entity described should be faithfully portrayed.*

2.5. Sufficiency and necessity. *Only those data elements in descriptions and controlled forms of names for access that are required to fulfil user tasks and are essential to uniquely identify an entity should be included.*

2.6. Significance. *Data elements should be bibliographically significant.*

2.7. Economy. *When alternative ways exist to achieve a goal, preference should be given to the way that best furthers overall economy (i.e., the least cost or the simplest approach).*

2.8. Consistency and standardization. *Descriptions and construction of access points should be*

standardized as far as possible. This enables greater consistency, which in turn increases the ability to share bibliographic and authority data.

2.9. Integration. *The descriptions for all types of materials and controlled forms of names of all*

types of entities should be based on a common set of rules, insofar as it is relevant.

RDA and FRBR

- RDA is organized by FRBR element (attributes)
 - Section 1: Recording attributes of manifestations & items
 - Section 2: Recording attributes of work & expression
 - Section 3: Recording attributes of person, family & corporate body
 - Section 4: Recording attributes of concept, object, event & place

RDA and FRBR

- RDA is organized by FRBR element (relationships)
 - Section 5: Recording primary relationships between work, expression, manifestation & item
 - Section 6: Recording relationships to persons, families & corporate bodies
 - Section 7: Recording relationships to concepts, objects, events & places
 - Sections 8-10 deal with recording relationships between various FRBR entities

RDA and MARC

- RDA was primarily designed to be implemented in a FRBR-based database
- Because we do not yet have a FRBR-based database design, however, RDA is compatible with a MARC environment
- Within the MARC environment RDA records may coexist with AACR2 records

What will users notice?

Representation of errors

- In AACR2 the cataloger draws attention to errors found on the piece being transcribed with “[sic]” or “[i.e.]”
- Under RDA we transcribe exactly what we see without interposing anything
- This means that we will all have to learn to trust each other and assume that the transcription is correct

What will users notice?

Representation of errors

*AACR2 catalog display**

Title: Distinguishing characristics [sic] of Mormonism /
by A.P. Kesler.

*RDA catalog display**

Title: Distinguishing characristics of Mormonism / by
A.P. Kesler.

Corrected title: Distinguishing characteristics of
Mormonism.

*Note: displays are hypothetical throughout this presentation.
RDA does not prescribe labels or ISBD display.

20

RDA does not correct, but recommends an added access point for the corrected title if in the cataloger's judgment it would be helpful to the users of the catalog.

What will users notice?

Replacement of GMD

- GMD = General Material Designation
- A short word or phrase interposed at the end of the title proper to signal up front the physical characteristics of the item as well as the content
- Replaced in RDA with three new elements:
 - Content type
 - Media type
 - Carrier type

What will users notice?

Replacement of GMD

AACR2 catalog display

Title: Crazy heart [sound recording] : original motion picture soundtrack.

RDA catalog display

Title: Crazy heart : original motion picture soundtrack.

Media type: audio

Carrier type: audio disc

Content type: performed music

Alternately, the RDA “types” could be displayed as icons.



Note: Media type is not core, might not be in all RDA records (somewhat duplicative of carrier type).

These types are not only clearer than the GMD, they can be used to limit searches in very precise ways.

What will users notice?

Replacement of GMD

Because media type, carrier type, and content type are clearer and more specific than general material designations, they will be more useful to patrons in identifying the resources being described.

If we design our systems well, they will also be able to be used to limit searches in very precise ways.

What will users notice?

Greater access

- In AACR2 there are many situations where transcription and access points are limited; catalogers are not, for example, allowed to transcribe more than three authors for a work of shared responsibility (“rule of three”)
- There is no “rule of three” in RDA, so there is potential for inclusion in the catalog of many names and access points that were excluded from an AACR2 catalog


What will users notice?

Greater access

David Weisburd • Thomas E. Feucht
Idit Hakimi • Lois Felson Mock
Simon Perry
Editors

To Protect and To Serve

Policing in an Age of Terrorism

 Springer

AACR2 catalog display

Title: To protect and to serve [electronic resource] : policing in an age of terrorism / David Weisburd ... [et al.], editors.

RDA catalog display

Title: To protect and to serve : policing in an age of terrorism / David Weisburd, Thomas E. Feucht, Idit Hakimi, Lois Felson Mock, Simon Perry, editors.

R | D | A
RESOURCE DESCRIPTION & ACCESS

25


What will users notice?

Greater access

David Weisburd • Thomas E. Feucht
Idit Hakimi • Lois Felson Mock
Simon Perry
Editors

To Protect and To Serve

Policing in an Age of Terrorism

 Springer

AACR2 catalog access points

Contributor: Weisburd, David.

RDA catalog access points (potential)

Contributor: Weisburd, David, editor.

Contributor: Feucht, Thomas E., editor.

Contributor: Hakimi, Idit, editor.

Contributor: Mock, Lois Felson, editor.

Contributor: Perry, Simon, editor.

R | D | A
RESEARCH DESCRIPTION ACCESS

36

What will users notice?

Words in, abbreviations out

- AACR2 abbreviates frequently in many areas, including the use of the Latin abbreviations “s.l.”, “s.n.”, “et al.” and others.
- RDA abbreviates only very rarely

What will users notice?

Words in, abbreviations out

CASES
on the
LAW OF BILLS
AND NOTES

by
Henry W. Humble

Brooklyn - New York
1924

AACR2 catalog display

Publication info: Brooklyn, N.Y.
: [s.n.], 1924.

RDA catalog display

Publication info: Brooklyn, New
York : [publisher not
identified], 1924.

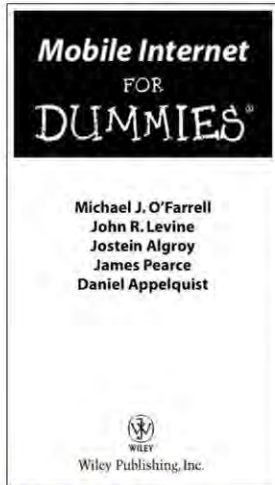
What will users notice?

Works of shared responsibility

- Under AACR2 works of shared responsibility with more than three authors were named by the title alone
- Under RDA works of shared responsibility are named after the principal or first-named creator

What will users notice?

Works of shared responsibility



AACR2 catalog display

Title: Mobile internet for dummies /
by Michael J. O'Farrell ... [et al.].

RDA catalog display

Author: O'Farrell, Michael J.

Title: Mobile internet for dummies /
by Michael J. O'Farrell, John R.
Levine, Jostein Algroy, James
Pearce, Daniel Appelquist.

R | D | A
RESOURCE DESCRIPTION & ACCESS

30

What will users notice: Bible headings

- Under AACR2 New Testament and Old Testament were abbreviated “N.T.” and “O.T.” and were interposed between “Bible” and the name of the book.
- Under RDA abbreviations are not used, and the name of the book is appended directly to “Bible” without interposition of the testament.

What will users notice: Bible headings

AACR2

Bible. O.T. Genesis

Bible. O.T. Pentateuch

Bible. N.T. Mark

Bible. N.T. Pastoral Epistles

Bible. N.T.

RDA

Bible. Genesis

Bible. Pentateuch

Bible. Mark

Bible. Pastoral Epistles

Bible. New Testament

[used only for the entire New
Testament, not individual books]

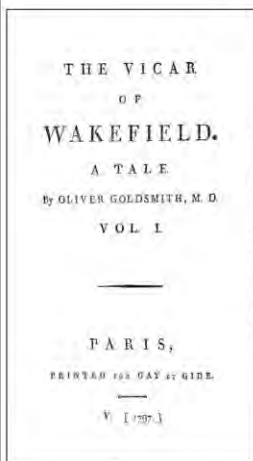
What will users notice?

Translations

- Under AACR2, if a manifestation included expressions in more than one language, the names of the languages were added to the uniform title, or if more than two, “Polyglot” was added.
- Under RDA each language expression gets its own access point.

What will users notice?


Translations



DE L'IMPRIMERIE DE GAY & WIDE.
AN V [1795]

R | D | A
RESEARCH DESCRIPTION & ACCESS


AACR2 catalog display

Author: Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. 

Uniform title: Vicar of Wakefield. French & English


Title: The vicar of Wakefield : a tale = Le vicaire de Wakefield / by Oliver Goldsmith.

RDA catalog display

Author: Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. 

Preferred title: Vicar of Wakefield. French

Title: The vicar of Wakefield : a tale = Le vicaire de Wakefield / by Oliver Goldsmith, M.D.

Author: Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Vicar of Wakefield. English. 

What will users notice?

Personal names

- Under AACR2 only human beings were considered “persons” for purposes of added entries
- Under RDA non-human entities are included under “persons”
 - Bugs Bunny
 - Flipper
- The practical impact will be that they can be used as added access points (e.g. for animal actors)



RDA expands the scope of "person" to include fictitious entities (e.g., Bugs Bunny). LC's policy for its testers extends that scope to include real non-human entities (e.g., Flipper).

What will users notice?

Family names

- Under AACR2 family names were not recognized for descriptive cataloging (in non-archival cataloging they were only used in subject fields)
- RDA recognizes family names, recognizes that families can be creators, and gives guidelines for the form of an access point for a family.

What will users notice?

Family names

AACR2 catalog display

Title: Austen papers, 1704-
1856 / edited by R.A.
Austen-Leigh.

RDA catalog display

Creator: Austen (Family :
Austen, Jane, 1775–1817)
Title: Austen papers, 1704-
1856 / edited by R.A.
Austen-Leigh.

What will users notice?

Relationships



AACR2 catalog display (following LC practice)

Author: Card, Orson Scott.

Uniform title: First meetings. French

Title: Ender Wiggin : premières rencontres / Orson Scott Card ;
traduit de l'anglais par Florence Bury.

Other author: Bury, Florence.

Possible RDA catalog display with links

Creator: [Card, Orson Scott](#).

Work title: First meetings. French

Title: Ender Wiggin : premières rencontres / Orson Scott Card ;
traduit de l'anglais par Florence Bury.

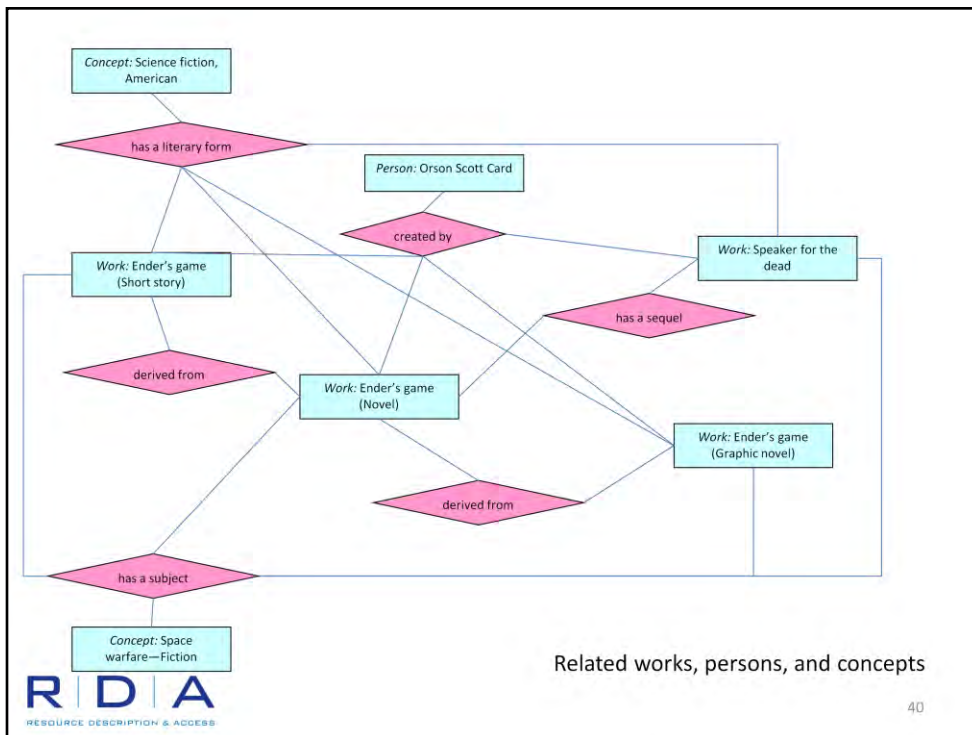
Contributor: [Bury, Florence](#), translator.

Related work: Translation of: [Card, Orson Scott](#). [First meetings](#).

What will users notice?

Relationships

- In a MARC database we're probably limited to links based on authorized forms in heading fields, as in the previous example.
- In RDA implemented in an entity-relationship database these limitations disappear. The user should be able easily to link to all related entities, browsing through the database via relationship links.



Note: Each blue box represents one and only one record (sheet of paper). Look over each entity record (in their packet) represented on this diagram with the group.

QUESTIONS?

robert_maxwell@byu.edu