To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Gordon Dunsire, Chair, RSC

Subject: Protocol between the RSC and the Permanent UNIMARC Committee

Background

"RDA is a package of data elements, guidelines, and instructions for creating library and cultural heritage resource metadata that are well-formed according to international models for user-focussed linked data applications" – http://rda-rsc.org

The RDA Steering Committee (RSC) maintains and develops vocabulary encoding schemes (VESs) for several RDA recorded elements. The vocabularies are amended following established RSC policies and procedures.

The RSC provides linked data versions of the RDA vocabularies in the Open Metadata Registry (OMR) and RDA Registry.

The RSC maintains, jointly with the IFLA ISBD Review Group, a mapping between ISBD and RDA elements.

UNIMARC (Universal MARC format) is a format for the representation and communication of bibliographic, authority, classification and holdings information in machine-readable form, originally created by IFLA. The IFLA Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC) within the IFLA UNIMARC Strategic Programme is responsible for maintaining the UNIMARC format and for the editorial development of the UNIMARC documentation.

The PUC updates the UNIMARC format following established policies and procedures, and maintains and develops a number of VESs as UNIMARC code lists.

Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to support communication between the editorial processes of the RSC and the PUC in order to support functional and semantic interoperability between data compatible with RDA and data compatible with the UNIMARC format.

The result of the editorial processes is RDA/UNIMARC mappings added to the RDA Toolkit.

Methodology

The protocol is intended to be light-weight to avoid significant changes to the current practices, priorities, and workflows of the RSC and PUC.

The usual channel of communication between the two groups are the RSC consulting liaison to the PUC and the PUC consulting liaison to the RSC, who are responsible for routine communication and reviewing each group's activity for potential issues.

Duties of the RSC

The RSC will:

- Inform PUC at the earliest opportunity of impending changes to RDA that may impact on UNIMARC.
- Liaise with PUC on the development and maintenance of linked data mappings between RDA and UNIMARC value vocabularies.
- Liaise with PUC on the development and maintenance of linked data mappings between RDA and UNIMARC element sets.
- Nominate a consulting liaison to the PUC.

Duties of the PUC

The PUC will:

- Inform the RSC at the earliest opportunity of impending changes to UNIMARC vocabularies that may impact on RDA.
- Liaise with the RSC on the development and maintenance of linked data mappings between RDA and UNIMARC value vocabularies.
- Liaise with the RSC on the development and maintenance of linked data mappings between RDA and UNIMARC element sets.
- Nominate a consulting liaison with the RSC.