

**TO:** Committee on Cataloging; Description and Access  
**FROM:** John Attig, ALA Representative to the Joint Steering Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Report of the ALA Representative to the Joint Steering Committee

*Note:* The following is based on the report that I submitted to ALCTS following the 2010 Annual Conference. It does not differ substantially from the report that I presented at the CC:DA meeting on June 26.

*RDA: Resource Description and Access* was published on June 23, 2010. There were some compromises on ALA's internal deadline in order to do some last-minute work on display of nonroman characters and on search defaults and result lists. The release is the culmination of a lot of work by everyone involved.

Since Midwinter, the Joint Steering Committee completed two rounds of review of the text of RDA, checking all the changes made since June 2009, reporting bugs (using a Bugzilla database to track bug reports and fixes). The JSC also commented on the layout and functionality of the RDA Toolkit. ALA Publishing and their contractors made significant improvements in all these areas. Although there continue to be open bug reports that are still being worked on, the overall product is something that I think we can be proud of.

In addition to the review of the text of RDA, the JSC worked on various tools and related documents. Revised MARC 21 mappings are now included in the Toolkit. A set of complete examples has now [July] been posted on the JSC Website at:

<http://www.rda-jsc.org/working2.html#rda-examples>

ALA submitted about half a dozen additional examples to cover categories of bibliographic and authority records not yet covered (contributed by members of the On-Line Audiovisual Catalogers (OLAC) and MAGERT, and by Adam Schiff); these additional examples are being reviewed by the JSC and will be posted once they have been approved.

The Joint Steering Committee has begun consideration of revisions to RDA. ALA reviewed the JSC's "List of Issues Deferred until after the First Release of RDA" at Midwinter and I forwarded our decisions to the JSC; the other constituencies have since forwarded similar documents. Now that RDA has been released, the JSC can get organized to begin work on revision proposals.

The JSC is operating on the assumption that the revision process for RDA will be similar to that for AACR2: that proposals will be submitted through one of the JSC constituencies or will be sent directly to the Chair; that the JSC constituencies will respond formally to each proposal; and that the JSC will consider and approve any changes to RDA resulting from the proposals. The Committee of Principals has been looking at different models for the future governance of RDA, and there may be some changes in JSC membership or procedures. Until specific decisions are made, the JSC will be moving forward based on its former (pre-RDA) procedures.

The next JSC meeting has tentatively been scheduled for early June 2011 in Glasgow, Scotland. New proposals for revision of RDA are due two months before the meeting. This will allow CC:DA to consider potential ALA proposals at the 2011 Midwinter Meeting, with a brief time for the proposals to be finalized after the meeting before being submitted to the JSC.

This means that any proposals that are to be considered by the JSC at the May 2011 meeting will have to be circulated to CC:DA in advance of Midwinter; given the early date for Midwinter and the usual holiday hiatus, this means mid-December. Once the precise dates of the JSC meeting have been set, we will draw up a detailed CC:DA Program of Work.

The JSC is likely to give priority to proposals (most likely from the Library of Congress) dealing with issues that arose during the testing of RDA being conducted by the US national libraries. There is thus no urgency in developing proposals dealing with deferred issues. However, any proposals that are ready will be considered.

There are two different processes involved in generating proposals from ALA. Several of the groups represented on CC:DA have indicated an interest in working on particular issues. The American Association of Law Libraries has already submitted a proposal. The Music Library Association and OLAC will be working on issues involving sources of information for sound recordings and titles/access points for musical works and expressions. A number of issues have been referred to other groups.

CC:DA itself identified three priority issues, and at the meeting in Washington, agreed to form two Task Forces to prepare proposals. These issues are:

- The instructions for corporate hierarchies, particularly the two different sets of instructions for governmental and non-governmental subordinate bodies.
- The differing instructions for names of heads of state and heads of government, particularly the choice of language; also assigned to this Task Force is a proposal to supply a missing instruction for names of ruling executive bodies.

In addition, I raised an issue that arose during the preparation of the complete examples. One of the new examples included accompanying material. I noted that RDA treats accompanying material as a Related Manifestation and the RDA-to-MARC mapping for this element does not include 300\$, even for an unstructured description of a related (accompanying) manifestation. Further, I could find no instructions in RDA dealing with the description of the extent of a resource with predominant and non-predominant components (which would seem to be the condition that applies to a resource with accompanying material). I intend to explore this further, and may ask CC:DA to take up the issue.

It is anticipated that the work of CC:DA will once again increase in volume as the revision process begins. The Committee discussed various techniques for managing the work, including the creation of a detailed Program of Work giving timelines for action, and the possible formation of a steering committee of experienced members to advise the Chair on matters of scheduling, priorities, etc.