

TO: ALA/ALCTS/CCS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access
FROM: John Attig, ALA Representative to the Joint Steering Committee
SUBJECT: Report on JSC Activities, January–June 2011

Since my last report in January, the JSC has continued to work.

Expect some announcements shortly:

- Fast Track procedures: The JSC wants to document a way to move certain types of RDA revisions forward quickly. We have actually been doing this with "corrections" to RDA and want to provide this as a normal procedure for dealing with certain categories of changes that do not seem to require an extensive comment/response process or discussion at a JSC meeting. I'm not sure of everything that will fall under this process, but additions and changes to examples and to the Relationship Designators are likely to be included. A document is almost ready to post.
- Examples Working Group: The JSC has decided to charge a new Examples group to assist in developing and maintaining examples. The charge under discussion includes both work on examples in the text of RDA (including reviewing the examples in revision proposals) as well as recommending content and procedures for an "official" set of complete examples as part of the RDA Toolkit. Volunteers will be sought for this group.

The JSC has been working to review the content of the RDA element sets and vocabularies in the Open Metadata Registry <<http://metadatarregistry.org/rdabrowse.htm>>. There are some structural issues that need to be addressed. In addition, there is simply a lot of work to be done before the element sets and vocabularies can be "published". With regard to the vocabularies, the major need is to provide definitions for each of the terms in each of the vocabularies; these will be added to the Registry and also to the Glossary in RDA. We have identified what is "missing" and I have asked the assistance of members of CC:DA and/or of the groups represented to help with this effort. ALA doesn't have to do all of the work, but we do have a lot of specialized expertise and I would like us to contribute to the effort.

The JSC continues to plan to meet in November 2011 in Glasgow. We haven't actually booked a meeting room, so the plans are not absolutely certain, but we are close. We have confirmed the deadlines that I announced. New constituency proposals are due by August 11; responses to all proposals from other constituencies are due by September 28. ALA has already submitted one proposal, with about half a dozen likely to be submitted by the August deadline. The process of revising RDA has definitely begun.

The JSC has begun to discuss the announcement and recommendations from the US RDA Test Coordinating Committee. A general response is planned, but more details as we analyze the recommendations contained in the full report.