Questions and Answers
ALCTS Webinar: RDA: Revising, Developing, and Assessing - February 19, 2014

Q: Can you explain is the BIBFRAME will effect on RDA?
A: RDA is being developed independently from BIBFRAME, so it’s hard to know at the moment how they will affect each other as both continue to evolve.

Q: Is there a template or set of guidelines on the writing of detailed proposals?

Q: would the re-numbering have an effect on the bookmarks that users had on RDA TK?
A: I don’t know for sure, although I assume this should not be a problem. Check with ALA Publishing for confirmation.

Q: how is subject of a work not a repetition of the 650 subject headings?
A: The idea will be to create an element at a very basic level which can refer out to existing vocabularies (LCSH, MeSH, AAT, etc.).

Q: 18 to 21 months to resolve an issue somewhat dismaying given the rate at which interfaces change. Do you foresee any changes in the process?
A: The JSC continues to look at ways to be more responsive and get the modifications published as quickly as possible. The need for constituency review, which is critical for significant changes, is part of why the process takes so long.

Q: Some of our library patrons have complained why RDA does not use GMD since this clearly shows the format of the item on OPAC. Now they have to open the whole bib record to find out it is an audiovisual item or a print one.
A: The GMD shouldn’t be the only means of conveying the format of the item to your end users; the new Content Type, Media Type, and Carrier Type elements (MARC 33X fields) should be able to fulfill a similar function. However, having this work effectively depends on how your local system indexes and displays this information.

Q: Is |cFictitious character only used when breaking a conflict?
A: It will definitely be needed when distinguishing one access point from another. There will be an option to add it even if there is no conflict. Here’s where you’ll want to consult the new LC-PCC Policy Statement for this instruction (9.19.1.2.6, Other Designation Associated with the Person) that should come out with the April Update.

Q: Is there a formal announcement on changes (fast track or proposal changes) to catalogers?
A: If you don’t want to subscribe to either RDA-L or the CC:DA [rules] list, it might be possible to set up an RSS feed for the JSC website’s New Working Documents page: http://www.rda-jsc.org/workingnew.html. All final versions of the proposals and a complete listing of fast track changes for a given Toolkit release or update are posted here.

Q: If you’re speaking of internationalization, where does one turn with questions having to do with translation of RDA into other languages? One of the hot topics in cataloging in my country is whether all Appendix I designators must be in male terms (given the use of “actor” and not “actress”) -- who would be able to answer what JSC had in mind?
A: I recommend contacting ALA Publishing and asking them to put you in touch with some of the other translation teams.

Q: while waiting for an RDA change, can we change things at the local level (cataloger’s judgment)?
A: That depends on the kind of change you’re contemplating. If you’re following PCC standards (BIBCO, CONSER, NACO), then you shouldn’t go beyond what those allow. If you need a correction that could be addressed by a LC-PCC Policy Statement, you should contact the PCC Standing Committee on Standards with your suggestion. Whatever you do, document your local policy and practice, and don’t forget to revisit it when RDA is updated.

Q: Can we locally decide to add GMD to RDA records?
A: Of course, local changes to records are always possible. However, unless you’re willing to make changes to all incoming records, you may end up with a mixed practice. Also keep in mind that OCLC plans to remove all GMDs in master records within the next three years, so your future workload in this regard is likely to increase.

Q: If you or your institution doesn't have access to the toolkit, is there a place to try and keep up with the rules/best policies?
A: It’s tough to understand the instructions without having access to them. You can certainly attend training events, and you can access content on the RDA Toolkit’s Tools tab without having a subscription, including the LC-PCC Policy Statements. ALA Publishing has also made RDA available in print and as an ebook, so maybe that would be another possibility for you.

Q: I have a question about existing hybrid records in OCLC. Is it okay to make changes to them? for ex. changing DEsc from (a) to (i) or adding je rda in 040 fields, etc.? 
A: OCLC has a hybrid record policy: http://oclc.org/rd/a/new-policy_en.html, which should answer most of your questions. If you need more information, I recommend contacting OCLC directly.
Q: Which constituency may be working on a proposal on compilations for the November meeting this year?
A: It's the Library of Congress.

Q: Could you say a little about where MARC issues fit in this picture? E.g. new MARC fields that are needed, or ambiguities in MARC in relation to RDA.
A: The JSC is not currently involved in MARC development; however, there was an RDA/MARC Working Group that developed a number of MARC change proposals that resulted in the creation of the new 37X and 38X fields in the past few years. If more work is needed, I assume a new working group could be established.

Q: Is any group working on art catalogs?