Pre-conference Workshop of the NOCALL Spring Institute 2011
Friday, April 8, 2011, 9:00 am - 11:45 am
Sir Francis Drake, San Francisco, California

RDA, Resource description and access. What it represents is perhaps more important than what it is. For that reason, I'm going to start this morning with a few broad, conceptual ideas. A man often quoted as an Information Industry visionary, Stephen Abram, recently wrote in SLA's *"Information Outlook,"*

"Understanding consumer search results: Firms that create content and use it to drive Web traffic to advertisers [i.e. Google] are proliferating, and librarians and their clients need to explore other options. A library's licensed database resource and online catalogue results are never influenced by SEO (search engine optimization) techniques and third party manipulation. That's the key tip that everyone should know to be successful."

> -- Stephen Abram, VP of Strategic Partnerships and Markets, Gale Cengage Learning, writing in SLA's **Information outlook** Jan-Feb 2011, pg. 33-35.
> *[quoted with permission]*

Mr. Abram means it's critical to remember that search results harvested directly from the internet via search engines, such as Google, are weighted to drive the user to sites that generate revenue for that search engine. That's not the case for resources selected by librarians and added to the catalog.

A few years back, some people thought Google would be the death of library catalogs and their creators. But, they were wrong.   A high-quality finding aid (whatever you want to call it) built with authority, objectivity and consistency is essential today, more so than ever to support distance learning and mobile-access researchers. Catalogers may be Metadata Specialists now.   But, their skill set is the same. Their skills are more vital than ever when it comes to constructing the NEXT-GEN CATALOGS.

So, what DOES the RDA represent?
>   It started out life as the AACR3.
>   By late 2007, it had morphed into the RDA.
>   It's NOT replacing MARC21, Dublin Core, or ISBD punctuation.

Karen Coyle (Digital Libraries consultant) & Diane Hillmann (Director of Metadata Initiatives at the Information Institute of Syracuse), wrote the article, "Cataloging RDA: Resource Description and Access: Rules for the 20th Century," online: (2007) 13:1/2 *D-Lib Magazine* http://www.dlib.org/dlib/january07/coyle/01coyle.html   referring to the inadequacies of AACR2. But their article was really a harsh criticism of RDA. This is largely because, at the time the article was written, RDA appeared to be nothing more than a set of cataloguing guidelines dressed up in AACR clothing. The authors felt that the profession had progressed very little from the early 1980s.

They wrote, "Since the development of the first OPACs, libraries have been trying to move forward while dragging behind them the ball of a century of legacy data and the chain of an antiquated view of the bibliographic universe.   At this stage it is hard to make a clean break from the past because we have invested so much energy into our AACR/ISBD/MARC past."

That article was published in early 2007 and a few months later a couple of significant announcements radically changed the direction and development of the RDA guidelines.   The first was the formation of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI)/RDA Task Force, a collaborative effort aimed at developing an RDA Dublin Core Application Profile.   Many feel this collaboration helped legitimize the work of RDA, especially in the eyes of some of the non-library metadata communities, and will make it much more likely that RDA will be useful in a semantic web or linked data context.   Attracting the interest of metadata communities outside of the library profession is one of the goals of the RDA initiative and an important aspect for the future of libraries and library data.

This might be the single most important POLITICAL point to understand about the RDA: it's not about us, and by "us" I mean "librarians and information professionals."   The RDA is a blueprint for the assembly of metadata (formerly bibliographic data) by a computer NOT a human.   In the interim, until that ultimate goal can be achieved, the RDA is constructed in such a way as to give guidance to humans performing the task using mark-up languages such as MARC21, Dublin Core, HTML, and XML to communicate with a computer.

How many people witnessed WATSON on JEOPARDY? Then you know what I'm talking about.

The general idea is that, although MARC will continue to be around for a long time, RDA implementation is the beginning of transition to a new environment of computer interoperability. The goal is to fully integrate library information with other data from all different resources: digital image files, archives, document files, numeric and statistical files.

At the 2010 AALL annual meeting, Coyle and Hillmann spoke again about the real purpose of RDA. Their message was there are THINGS NEEDED TO TRANSFORM LIBRARY INFORMATION –
   ➢ More data and less text.
   ➢ Metadata that is web friendly.
   ➢ Metadata that can be used and revised by anyone (more computer-jocks, less catalogers)
Diane Hillmann summarized the Big Picture like this:
"The present implementation of RDA in the static MARC record [is] a diversion from the ultimate goal of computer interoperability, thus taking the spotlight away from the questions on which we should be focusing."

Another goal is to provide data elements in computer "actionable" ways –
   ➢ XML – Extensible markup language.
   ➢ SKOS – Simple knowledge organization system.
   ➢ OWL – Web ontology language.
   ➢ RDF – Resource description framework made up of URI's : Uniform resource identifiers which are machine-processible identifiers for the subjects, predicates, and objects.

But, there's still hope for the human contribution to this work. The last broad concept I want to introduce before getting to the specifics of RDA changes comes from one of the true leaders in the technical services / automation world, Marshall Breeding, who wrote a monograph last year entitled *"Next-gen library catalogs."*

In it, he addresses the false notion that the advent of new applications called DISCOVERY INTERFACES cancels the need for good catalog records. Far from it. He writes –

"The new products rely on metadata, whether in MARC or some other form, to create facets, as factors in relevancy ranking, and in many other ways not exploited in traditional catalogs. Many of these new interfaces attempt to make even more advanced use of metadata than traditional catalogs especially in the ways they group and organize records. Concepts such as the FRBR have taken hold in discovery interfaces far beyond what was possible to accomplish in traditional online catalogs.
To the extent that these new interfaces approach metadata differently, there may be large implications for cataloging and authority control within the ILS and in the treatment of metadata in other repositories ingested into the discovery interface. Once exposed in this way, inconsistencies in metadata become conspicuous that were previously hidden. Especially in the generation of facets, any errors and inconsistencies stand out in full view that took a careful eye to discover in the online catalog…
Experienced metadata specialists will be important assets in this environment of new discovery methods.   These examples illustrate that the implementation of a new discovery interface may require a great deal of attention to cataloging and metadata issues…These new environments that involve less structured search techniques for users benefit from precise metadata and rigorous cataloging practices."

> *--Reproduced with permission from Next Gen Library Catalogs: Volume 1 of THE TECH SET, by Marshall Breeding. Copyright 2010. Neal-Schuman Publishers. www.neal-schuman.com*

Examples of Discovery interfaces –
- ➢ AquaBrowser
- ➢ Serials Solutions' Summon
- ➢ Innovative Interfaces' Encore
- ➢ Open source VuFind
- ➢ ExLibris' Primo
- ➢ SirsiDynix' Enterprise

A TIMELINE OF DEVELOPMENT FROM AACR to RDA –
- ➢ 1949 – Seymour Lubetzky's "Cataloging rules and principles"
- ➢ 1967 – "Ango-American cataloguing rules" (AACR)
- ➢ 1969 – International standard bibliographic description (ISBD) rules by IFLA
- ➢ 1978 – Michael Gorman's & Paul Winkler's "Anglo-American cataloguing rules, 2nd ed." (AACR2)
- ➢ 2002-05 – Anglo-American cataloguing rules, 2nd ed. Revised" (AACR2Rev.2002)
- ➢ 2005-11 – Resource description & access (RDA) – LC final report expected in June 2011

THE **BEST AVAILABLE TOOL FOR LEARNING RDA right now is probably the RDA Toolkit, available from the Library of Congress at:** www.rdatoolkit.org. It includes the following sections:

I.   RDA
1) Completed RDA chapters
2) Appendices
3) Glossary

II.   TOOLS
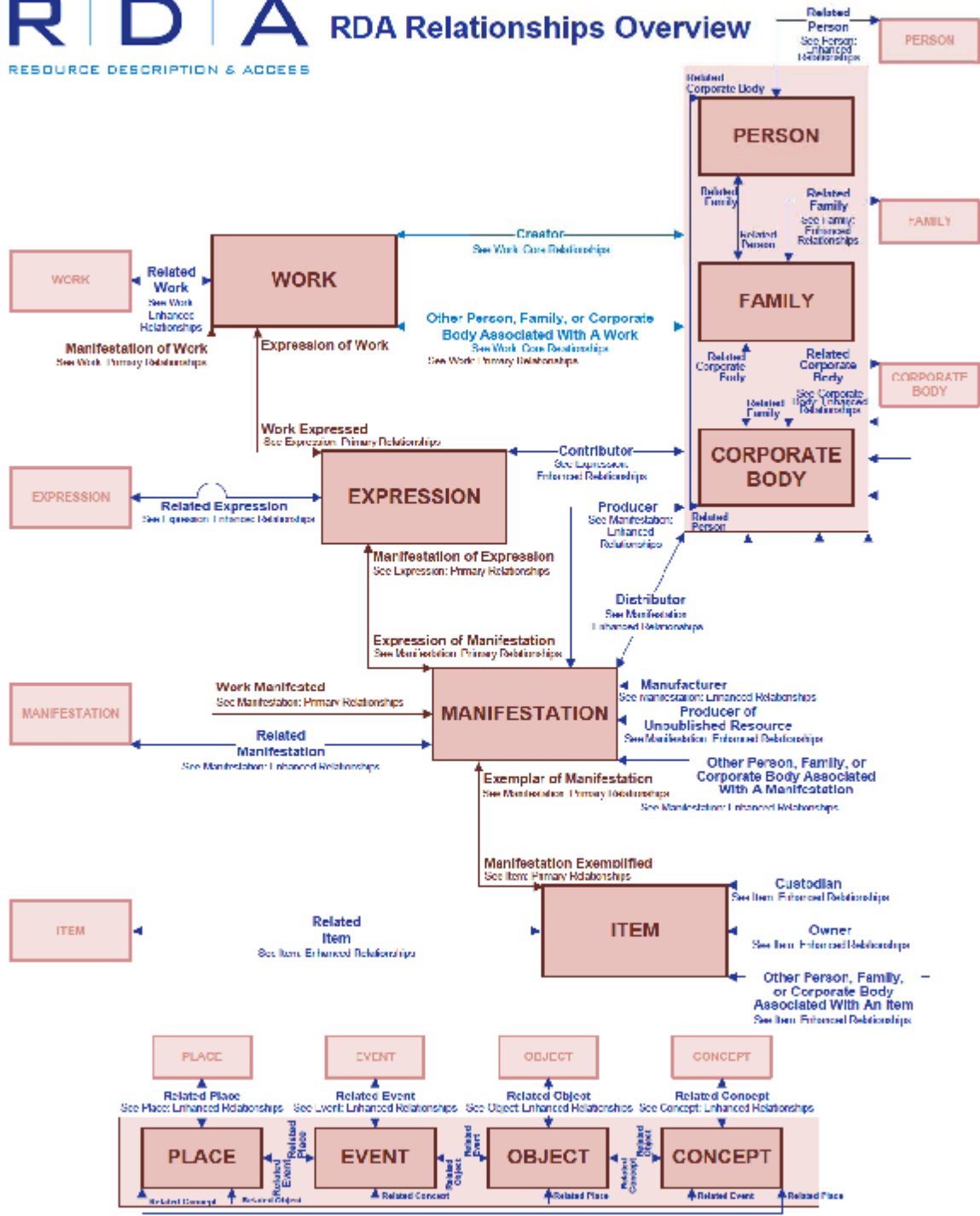1) RDA: Element Set View
2) FRBR Entities – functional requirements for bibliographic records
3) FRAD Entities – functional requirements for authority data
4) RDA Mappings
   a) RDA to MARC Bibliographic Mapping
   b) MARC Bibliographic to RDA Mapping
   c) RDA to MARC Authority Mapping
   d) MARC Authority to RDA Mapping
   e) RDA to MODS Mapping
5) Workflows
   a) Create workflows
   b) Share workflows
   c) Your workflows
6) Mappings
   a) Create mappings
   b) Share mappings
   c) Your mappings
7) Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD)
   a) Overview – **SEE NEXT PAGE**
   b) FRBR entities
   c) FRAD entities
8) Schemas
   a) Core
   b) Enhanced
   c) Specialized schemas
   d) Universal schemas
   e) Create schema

III.   RESOURCES
1) AACR2 Rev. 2002
2) Library of Congress Policy Statements (LCPS) – They are like the LC Rule Interpretations
3) Open Archives Initiative
4) Open Metadata Registry
5) Cataloger's Desktop – available by separate subscription
6) XC Extensible Catalog

This is the graphical overview of the RDA relationships. In the center, are the elements of FRBR – fundamental requirements for bibliographical records.

RDA Relationships Overview

THE FRBR ENTITIES -

1) **WORK**-any version of a creative work. (i.e. Mozart's "The magic flute").
2) **EXPRESSION**-where the work can be seen or heard or felt. (i.e. score or performance recording).
3) **MANIFESTATION**-exact contents are reproduced to look the same even though the format is different. (paper vs. microfilm vs. e-book).
4) **ITEM**-details of the specific item in hand. (autographed, barcode no., volume count, missing vol.).

THE RDA ELEMENT SET -

RDA cite	Description of element	Sample Data
2.3.2 2.4.2 2.5.2	Title proper Statement of responsibility Designation of edition	The organization of information Arlene G. Taylor Second edition
2.8.2 2.8.4	Place of publication Publisher's name	Westport, Connecticut Libraries Unlimited
2.8.6 2.12.2	Date of publication Title proper of series	c2004 Library and information science text series
2.13 2.15	Mode of issuance Identifier for manifestation	Single unit ISBN
3.2 3.3	Media type Carrier type	
3.4 3.5	Extent of text Dimensions	Pg. or vol. cm.
4.3 6.9	Contact information Content type	URL or URI
17.12 17.16	Language of the content Supplementary content	In English Includes index
17.8	Work manifested	Taylor, Arlene G., 1941- Organization of information
19.2	Creator	Taylor, Arlene G., 1941-
25.1	Related work	Library and information science text series
24.5	Relationship designator	in series (work)

A SAMPLING OF CHANGES UNDER RDA –
[Reproduced with permission from the Examples developed by Adam L. Schiff, Principal Cataloger, University of Washington Libraries]

1. **No more latin abbreviations** –
   s.l. for "no location" or s.n. for "no name (publisher)"
   THE NEW FORMAT :
   > 260 $a [Place of publication not identified] : $b [publisher not identified], $c 1966.

2. **Three new marc fields to replace 245 $h –**
   336 - Content Type (RDA 6.9)
   The form of communication through which a work is expressed.
   Examples: performed music; text; two-dimensional moving image

   337 - Media Type (RDA 3.2)
   The general type of intermediation device required to view, play, run, etc., the content of a resource. *Examples:* audio; computer; microform; unmediated; video

   338 - Carrier Type (RDA 3.3)
   The format of the storage medium and housing of a carrier.
   Examples: audio disc; online resource; microfiche; videocassette; volume

   > 336 $a two-dimensional moving image $b tdi $2 rdacontent
   > 337 $a video $b v $2 rdamedia
   > 338 $a videodisc $b vd $2 rdacarrier

3. **Other Title Information** is *not* a core element in RDA. While you can supply explanatory subtitles such as [proceedings], [program] and [selections] under AACR2 rules, there isn't any equivalent rule for RDA.

4. **Statement of Responsibility changes-**
   Sources that can be used for statement of responsibility are expanded in RDA. Only statements taken from outside the resource itself are enclosed in square brackets.

   The rule of 3 is gone. All authors can be listed. The statement of responsibility can be transcribed exactly as it appears on the title page, regardless of how many names appear there.

5. **Edition Statement** is spelled out in full:
   > 250 $a Second edition.

6. **Publication, Distribution, Etc.** is spelled out :
   > 260 $a Vancouver, British Columbia : $b Vancouver Historical Society, $c 1970.

7. **Publication Information -**
   Place of publication, publisher's name, and date of publication are core elements for published resources. Therefore, a date of publication or probable date of publication or *date of publication not identified* must always be recorded in RDA.

8. **Copyright date is a separate element in RDA**. It does not substitute for a publication date. Copyright date is a core element if neither the date of publication nor the date of distribution is identified. If more than one place of publication or publisher's name appears on the source of information, only the first recorded is required.

9. **Distribution Information -**
   Place of distribution is a core element for a resource in a published form if the place of publication is not identified.   Distributor's name is a core element for a resource in a published form if the publisher is not identified.   Date of distribution is a core element for a resource in a published form if the date of publication is not identified.   If more than one place of distribution or distributor's name appears on the source of information, only the first recorded is required.

10. **Manufacture Information -**
    Place of manufacture is a core element for a resource in a published form if neither a place of publication nor a place of distribution is identified.   Manufacturer's name is a core element for a resource in a published form if neither a publisher nor a distributor is identified.
    Date of manufacture is a core element for a resource in a published form if neither the date of publication, the date of distribution, nor the copyright date is identified. If more than one place of manufacture or manufacturer name appears on the source of information, only the first recorded is required.

11. **Approximate Date of Publication, Distribution, Etc. -**

AACR2 1.4F7, 2.16G	**RDA 1.9.2**
[ca. 1960]	[1960?]
[197-]	[between 1970 and 1979]
[197-?]	[between 1970 and 1979?]
[18--]	[between 1800 and 1899]
[not after Aug. 21, 1492]	[not after August 21, 1492]

12. **Extent** is spelled out in full:
    300   $a xxiii, 554 ***pages*** : $b ***illustrations, map*** ; $c 24 cm.

13. **Series Numbering** will be spelled out :
    490 $a Dictionary of literary biography ; $v ***volume*** 68

Personal Name Headings –
In RDA, terms indicating relationship such as "Jr." are treated as part of the name.

    100 1_ $a Williams, Hank, **$c Jr.,** $d 1949-

RDA Appendix B does not contain any abbreviations for months. Other terms associated with dates that are abbreviated in AACR (b., d., fl., cent.) are spelled out in RDA. "ca." is replaced by "approximately".

9.3.2.3 If the person was born in the same year as another person with the same name, record the date of birth in the form [year] [month] [day]. Record the month in the language and script preferred by the agency creating the data.

    100 1_ $a Smith, John, approximately 1837-1896
    100 1_ $a Smith, John, 1837-approximately 1896
    100 1_ $a Smith, John, approximately 1837-approximately 1896

LC Policy Statement 9.3.2.3: *LC practice*: Use a hyphen after date of birth; do not use the term "born" with the date.

LC Policy Statement 9.3.3.3: *LC practice*: Use a hyphen before the date of death; do not use the term "died" with the date.

    100 1_ $a Smith, John, born 1825 **LC practice:** Smith, John, 1825-
    100 1_ $a Smith, John, died 1859 **LC practice:** Smith, John, -1859

Conferences, Congresses, Fairs, Festivals, etc. -
    Annual Comparative Canadian Literature Conference
    Biennial Symposium on Active Control of Vibration and Noise
    Expo (1986 : Vancouver, B.C.)
    Festival of Flowers (1994 : Itanagar, India)
    Vancouver Conference on Modernism (1981 : Vancouver, B.C.)

In RDA there is one instruction for conferences, congresses, meetings, exhibitions, fairs, festivals, etc. (11.2.2.11).

This results in the following changes to AACR2: frequency will be retained in the name of a conference, congress, meeting, etc. (24.7A1). Year of convocation will be omitted from exhibitions, fairs, festivals, etc. (24.8A1). Location will be recorded even if the location is part of the name of the body (24.7B4, 24.8B1).

11.2.2.11 Omit from the name of a conference, congress, meeting, exhibition, fair, festival, etc., (including that of a conference, etc., treated as a subordinate body, see 11.2.2.14), indications of its number, or year or years of convocation, etc.

A COUPLE OF POSSIBLE PROBLEMS –

1. **ISBD PUNCTUATION** will be optional. This will remove the built-in safeguard we have for fixing missing subfield indicators, as they are mostly duplicated by ISBD punctuation.

2. **VENDOR-NEUTRAL RECORDS** are incompatible with the RDA.   But, vendor-neutral records are "illegal" now with AACR2 because with AACR2, you should be cataloging the item in hand. And, we have created them anyway.

   THE FACTS:
   1) Provider-neutral guidelines were an OCLC/PCC effort.

   2) Libraries will continue (or create) practices that are not in strict accordance with RDA, if they make sense for practicality and efficiency.

   3) Vendor-neutral records are created based on the original print version, with modifications for an electronic reproduction.

   4) <u>RDA Test libraries wrote</u>:
      <u>Columbia University</u>:   Provider Neutral record guidelines on reproductions are at variance with RDA.

      <u>Stanford University</u>:   There were a lot of questions on Provider Neutral records; more guidance is needed.

      <u>Brigham Young University</u>: No Provider Neutral records were created during the test because we concluded that Provider Neutral records are incompatible with RDA (Provider Neutral records do not describe manifestations or expressions, and since the description is based on that of the original, the publication information does not describe the digital object).