RDA: Resource Description and Access

A New Cataloging Standard for a Digital Future

**Compiled for IAML/IAMIC/IMS
from two presentations by Jennifer Bowen**

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My topics today

- Why a new standard?
- RDA Goals
- RDA Content
- Issues in developing RDA
- Preparing for RDA

Why a new standard?

- **Simplify rules**
  - Encourage use as a content standard for metadata schema
  - Encourage international applicability
- **Provide more consistency**
- **Address current problems**
- **Principle-based**
  - Build on cataloger's judgment
  - Encourage application of FRBR/FRAR

Beginning with "AACR3"...

- Draft of Part 1 of "AACR3" reviewed by JSC constituencies (Dec. 2004-March 2005)

- Feedback prompted a change in direction!

- Draft of Part 1 of RDA (Resource Description and Access)

What did we hear from reviewers?

- Need more radical change
  - More metadata-friendly
  - More connection with FRBR
- Be cost-effective
  - AACR2 and RDA records compatible
- Keep the best of AACR2
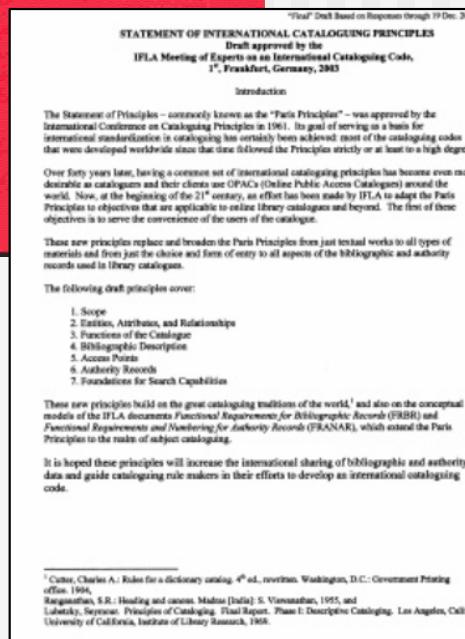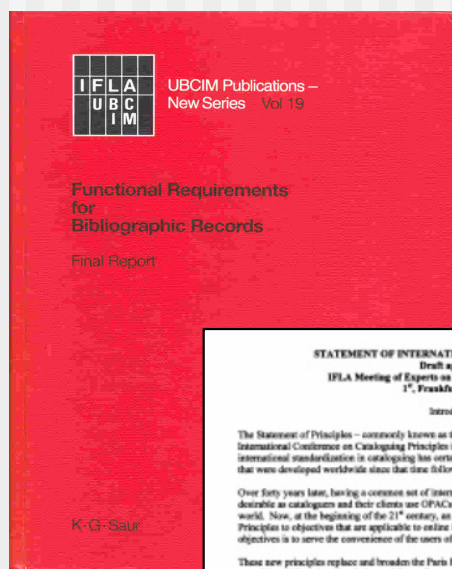 - Maintain, but modify, relationship with ISBDs

Re-examining the big picture

- Economic considerations for institutions that use the rules
- Digital developments and emerging technologies
- Need to engage with other communities outside the library world
- Relationship between cataloging and metadata

International developments

- IFLA's Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR)
- Updating the Paris Principles (IME ICC)
  - IFLA Meeting of Experts on an International Cataloguing Code

Standards and more standards...

- Communication Standards
  - MARC
    - UNIMARC
    - MARC 21
    - MODS/MADS
    - MARCXML
  - XML dtd's
  - Next generation?

- Metadata Standards
  - Dublin Core
  - MPEG 7
  - VRA
  - EAD
  - ISBD (also a content/display standard)

RDA will be…

- A new standard for resource description and access

- Designed for the digital environment
  - Web-based product (also loose-leaf)
  - Description and access of all digital resources (and analog)
  - Resulting records usable in the digital environment (Internet, Web OPACs, etc.)

RDA Goals…

RDA will be…

- Multinational *content standard* providing bibliographic description and access for a variety of media and formats collected by libraries today

- Developed for use in English language environment; it can also be used in other language communities

- Independent of the format (e.g., MARC 21) used to communicate information
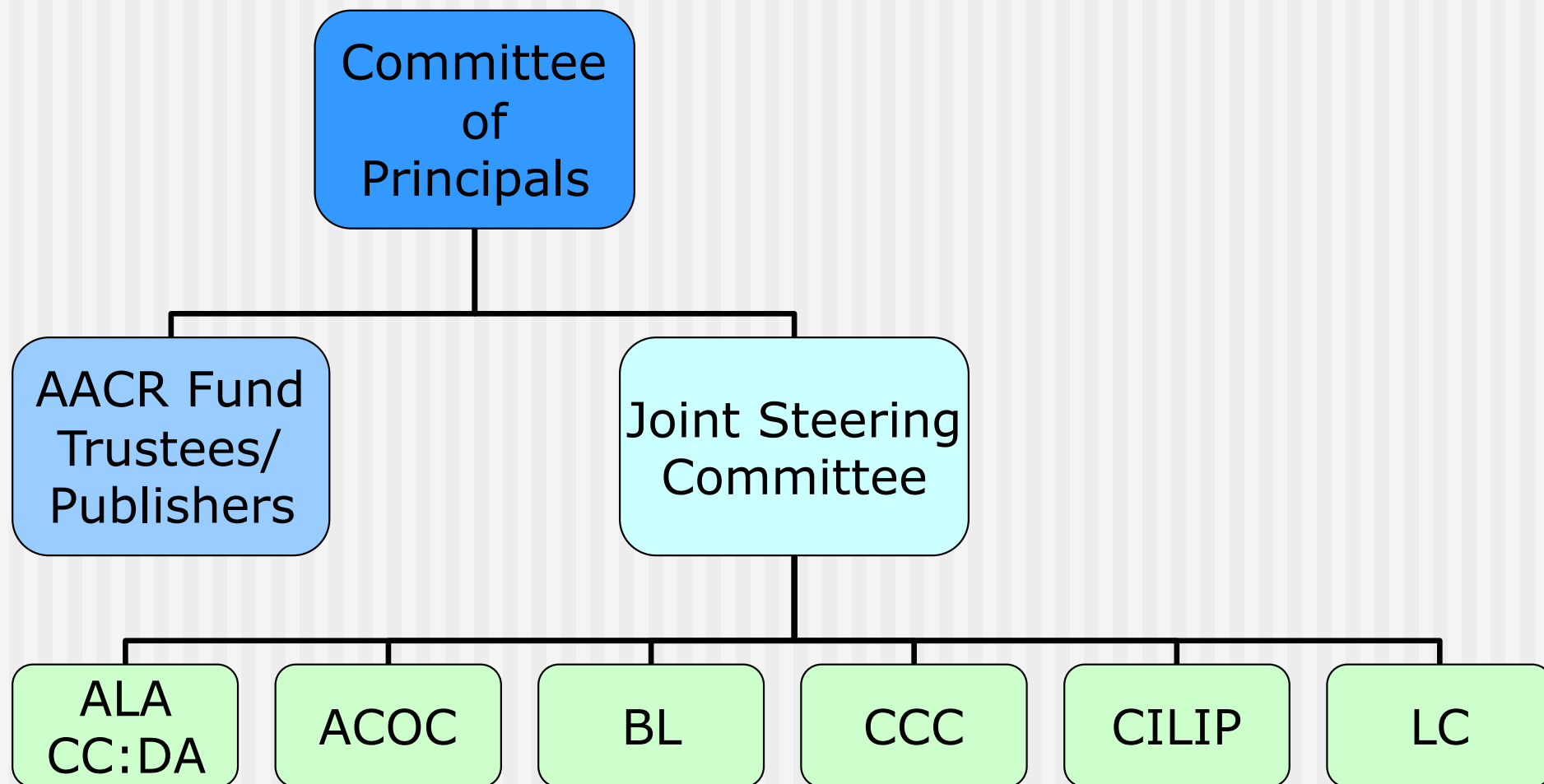
RDA will…

- Support FRBR user tasks
  - Find, identify, select, obtain
- Enable users of library catalogues, etc. to find and use resources appropriate to their information needs

Who develops and supports RDA?

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                    ┌──────────────┐
                    │  Committee   │
                    │     of       │
                    │  Principals  │
                    └──────┬───────┘
          ┌────────────────┴────────────────┐
   ┌──────────────┐                   ┌──────────────┐
   │  AACR Fund   │                   │ Joint Steering│
   │  Trustees/   │                   │   Committee   │
   │  Publishers  │                   └───────┬───────┘
   └──────────────┘                           │
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| ALA CC:DA | ACOC | BL | CCC | CILIP | LC |

RDA Content...

RDA structure: A work in progress!

AACR2

Part I: Description

Part II: Access

RDA – New Arrangement!

Part A

Part I: Description

Part II: Relationships

Part B

Part III: Access Point Control

"New" Part A (formerly part I)

- 0. Introduction
- 1. General guidelines for resource description
- 2. Identification of the resource
- 3. Technical description - FRBR "Select"
- 4. Content description - FRBR "Select"
- 5. Terms of availability - FRBR "Obtain"
- ~~6. Item-specific information~~

"New" Part A cont. (formerly part II)

Chapters 6-9(?) - FRBR "Find"

- Relationships between FRBR Group 1 entities
  Works
  Expressions
  Manifestations
  Items

- Relationships between FRBR Group 1 and Group 2 entities
  Persons
  Corporate bodies
  Families

Simplify choice of primary access point

Relationships – new terminology

AACR2 terms
- Heading
- Main Entry
- Added Entry
- Uniform title

RDA terms
- Access point
- Primary Access point
- Secondary Access point
- Citation: Access point...
  - For a work
  - For an expression
  - For a manifestation

"New" Part B" (formerly part III)

- General guidelines for Access point control
  - Guidance from FRAR ("FRAD")
- Authorized forms
  - Persons, Families, Corporate bodies, Places
  - Citations ("uniform titles") for works, expressions
- Variant forms

Issues in Developing RDA

Continuity vs. change

- "Why didn't you just throw out AACR2 and start over?"

- Keep the best of what we have

- Compatibility with existing records is essential!

Content vs. display

- RDA will be a content standard not a display standard
- RDA will contain new data elements, redefined elements
  - New elements to replace the GMD
  - Clarify definition of "notes"
- Retain relationships between elements
- RDA records can still be displayed in an ISBD display if desired

Transcription

- How important is data transcription to resource identification?
    - Rare books, etc. – very important!
    - Metadata communities – not!

- "Take what you see"
    - Correction of inaccuracies
    - Facilitating automated data capture

Content issues

- Terms for Content and Carrier
  - RDA/ONIX framework for resource categorization
  - JSC GMD/SMD Working Group
- Mandatory ("Required") Elements
- Mapping Data Elements
  - RDA/MARC 21
  - Dublin Core

Identifying the major stakeholders

- Catalogers

as well as

- Library administrators
- Cataloging educators
- Public Service librarians
- System developers
- Metadata communities
- MARC format developers
- National and international programs (PCC, ISSN, IFLA, etc.)

Ongoing work

- Mode of Issuance
- Internationalization
- Persistent Identifiers and URLs
- Appendices
- Access Points for Families
- Examples
- Glossary

Preparing for RDA

Coding RDA records in MARC 21 – and DC?

- Most RDA data elements can be incorporated into MARC 21
- A few changes:
  - New data elements to replace GMDs and SMDs
  - Possibly some other modifications necessary to MARC 21

Considering ISBD punctuation

- RDA will establish a clear line of separation between the recording of data and the presentation of data
- ISBD punctuation not required in RDA, but instead is an option.
- Presentation information (e.g. ISBD punctuation) will appear in an appendix of RDA

Retrospective catalog maintenance?

- No – Significant changes to existing records will not be required
- Need for retrospective adjustments when integrating RDA and AACR2 records will be minimal

RDA timeline

- May-Sept. 2006: Completion of draft of remainder of Part A (old part II), and constituency review

- Oct. 2006-Apr. 2007: Completion of draft of Part B (old part III), and constituency review

- May-Sept. 2007: Completion of General Introduction, Appendices, and Glossary

- Mid-2008: First Release

- RDA drafts available at:

www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rda.html

- Informal discussion: subscribe to RDA-L (link on page above)