To: ALA Core Committee on Cataloging Cataloging: Description and Access

From: Robert L. Maxwell and Adam L. Schiff, ALA Representatives to the North American RDA Committee (NARDAC)

Subject: Report on NARDAC and RDA-related Activities, January 2023 – July 2023

NARDAC

The North American RDA Committee (NARDAC) is the entity that represents the North American region on the RDA Steering Committee (RSC). NARDAC's membership for this period consisted of:

- ALA Representatives:
    - Robert L. Maxwell, Brigham Young University, 2021- ; NARDAC representative to RSC
    - Adam L. Schiff, University of Washington Libraries, 2022-
- Library of Congress (LC) Representatives:
    - Melanie Polutta, 2019- ; NARDAC Coordinator of Web Content; back-up NARDAC representative to RSC
    - Clara Liao, 2021- ; NARDAC chair (2022-)
- Canadian Committee on Cataloguing (CCC) Representatives:
    - Thomas Brenndorfer, Guelph Public Library, 2018-
    - Hong Cui, Library and Archives Canada, 2023-

NARDAC met monthly since ALA Midwinter 2023, conducting its work using Basecamp, Google Drive, Zoom, email, and phone calls. The public NARDAC website is part of the RSC website: http://rda-rsc.org/northamerica.

Committee Work

NARDAC consolidated and submitted comments received from ALA, CCC, and LC to the RSC on three proposals to be considered at the May and August 2023 RSC meetings:

- RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1 - Preferred names and official languages of corporate bodies, governments, and places in RDA
    - NARDAC response: RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1/NARDAC response
- RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/1 - Religious titles
    - NARDAC response: RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/1/NARDAC response
- RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1 - Jurisdictions, Governments, and Courts in RDA
    - NARDAC response: RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1/NARDAC response

NARDAC received a request from ALA to turn the preconference and Core forum that we gave in June and October 2022 into a series of webinars. These were held in March 2023:

March 14: Kathy Glennan: **Official RDA: A Standard for Our Changing Times**
March 15: Thomas Brenndorfer: **Title Proper in the Official RDA Toolkit**
March 28: Melanie Polutta: **RDA, Policy Statements, and MGDs: How the Documentation Works Together**
March 30: Robert L. Maxwell: **Describing a Person using Official RDA**

NARDAC's spring 2023 Update Forum was held April 3. The recording is on the RDA YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaMv44YEA1w and on the NARDAC Presentations web page: http://www.rda-rsc.org/northamerica/presentations/2023. It included an update on NARDAC activities by Clara Liao, and presentations by Adam Baron on the PCC SCT RDA Training Phase I, Ahava Cohen (EURIG Chair) on grammatical gender issues in cataloging, and Honor Moody (RDA Examples Editor) on examples in the RDA Toolkit.

On June 23, 2023 at ALA Annual a joint preconference workshop with NARDAC and PCC SCT RDA Training Task Group was held: **Unlocking the Power of RDA.** It provided a preview of PCC RDA Training Task Group Phase I work introducing some new and challenging terms/concepts in the official RDA with examples and exercises.

Four NARDAC (Liao, Maxwell, Polutta, Schiff) members participated in the MGD SES (string encoding scheme) writing starting in April 2023. The initial versions of these MGDs are expected to be completed in July 2023.

Upcoming: NARDAC Fall Update Forum (possibly in November). Possible content:

- Inviting RSC Working Groups to introduce their work and give updates
- Inviting colleagues from Canada for their RDA related policy work

RDA Steering Committee (RSC)

The RDA Steering Committee membership is currently:

Regional Representatives:

      Europe: Ahava Cohen, National Library of Israel

      North America: Robert Maxwell, Brigham Young University

      Oceania: Charlotte Christensen, National Library of New Zealand

Position holders:

      RSC Chair: Renate Behrens, Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

      RSC Past Chair: Kathy Glennan, University of Maryland

      RSC Secretary: Anne Welsh

      RDA Examples Editor: Honor Moody, Harvard University

      Technical Team Liaison Officer: Damian Iseminger, Library of Congress

Transitions Team Liaison Officer: Szabolcs Dancs, National Széchényi Library (Hungary)

Wider Community Engagement Officer: Charlene Chou, New York University

Education and Orientation Officer: Elisa Sze, University of Toronto

Ex officio members:

RDA Board Chair: John Trevor-Allen

Director, ALA Digital Reference: James Hennelly

Activities

The RSC held two asynchronous (online) meetings January and July and an in-person meeting in Chicago in May

The January RSC meeting had a very light agenda and most of what was discussed also came up in the May and July meetings (see below).

At the May meeting the RSC discussed:

- Internationalization, including ways to integrate better with regions that are not yet represented on RSC (Latin America, Africa, Asia
- Agreed that Original RDA will be "retired" around May 2027, after which it will be archived but no longer available online.
- Discussed what to do with "soft-deprecated" elements (these are elements that will still exist in Official RDA but have been replaced by other, preferred elements)
- Discussed and partially approved a proposal from the RSC Places Working Group revising some wording related to places, e.g. "governance" or "government" instead of "jurisdiction" to avoid confusion
- Continued discussion of the "community resources" section of the Toolkit
- Discussed future arrangements for the examples, including
  - Possibility of having more than just the examples editor working on examples
  - Suggestion that translators should be free to formulate their own examples
- Proposed a Task Group to find string encoding scheme instructions in RDA and make recommendations

At the July meeting the RSC discussed:

- Making the Education and Orientation Officer a permanent position (currently it's temporary)
- Recruitment of a new Examples Editor (Honor's term is ending this year)
- Instituting a Standing Working Group on Examples, which will assist the Examples Editor
- Continued discussion of establishing a String Encoding Schemes Working Group
- Drafted a survey on soft-deprecated terms, to find out which agencies will continue to use them (the survey will go some time in the near future, presumably before the end of the year)

An extension of the July meeting will take place via a public Zoom call on August 2 to discuss two proposals:

- A proposal on religious titles http://rda-rsc.org/node/753
- A proposal on official languages of corporate bodies http://rda-rsc.org/node/756

The current RSC Working Groups continue to consider revisions to RDA in their areas:
- Extent Working Group
- Official Languages Working Group
- Place/Jurisdiction Working Group
- Religions in RDA Working Group