CC:DA/NARDAC Reps/2024/1



**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, July 2023 – January 2024

**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 (2022- )
	+ Adam L. Schiff, University of Washington Libraries, 2022-
* Canadian Committee on Cataloguing (CCC) Representatives:
	+ Thomas Brenndorfer, Guelph Public Library, 2018-
	+ **Hong Cui**, Library and Archives Canada, 2023-
* 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- )

NARDAC met monthly since ALA Annual 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 two proposals considered at the RSC meetings in August 2023:

[RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1/NARDAC response](http://rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC_LanguagesWG_2023_1_NARDACresponse.pdf): NARDAC response to [RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1](http://rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC-Languages%20WG-2023-1.pdf) – Proposal on preferred names and official languages of corporate bodies, governments, and places in RDA

[RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/1/NARDAC response](http://rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC_ReligionsWG_2023_1_NARDACresponse.pdf): NARDAC response to [RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/1](http://rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC-ReligionsWG-2023-1.pdf) – Proposal on religious titles

and on two proposals considered at the RSC meetings in October 2023:

[RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2/NARDAC response](http://www.rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC_PlacesWG_2023_2_NARDAC_response.pdf): NARDAC response to [RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2](http://www.rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC_PlacesWG_2023_2.pdf) - Revision of Corporate Body: jurisdiction governed and Place: jurisdiction governed of

[RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2/NARDAC response](http://rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC_ReligionsWG_2023_2_NARDAC_response.pdf): NARDAC response to [RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2](http://rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC_ReligionsWG_2023_2.pdf) - Proposal to Revise Term of Rank or Honour or Office

RSC decisions on these proposals are available on the current RSC documents website: [RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1/Decisions](http://rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC_LanguagesWG_2023_1_Decisions.pdf), [RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/1/Decisions](http://rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC_ReligionsWG_2023_1_Decisions_1.pdf), [RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2/Decisions](http://www.rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC_PlacesWG_2023_2_Decisions_0.pdf), [RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2/Decisions](http://rda-rsc.org/sites/all/files/RSC_ReligionsWG_2023_2_Decisions.pdf).

NARDAC’s Fall 2023 Update Forum was held online on November 13, 2023. The recording is on the RDA YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdRJNJ2EShQ> and on the NARDAC Presentations web page at <http://www.rda-rsc.org/northamerica/presentations/2023>. The forum included presentations by Esther Scheven (Place/Jurisdiction Working Group), Hanoch Roniger (Official Languages Working Group), Thomas Brenndorfer, Gordon Dunsire, and Alice Robinson (Extent Working Group), Patrick Harrington (Religions in RDA Working Group), Renate Behrens (RSC Chair, speaking on RSC working groups), Hong Cui (Library and Archives Canada, speaking on the complexity of bilingual policy statements), and Clara Liao (NARDAC Chair).

Four NARDAC (Liao, Maxwell, Polutta, Schiff) members participated in the MGD SES (string encoding scheme) writing, submitting initial drafts to the Library of Congress in July 2023. These drafts are being reviewed by catalogers and policy specialists at LC.

NARDAC members reviewed a spreadsheet of feedback and recommendations from the PCC RDA Test and identified next steps such as to whom the feedback and recommendations should go (e.g., to RSC or Jaime Hennelly at ALA, the RSC education officer and PCC RDA Training Task Group, or to the RDA Communication Committee). NARDAC members also added notes to the spreadsheet giving their own thoughts on each issue identified.

NARDAC discussed adding representatives from French-speaking cataloging communities in the NARDAC region (Canada and Saint Pierre and Miquelon). The Canadian NARDAC members will reach out to see if there is any interest from Saint Pierre and Miquelon. They also recommended that CCC be asked to propose a new member from its ranks to represent French catalogers in Canada. The NARDAC chair has also reached to the Central Library of Greenland and National Library of Greenland to see if there is interest in joining NARDAC.

NARDAC is currently discussing and planning for programming at ALA Annual in San Diego, California, June 27-July 2, 2024. The RDA Board will be meeting in San Diego immediately prior to ALA. Discussions are being held about having a half-day preconference outreach event where RDA Board members speak. NARDAC has also reached out to CC:DA about whether it is interested in co-sponsoring and organizing a second half-day preconference.

**RDA Steering Committee (RSC)**

The RDA Steering Committee membership is currently:

Regional Representatives:

Europe: Ahava Cohen, National Library of Israel

North America: Robert L. Maxwell, Brigham Young University

Oceania: Charlotte Christensen, National Library of New Zealand

Position holders:

RSC Chair: Renate Behrens, Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

RSC Secretary: Anne Welsh

RDA Examples Editor: Jessica Grzegorski, Newberry Library

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: Colleen Barbus

Director, ALA Digital Reference: James Hennelly

**Activities**

The RSC held one asynchronous (online) meeting in July and an in-person meeting in Vienna in October. The hosting institution, Die Österreichische Bibliothekenverbund und Service GMBH (ÖBVSG), also co-sponsored with RSC a training event “‘RDA: Think Globally, Act Locally,” featuring information about RDA implementation in Europe.

The RSC published an action plan which can be viewed at <https://alair.ala.org/handle/11213/20808>. This will, however, be updated at the January 2024 meeting to cover 2024-2026. One element of the plan is to begin planning for removal of soft-deprecated elements (elements that have been replaced by other, newer, elements, but which might still be in use by some agencies). The plan also announces the decision to commence the “countdown clock” in May 2026 (meaning that one year after that Original RDA will be taken down from the Toolkit site).

There were two Toolkit releases, in July and September. These included enhancements to the look and feel of the website, a new alternative Guidance menu, and the addition of the new French transltion.

RSC approved the following proposals

1. RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1: Jurisdictions, Governments and Courts in RDA

This chiefly concerned clarification and replacement of some vocabulary involving the word “jurisdiction”

1. RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1: Preferred names and official languages of corporate bodies, governments, and places in RDA
This analysed and proposed changes for the concept of official language for corporate bodies. Changes were approved but it was decided to delay implementation until the proposals from the PlacesWG were implemented to avoid confusion since they are covering similar ground.
2. RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2: Revision of Corporate Body: jurisdiction governed and Place: jurisdiction governed of
This continued some of the recommendtions from RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1. Relationship element names were changed from “jurisdiction …” to “place governed” and “place governed by.”
3. RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/1: Religious Titles.
Revision concerned elimination of bias regarding religion in RDA. Certain options/instructions for dealing with terms and hierarchies within a particular religion were removed and moved to the Community Resources section.
4. RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2: Proposal to Revise Term of Rank or Honour or Office.
This changes instructions for the element Person > term of rank or honour or office, generlizing instructions to make the element applicable to religious denominations beyond those in Christianity.

An Examples Working Group was established to assist the RDA Examples Editor. Honor Moody, the examples editor, came to the end of her term in office, but will remain as a member of the WG. The new examples editor is Jessica Grzegorski.

The current RSC Working Groups continued to consider revisions to RDA in their areas:

* Examples Working Group (ongoing)
* Technical Working Group (ongoing)
* Translations Working Group (ongoing)
* Extent Working Group (“task and finish”)
* Official Languages Working Group (“task and finish”)
* Place/Jurisdiction Working Group (“task and finish”)
This group may be declared to have finished its work in the January 2024 meeting.
* Religions in RDA Working Group (“task and finish”)