

**ALA Annual Conference**  
**Report from the Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA)**  
**Anaheim, CA, June 23 and 25, 2012**  
**Submitted by Tracey Snyder**

The Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA) met twice during the 2012 ALA Annual Meeting in Anaheim; the outgoing Chair, Lori Robare (University of Oregon) led the discussions. This report gives highlights that may be of interest to the music cataloging community. For more information about the meeting and for reports about activities mentioned below, please see the [CC:DA website](#); the [agenda](#) contains links to many of the reports.

**Report from the chair (Lori Robare)**

[\[CC:DA/Chair/2011-2012/3\]](#)

Robare mentioned additional items that had been voted on via email since her report, including four out of the five RDA revision proposals put forward by MLA. (Discussion of the outstanding MLA proposal took place later during the conference and will continue on the wiki after the conference.)

Robare outlined the timeline for RDA revision proposals in the current cycle: the JSC due date for proposals is August 8, so CC:DA set an internal deadline of July 25 for all ALA proposals to be finalized. CC:DA will also need to review proposals from other constituencies (British Library, Library of Congress, etc.) beginning in August, before the JSC meets in November in Chicago.

Robare introduced Peter Rolla as the incoming chair of CC:DA.

**Report from the Library of Congress Representative (Barbara Tillett)**

[\[LC Report, June 2012\]](#)

Also see the [Library of Congress Update for 2012 ALA Annual](#), which covers areas other than cataloging.

Tillett talked about the Bibliographic Framework Transition Initiative, which was discussed in more depth at a separate public session. The focus has been on Linked Data and the Semantic Web, with the effort led by Eric Miller of Zepheira. The community should stay tuned to the [website](#) for more details.

Tillett mentioned several other topics of interest that are covered in detail in the above report, including an initiative called “Priorities for Innovative Investments,” a decision not to implement a web-scale discovery product for the time being, an update on RDA training outreach efforts, a

decision to change the *Library of Congress Policy Statements* to *LC-PCC Policy Statements*, and much more.

### **Report from the ALA Representative to the Joint Steering Committee (John Attig)**

[\[JSC report June 2012\]](#)

Attig reported that the JSC is focusing on four main areas currently: the rewording of RDA, the creation of RDA vocabularies and element sets for the Open Metadata Registry, the correction of errors in RDA, and the review of RDA revision proposals.

The JSC has been reviewing drafts of reworded RDA chapters by Chris Oliver as well as comments from the U.S. RDA Test Coordinating Committee. Oliver has delivered drafts of the five chapters she was asked to reword, as well as a draft of chapter 2. She will move on to chapters 3 and 7 after that, and then the remaining chapters. The December 2012 release of the Toolkit should contain any reworded chapters that are ready by that time.

The JSC is working on publishing RDA controlled vocabularies in the Open Metadata Registry. Many definitions are ready for consideration, and more contributions are still expected. The JSC hopes to publish those that are ready in July. The definitions will also be added to the RDA Glossary in the fall.

The JSC is using a fast track process to correct typos and other errors in the text of RDA. Many revisions came out of the official RDA test in 2011, and the necessary corrections have been implemented in the Toolkit. The JSC continues to receive fast track proposals from constituencies. These will be considered for any RDA Toolkit update.

The JSC is reviewing revision proposals before the meeting November 6-9, 2012, in Chicago. The JSC expects proposals from the British Library, Library of Congress, and other constituencies, including EURIG (EU RDA Interest Group). The JSC is maintaining a list of [possible proposals](#) for the November meeting; links to the proposals will be made available on this page.

### **Report from the TF on Machine-Actionable Data Elements in RDA Chapter 3 (Peter Rolla)**

[\[C:DA/TF/Machine-Actionable Data Elements in RDA Chapter 3/3\]](#)

Rolla introduced the task force's discussion paper. The task force hopes for input from various cataloging communities, and will submit the paper to the JSC for their consideration, with revision of RDA being a long-range goal.

The paper presents a model devised by the task force called the aspect-unit-quantity model for describing carriers; this is a way to parse out the information contained in a text string that

describes a carrier into machine-actionable data elements. An example for a score with 38 leaves (currently described as “1 score (38 leaves)”) would be:

Aspect: extent/number of subunits

Unit: score

Quantity: 1

Aspect: extent/ number of subunits

Unit: leaves

Quantity: 38

Snyder provided a suggestion to revise an example of a score with parts that was included in the paper so that it would represent a typical score and parts layout encountered by music catalogers.

There was a discussion about whether the proposed set of machine-actionable data elements would take the place of text strings or exist in addition to the text strings. It would seem that the two will have to coexist, at least initially, due to the large body of legacy data and uncertainty about a machine’s ability to translate the machine-actionable data elements into accurate text strings.

Tillett advised the task force to more explicitly state its aims in the document in order to get more direct feedback from the JSC. Attig stated that the essential question is whether the aspect-unit-quantity model devised by the task force is a helpful one; feedback is needed on the model itself before revisions can be proposed.

Attig and Rolla will revise the document according to the discussion. CC:DA approved the discussion paper with the changes discussed. It will be submitted to the JSC for consideration at their meeting in November. The task force will remain in place to respond to JSC feedback.

### **Report from the TF to Revise Building International Descriptive Cataloging Standards (Robert Rendall)**

[\[CC:DA/TF/Revise Building International Descriptive Cataloging Standards/3\]](#)

The task force was charged with revising the above-named document, which describes CC:DA’s work to an external audience.

A straw poll revealed that CC:DA members supported maintaining the document in both HTML and PDF formats.

A decision was made to remove the phrase “descriptive cataloging” from the description of RDA, and simply refer to RDA as an internationally accepted standard, since the context is clear from the rest of the description.

The chair of the task force will update the document according to the discussion, and the task force will be disbanded.

### **Report from the TF on Relationship Designators in RDA Appendix K (Kathy Winzer)**

[\[CC:DA/TF/Relationship Designators in RDA Appendix K/3\]](#)

Winzer reported on the work that has been done so far. Discussion centered around two main topics relevant to relationship designators for family members: the question of prepositions (for example, “uncle” and “nephew of” vs. “nephew” and “uncle of”) and the question of gender neutrality (for example, “spouse” vs. “husband” and “wife”). Regarding the first topic, it was advised that reciprocal relationships would have to be explicitly labeled. Regarding the second topic, the task force will need to weigh the benefits of using natural language (such as “husband” and “wife”) with the benefits of remaining gender-neutral, while considering the impact on translations of RDA into other languages, where a gender-neutral term may not exist.

No definitive decisions were reached in regard to these matters. However, a straw poll did confirm that CC:DA members felt that family relationships were bibliographically significant.

Discussion will continue on the wiki after ALA. The issues do not need to be resolved during the current revision proposal cycle.

### **Report from the TF on RDA Instructions for Governmental and Non-Governmental Corporate Bodies (Kevin Randall)**

[\[CC:DA/TF/Governmental and Non-Governmental Corporate Bodies/4\]](#)

Most of the discussion centered on the Type 6 category of headings (government officials).

Individual examples will need to be discussed on the wiki. There was also a suggestion to revise the proposal to include more discussion about the impact of the proposed changes.

The proposal was approved. The task force will complete editorial work before disbanding.

### **Report from the TF to Investigate Changes Affecting RDA in the Chicago Manual of Style, 16<sup>th</sup> Edition (Patricia Dragon)**

[\[CC:DA/TF/Investigate Changes Affecting RDA in the Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition/3\]](#)

Although the task force's report is an interim report, Dragon assumes that the bulk of the task force's work is done, and is now asking for comments from CC:DA. Most of the recommended changes have to do with capitalization.

There was a question of whether or not to capitalize "etc." when it is the final word in the caption of an instruction. The manual could be interpreted either way; "etc." could be thought of as an insignificant word, and therefore would not have to be capitalized in a headline, or it could be thought of as standing in for words that *would* have to be capitalized, and therefore would have to be capitalized itself. In a straw poll, most members of CC:DA favored capitalizing "etc." when it is the final word in the caption of an instruction.

There was also a discussion of hyphenating compound colors according to the manual. There was a question of whether "black and white" is a compound color that should be hyphenated, or if "compound color" simply refers to things like "yellow-green."

Finally, there was a discussion of the current convention of spelling "website" as one word that is not capitalized.

The task force's final report will be ready in time for ALA Midwinter 2013.

### **Report from the RDA Conference Forums and Programs TF (June Abbas)**

Abbas reported that the all-day preconference on authorities in RDA was very well-attended. Several well-attended RDA-related sessions also took place during the conference.

A preconference on the basics of RDA is planned for ALA Annual 2013.

A vendor update forum is planned for ALA Annual 2013, and an RDA update forum is planned for ALA Midwinter 2013 and ALA Annual 2013.

Given the target date for RDA implementation in spring 2013, this group will be disbanded after ALA Annual 2013.

### **Report from the RDA Planning and Training TF (Lori Robare)**

[\[CC:DA/RDA Training TF/2012/2\]](#)

Robare indicated that the task force is continuing to focus on webinars, which have been very well attended.

### **MARBI Representative report (John Myers)**

[\[CC:DA/Marbi Rep/2012/2\]](#)

Myers summarized the proposals and discussion papers under consideration by MARBI at ALA Annual 2012. Please see the report from MLA's MARBI liaison for more information.

### **Revision proposals from AALL & CEAL (Lori Robare)**

[\[CC:DA/AALL/2010/1\]](#) (Revision of RDA 16.2.2.9, Places in certain federations)

[\[CC:DA/CEAL/2012/1\]](#) (Recording Chinese Place Names in RDA 16.2.2)

CC:DA considered these two proposals together, since they involve the same instructions. CC:DA will act on these separately on the wiki after the meeting, but if they are approved, they will be folded into a single ALA proposal to the JSC.

Although CC:DA ultimately desires a long-term solution that lessens the Anglo-American bias in the instructions for place names and brings consistency to the manner in which place names are qualified, CC:DA will proceed with pursuing a short-term solution and will work to create a more generalized version of the CEAL proposal that aims to add the name of a province after the name of a city in China. A generalized version will need to include examples outside of China. Discussion will continue on the wiki.

With regard to the AALL proposal, there was a straw poll in favor of removing Ireland from the category of "places in the British Isles," which will mean that the name of the relevant instruction will need to be changed. Discussion will continue on the wiki.

### **MLA proposal on librettos (Tracey Snyder)**

Snyder spoke on behalf of the MLA proposal to revise a handful of instructions in RDA in order to avoid having to qualify the title of an opera and separately published libretto of the same title by the same creator with the terms "Opera" and "Libretto," respectively. (Having to do so would be a significant departure from AACR2 and would require significant maintenance to the authority file and the bibliographic file.) The proposal also provides an alternative that seeks a minimal revision—the addition of an instruction not to create a variant access point consisting of the name of a composer, the title of an opera, and the word "libretto" when it would be identical to the authorized access point for the libretto (i.e., when the same person composed the music and wrote the libretto).

There was discussion contrasting a scenario in which a composer like Wagner wrote the music and libretto for an opera as a unified work and one in which a person might author an epic poem (a free-standing work) and then set the poem to music years later. Discussion will continue on

the wiki; most likely, MLA will need to put forth a revised proposal. A straw poll will take place by email soon after ALA.

### **Revision proposal from OLAC on video encoding formats (Kelley McGrath)**

[\[CC:DA/OLAC/2012/1\]](#)

McGrath summarized the proposal to correct and update the list of video encoding formats in RDA 3.19.3.3. For example, the capitalization of Blu-ray and QuickTime should be corrected, and Flash Video should be added; DVD-R should be removed since it is not an encoding format. The proposal also aims to add instructions on recording optical disc characteristics and an array of glossary terms.

The proposal was approved, pending editorial revisions.

### **Report from the PCC liaison (Kathy Glennan)**

[\[PCC report June 2012\]](#)

Glennan reported on the work of nine RDA Task Groups under PCC. The above link summarizes them succinctly.

### **Report from ALA Publishing Services (Troy Linker)**

Linker reported that the RDA Toolkit renewal rate is only about 60%. ALA Publishing would need three or four times the amount of current subscribers in order to break even. There is an offer to get double the number of concurrent users at no additional charge for institutions that renew or subscribe before August 31.

The efforts to reword parts of RDA are moving forward, led by Chris Oliver. The completed chapters will be updated as a batch in the Toolkit in December. It is hoped that all chapters will be updated by the middle of 2013. There will be a general update of the Toolkit in April 2013; after the remaining reworded chapters are updated around June 2013, updates will be annual.

The print version of RDA will be reissued in December with the newly reworded chapters, plus the content of the April 2012 update, since it will not be practical to issue update packets.

Linker summarized recent Toolkit improvements. Users can now go immediately to a specific page, and there is a user preference available to load the whole chapter instead. The Toolkit now reflects an update history for each instruction that has been revised. There is now the ability to filter search results by whether or not they pertain to core elements and/or basic instructions. The Toolkit now contains links to the JSC full bibliographic and authority examples. An institution

now has the option to set a timeout period for 15, 30, or 60 minutes. A user is automatically logged out upon closing the browser, even without clicking the logout button.

There will be a Virtual User Group meeting July 19 to allow Toolkit users to share ideas on how to further improve the Toolkit.

Linker named some Toolkit improvements that are in development, including making available translations of RDA as well as a unified set of Library of Congress/PCC Policy Statements, achieving better integration with the RDA registry, and improving the display on mobile devices.

Linker spoke about the “workflows” tool in the Toolkit, which is enabled by a third party. People tend to not make their workflows public, but Linker wants to encourage use of workflows, since they have potential to be a useful tool.

Attig explained that the update history in the Toolkit does not cover fast track revisions, and wondered if the original versions of the reworded chapters will be accessible. The JSC will need to make a decision on this, but Linker indicated that it would be difficult to include these as update histories.

### **Report from the TF on Sources of Information (Mark Scharff)**

[\[CC:DA/TF/Sources of Information/3\]](#)

Scharff reported on the progress made by the task force so far in considering issues of importance to MLA and OLAC, including the permissibility of a collective title or the title of a predominant work as a means of identifying a resource and the status of a container, accompanying material, and embedded metadata as a source of title for a resource. Five draft proposals are included in the report as appendices.

Discussion of the individual draft proposals contained in the appendices indicated that there was support for the general direction that the task force was moving in. There were some suggestions for rewording. The task force will continue its work.

### **Revision proposal regarding hearings (Adam Schiff)**

[\[CC:DA/Schiff/2012/1\]](#)

Schiff spoke on behalf of the proposal to move the instructions regarding hearings, since the current outcome in RDA is that hearings become named events. This would be a significant change from AACR2 practice, and wasn't necessarily the JSC's intent.

CC:DA took a straw poll, which revealed a preference for option 2 in the proposal.

### **Report of the CC:DA webmaster (Melanie Polutta)**

Polutta spoke of the possibility of moving to a service that enables CC:DA members to create tags for their documents and to add comments. This could potentially replace the CC:DA wiki.

### **Chair wrap-up**

Robare announced several membership changes. The next meetings of CC:DA will take place at the usual times in Seattle at ALA Midwinter 2013.