

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RDA MUSIC IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE**  
**July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012**

**Members:**

Casey Mullin (Stanford), chair, Mary Huismann (University of Minnesota), Damian Iseminger (New England Conservatory), Nancy Lorimer (Stanford), Daniel Paradis (Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec), Ray Schmidt (Wellesley College), Hermine Vermeij (UCLA)

**Report on activities:**

The RDA Music Implementation Task Force was charged in September 2011. Its specific objectives are outlined below. At the time of its forming, deadlines for these tasks was not specified, mostly owing to the fluid nature of RDA standards development and the interdependencies between various groups of stakeholders. Since that time, said development has proceeded apace, with the following events being the most salient to the Task Force's work.

1. Library of Congress' planned full implementation of RDA, scheduled for March 31, 2013.
2. The Program for Cooperative Cataloging's concomitant implementation (limited at this time to its Name Authorities Cooperative (NACO) component), which it is referring to as "PCC Day One for RDA Authority Records."
3. PCC's release of NACO training materials, and a timetable for training of existing NACO members.

In addition to an in-person business meeting at the MLA Annual Meeting in Dallas in February 2012, the Task Force has conducted its business via the BCC's wiki space. After establishing a task timeline (which is continually revised as work progresses and other developments arise), the Task Force constructed a matrix in which it entered all RDA rules relevant to music cataloging, any extant policies (e.g., from LC and PCC), and the Task Force's own deliberations on what to recommend as best practices for music. The Task Force completed a first pass of this matrix, which is currently being used to derive a prose best practices document. Other work products (e.g., RDA Toolkit workflows, BIBCO Standard Records recommendations) will stem from this seminal document. A full draft of it is anticipated to be disseminated broadly, in advance of the MLA Annual Meeting in San Jose in March 2013.

Other activities of the Task Force have included

- Recommending revisions to the Cataloging Learning Objectives, to bring them into accordance with RDA practices and terminology. These recommendations were solicited by the MLA Educational Outreach Program.
- Issuing a discussion paper on access points and authority records for musical expressions, an extremely thorny area in RDA standards development. Mark Scharff, on behalf of a newly-formed PCC task group, solicited feedback from BCC members. The Task Force chair amassed comments from the BCC membership (and selected LC catalogers) and wrote the discussion paper, which was submitted on August 17, 2012.

**List of previous goals and progress made toward each goal:**

1. *Create music-related best practices documentation to supplement RDA.*
  - A draft of best practices for RDA Chapters 1-4 has been completed and is awaiting Task Force feedback.
2. *Monitor progress on RDA change proposals that would affect the best practices decisions.*
  - Ongoing. Daniel Paradis, who is also a member of the RDA Music Revisions Facilitation Task Force, serves as a liaison between the two groups. Relevant sections of the matrix are updated as RDA revisions are approved.
3. *Identify a means for continually reviewing, updating and disseminating the best practices document.*
  - Reviewing and updating will be a constant task; means for this will be determined once the full guidelines are completed. As for dissemination, a program session at MLA San Jose, entitled “RDA Best Practices for Music: A Conversation”, has been approved and is in the planning stages. Having an MLA-sponsored technological system for collaboration and web publication of the Best Practices would be very helpful.
4. *Make recommendations regarding the relationship between the MLA music-related best practices document and other official RDA policies such as the LCPS and decisions disseminated by the Program for Cooperative Cataloging.*
  - The MLA best practices document will specify instances where the Task Force concurs with LC/PCC policies and decisions, and where its recommendations differ. Additionally, the aforementioned discussion paper on musical expressions is intended to influence PCC’s policy discussions in this area.
5. *Develop official MLA workflows to be shared in the RDA Toolkit for score and sound recording cataloging, and other music formats if the need arises.*
  - Deferred until after the best practices prose document is completed.
6. *Create complete examples: scores, sound recordings, musical works, musical expressions.*
  - These will be incorporated as an appendix of the best practices document.

**List of goals for the next year and how they relate to the MLA Strategic Plan:**

1. Complete a full draft of the best practices document and disseminate to the music cataloging community and other stakeholders.
2. Prepare and convene the MLA Annual Meeting program session on RDA best practices.
3. Assist in and facilitate the preparation of training materials for the RDA preconference, also scheduled for the upcoming MLA Annual Meeting.
4. After the MLA Annual Meeting, begin work on workflows and mappings to be incorporated into the RDA Toolkit.

These goals relate most closely to the “Education” component of the MLA Strategic Plan, as the work products of the Task Force will directly benefit MLA members who are music catalogers, whether or not they are able to attend official workshops or conference sessions. Issuing up-to-date best practices and related documentation is also related to “Value of the Profession,” as such materials sustain MLA’s high profile in the cataloging community. Thirdly, the issuing and continual updating of music cataloging materials, especially those in electronic form, contribute to MLA’s “Organizational Excellence”, especially as regards effectiveness and transparency of the organization.

Respectfully submitted,  
Casey Mullin  
8/24/12