

RDA Music Implementation Task Force Annual Report, July 2013-June 2014

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In the past year, the RDA Music Implementation Task Force released two versions of the document *Best Practices for Music Cataloging Using RDA and MARC21: Version 1.0* (released just in time for the MLA Annual Meeting in Atlanta) and a slightly corrected *Version 1.0.1* (released for inclusion as a PDF file in the RDA Toolkit). These versions include two robust appendices: one addressing ISBD presentation of multiple parallel data, and one with complete MARC bibliographic record examples.

Since the MLA Annual Meeting, planning has begun on re-formatting the Best Practices for inclusion in the Toolkit in integrated form (i.e., with each BP section linked to a specific RDA instruction). Several Task Force members met with Jamie Hennelly of ALA Publishing at ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia; Mullin (who could not attend Midwinter) had a follow-up meeting with him at ALA Annual in Las Vegas. Beginning in August or September, Mullin will receive training on the new Toolkit editor and will begin marking up content shortly thereafter.

The rollout of the integrated Best Practices content, originally slated for the October 2014 Toolkit release, has been delayed until February 2015. This protracted timeframe will allow the Task Force to address at least some of the suggested revisions and corrections that have come in since Version 1.0 was released, as well as a number of issues that have been deferred since February 2014. To wit, the first integrated version of the Best Practices will be “Version 1.1.” Subsequent content updates (after initial rollout) can be scheduled to coincide with the major RDA update each April; this schedule will likely take effect with the April 2016 update, after the Task Force has been dissolved following the MLA Annual Meeting in February 2015.

Past Goals

Complete “Version 1.0” of the best practices document and seek endorsement from BCC:

Completed. Version 1.0 of Best Practices was published on the BCC website on February 20, 2014. A slightly revised version 1.0.1 was published on April 11, 2014.

Work with ALA Publishing to publish the best practices content to the RDA Toolkit:

Completed. ALA Publishing mounted the PDF version of version 1.0.1 of the Best Practices on the RDA Toolkit site (in the Resources tab) in April 2014.

Work with the appropriate MLA parties to determine the proper permanent “home” for the canonical, version-controlled best practices document:

Ongoing. Once the Best Practices content is integrated into the Toolkit, a regular revision cycle will commence. ALA Publishing will archive superseded versions on MLA’s behalf. It is not yet decided if MLA will maintain a version-controlled Best Practices document on its own website.

Prepare and convene a program session at the MLA 2014 Annual Meeting in Atlanta entitled “RDA: Where We Are, One Year Later”; Mullin will co-moderate:

Completed. The program session was well-attended, and included numerous RDA-related updates and a lively Q &A component.

Prepare music-specific mappings for the RDA Toolkit:

Cancelled. BCC has decided that since the Best Practices content will be integrated into the Toolkit, the need for mappings (or workflows) is less necessary, and so the task force will not need to fulfill this element of their charge.

Prepare complete MARC record examples, to be incorporated into the best practices document:

Completed. MARC bibliographic record examples were included in both versions 1.0 and 1.0.1 of the Best Practices

Goals for FY 2015

Using ALA Publishing’s editing tool, encode Best Practices content in a format that can be integrated into the RDA Toolkit (i.e., with each BP section linked to a specific RDA instruction). Submit the completed files to ALA in time for the February 2015 Toolkit release.

Complete a “Version 1.1” of the Best Practices, incorporating RDA changes not reflected in version 1.0.1, issues deferred since February 2014, and various revision and correction proposals suggested by the community since version 1.0 was released. Version 1.1 will be the basis for the marked-up version (see goal 1).

Explore music cataloging best practices in the emerging Linked Data-based BIBFRAME environment. Identify possible future work in this area for other groups. Collaborate with the Metadata Subcommittee as appropriate.

These goals relate most closely to the “Education” component of the MLA Strategic Plan, as the work products of the Task Force 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, particularly since the MLA Best Practices were one of the first completed non-LC or PCC best practices in existence. 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.