

## PoCo Discussion Paper on RDA implementation alternatives

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Note added by the PCC Secretariat 4/15/2011 : This paper is posted to gather reactions and inform the PCC Policy Committee's (PoCo) decisions on RDA. The PoCo will not make a statement about PCC implementation of RDA until after the U.S. national testing libraries have released their statements. Comments on this paper may be sent to [coop@loc.gov](mailto:coop@loc.gov) by May 19, 2011.

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At the November 2010 meeting of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) Policy Committee (PoCo), a task group (Beth Picknally Camden, Phil Schreur, Kate Harcourt, Judith Cannan) was charged to write a discussion paper making recommendations on PCC RDA implementation alternatives. Rather than wait for the decision of the US National Libraries (LC, NLM, NAL), PoCo wished to consider the options available for the PCC membership regarding RDA.

An email from the US RDA Test Coordinating Committee ("Status of the US RDA Test" 11/30/10) stated that there were four possible decisions as a result of the test:

- Do not implement RDA
- Postpone implementation until certain changes are made
- Implement RDA
- Implement RDA with specific recommended changes or policy decisions for US libraries

If we examine each of these possible decisions, considering the implications for the PCC, under each decision there are at least two paths for the PCC:

- PCC follows US national libraries
- PCC does not follow US national libraries

In any scenario, PCC must adapt to a hybrid environment.

As the Task Group discussed the implications of the possible decision and the options for the PCC, we also discussed other factors:

- Some of the US RDA test participants who are also PCC members have invested heavily in RDA training. Several of these libraries have indicated that they might continue to use RDA even if the US national libraries choose not to implement RDA. These libraries include: Stanford University, the University of Chicago, and Brigham Young University. Other libraries not in the

test have also started using RDA. Would the PCC want to lose the contribution of these libraries?

- If the US national libraries choose to implement RDA, we can assume that some PCC libraries may choose not to follow, or to seriously delay local implementation. Would the PCC want to lose the contribution of these libraries?
- There is a cost associated with choosing a path that is different from the US national libraries. If PCC does not follow the US national libraries there will be a significant cost, for example, in creating and maintaining its own policy statements and workflows.
- The cataloging environment is already hybrid. OCLC WorldCat includes records created under AACR1, AACR2, RDA and a variety of other international rules. As OCLC continues to pursue global participation, particularly from national libraries, the environment will grow increasingly more diverse.
- It is likely that the JSC will continue to focus its attention on the development of RDA and that ALA will no longer revise AACR2. RDA will continue to evolve over time and will become increasingly divergent from AACR2. Perpetuating the hybrid environment long term will have a negative (and costly) impact on our catalogs and on all areas of bibliographic control.

### **PCC Hybrid Environment**

The Task Group defined a **hybrid environment** as one in which PCC libraries could choose to participate following either RDA or AACR2, and encoding in MODS, MARC or other schema. It is understood that while a library may choose to follow AACR2 or RDA, understanding of both cataloging codes will be required to interpret records correctly, to do record upgrades, and to perform appropriate bibliographic and authority file maintenance. All existing BIBCO, CONSER and NACO documentation will need to be reviewed. Some of the implications of a hybrid environment:

1. Documentation:
  - a. PCC/AACR2 documentation is already in place and would not be developed further. PCC Libraries could continue to use as long as they continued to produce AACR2 cataloging.
  - b. PCC/RDA workflow and training documentation would need to be developed. There would be some additional cost to the PCC if the US national libraries choose not to implement RDA.
2. Training:
  - a. PCC/AACR2 training is already in place and would not be developed further. PCC Libraries could continue to use existing training materials for internal training of new catalogers.
  - b. PCC/RDA training materials would need to be developed. There would be some additional cost to the PCC if the US national libraries choose not to implement RDA.
  - c. Libraries new to PCC would be trained under PCC/RDA.
3. Bibliographic records:

- a. Each record should be created using one rule set (see exception for authorized headings below). There may be additional exceptions for CONSER record maintenance.
  - b. Coding should clearly indicate under which rules the record was created.
  - c. The Provider-Neutral/Aggregator-Neutral cataloging model of using one bibliographic record for all instances of an online resource will stay in place as a PCC sanctioned allowable exception for both serials and monographs.
4. Authority file:
- a. There should be one authority file with both AACR2 headings and RDA headings
  - b. Existing AACR2 headings should be 'grandfathered' in. Over time, guidelines may be developed for when an AACR2 heading should be upgraded to the RDA form
  - c. Hybrid headings should not be created. For example corporate headings in which the parent body follows one rule set and a child body follows another rule set.
  - d. Bibliographic records created under either rule set would use the form established in the authority file.
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For purposes of discussion within the PCC community, the Task Group proposes the following:

Recognizing that there is a cost associated with choosing a direction that is different from the US national libraries, recognizing that PCC institutions will face a hybrid environment, and recognizing that there is a value to the PCC in member contributions from either rule set, the PCC should formally adopt RDA, regardless of the outcome of the US RDA Test and the decision of the US national libraries, but it should set no time limit on implementation of RDA by PCC institutions.

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