Metadata Guidance Documentation (MGDs)

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Overview

The architectural layout of Official RDA and its supporting documentation is much different from Original RDA.

In Original RDA, LC-PCC policy statements (LC-PCC PSs) are linked from RDA instructions, but are housed in a location separate from the Original RDA Toolkit. Because the LC-PCC PSs are not constrained by the architecture of Original RDA, they could be maintained and updated as separate “stand-alone” documents. Over time, many of the LC-PCC PSs have become very long and are filled with many examples.

In Official RDA, the LC-PCC PSs appear “in-line” in the Official RDA Toolkit with the relevant Option or element subsection. The LC-PCC PSs are still maintained and updated as separate “stand-alone” documents, but the “in-line” aspect of their appearance in the Official RDA Toolkit drastically limits the amount of information that they can include. The LC-PCC PSs in the Official RDA Toolkit simply give the application decision for an Option, or further information on an element subsection.

When the LC-PCC PSs for the Original RDA Toolkit were evaluated and mapped to the Official RDA Toolkit, lengthier parts of the statements, as well as the examples, were marked for a separate set of Official RDA Toolkit documentation, the Metadata Guidance Documentation (MGDs).
A group of PCC members from Brigham Young University, British Library, University of California–Berkeley, University of Florida, University of Oregon, University of Washington, along with staff members at the Library of Congress, created the Official RDA Toolkit MGDs between June and October 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCC members</th>
<th>LC staff members</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brigham Young University</td>
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<td>British Library</td>
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<td>Sarah Byun</td>
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<td>Adam Baron</td>
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<td>Dave Van Kleeck</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Oregon</td>
<td>Lori Robare</td>
</tr>
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<td>University of Washington</td>
<td>Adam Schiff</td>
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Descriptive Convention Source Code *pccrda* in Name Authority Records

In a PCC implementation of Official RDA, not all of the IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM) modellings for bibliographic identities will be followed. This decision was made by the PCC Policy Committee in March 2021. The Descriptive Convention Source Code *pccrda* will be used in subfield $e$ (Description Conventions) of the MARC 040 (Cataloging Source) field in all name authority records created under the PCC implementation of Official RDA to identify the records as following the PCC conventions of Official RDA implementation.

Because name authority work will continue to be done in the MARC environment under PCC’s implementation of Official RDA, the source code *pccrda* is not relevant to BIBFRAME descriptions.
Example

040 ## $a DLC $b eng $e pccrda $c DLC

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**Vocabulary and Terminology used in the MGDs**

The MGDs have links to element headers and subheaders in the Official RDA Toolkit. For example, Entities > Place > related corporate body of place, or Entities > Work > Authorized access point for work: Compilation of works by two or more agents.

In addition, the terms below are used in the MGDs to reference non-RDA vocabulary and terminology, as well as widely-used PCC terms such as words, initialisms, abbreviations, and phrases:

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<th>Term</th>
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<td>LC/NACO Authority File</td>
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<td>DCZM</td>
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<td>LC Guidelines Supplement</td>
<td>Library of Congress Guidelines for MARC 21 authority records</td>
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<td>MGDs</td>
<td>Metadata Guidance Documents</td>
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Narrative MGDs and 1:1 MGDs

Narrative MGDs

In the process of scoping the MGD drafting project, it became very clear that existing LC-PCC PSs and their examples could not be mapped uniformly to a specific Option in the Official RDA Toolkit. The Official RDA Toolkit's structure is very concise and granular, and a single existing LC-PCC PS for the Original RDA Toolkit may cover multiple elements, and even multiple entities, in the Official RDA Toolkit. In addition, the vocabulary, terminology, and syntax used in the Official RDA Toolkit are new, and may not be familiar or comprehensible to all users at first. Because of this, in scoping the MGD drafting project, it also became clear that users of the...
Official RDA Toolkit would benefit from “bridge” documentation to facilitate the understanding of the new vocabulary, terminology, and syntax in the Official RDA Toolkit, and to assist in the understanding of the overall architectural and paradigm shifts in the presentation of metadata description instructions in the Official RDA Toolkit.

The need for “bridge” documentation resulted in the Narrative MGDs.

Narrative MGDs provide:
- Instructions on describing a specific RDA entity, referencing the Official RDA Toolkit elements that are appropriate to the entity, while allowing current Original RDA Toolkit policies and practices to continue. For example, see MG: Works and MG: Places
- Instructions for new entities and concepts in the Official RDA Toolkit that need to be understood to allow current policies and practices to continue. For example, see MG: Aggregates and MG: Timespan
- Instructions for policies, concepts, and practices used in PCC work, but not addressed in the Official RDA Toolkit. For example, see MG: Access Point Syntax, MG: Basic Cataloging Decisions, and MG: Series-Subseries

Narrative MGDs will be linked from the LC-PCC PSs in the Official RDA Toolkit, and should be used in conjunction with the Official RDA Toolkit. Narrative MGDs have many reciprocal links to the Official RDA Toolkit. Narrative MGDs are not intended to be a substitute for using the Official RDA Toolkit.

**1:1 MGDs**

1:1 MGDs can be mapped to a specific LC-PCC PS in the Official RDA Toolkit, and are generally tied to a specific Option or element subsection in the Official RDA Toolkit.

Examples of 1:1 MGDs:
- MG: Work: Analysis of work
- MG: Manifestation: Date of publication: Date of publication not identified
- MG: Family: Language of family
- MG: Place: Access point for place: Choice of larger place

1:1 MGDs will be linked from the LC-PCC PSs in the Official RDA Toolkit.
Using the MGDs

The MGDs are not intended to be stand-alone documents. The MGDs must be used in conjunction with the Official RDA Toolkit and the LC-PCC PSs.

- Start with the Official RDA Toolkit element
- Read the Conditions for each element or each element subsection
- Read the Option(s) for each Condition
- There is an LC-PCC PS attached to most Options
  - The LC-PCC PS is labeled with the name “LC-PCC”
- An LC-PCC PS might say:
  - LC/PCC practice: Apply the option
  - LC/PCC practice: Cataloger’s judgment
  - LC/PCC practice: In most cases, apply the option
  - LC/PCC practice: Do not apply the option
- An LC-PCC PS might also link to a MGD
  - If there is an MGD, click on the link to consult further guidance and examples in the MGD
- Repeat this process with the next applicable Official RDA Toolkit element or element subsection

Structure of the MGDs

Narrative MGDs

Narrative MGDs can be categorized by RDA Entity, RDA Guidance, RDA Relationships, RDA Resources, or Specific cataloging topics.

Narrative MGDs for RDA Entity

- MG: Works
- MG: Expressions
- MG: Attributes: Agent
- MG: Persons
- MG: Corporate Bodies
- MG: Families
- MG: Places
- MG: Timespan

Narrative MGDs for RDA Entity are organized by RDA element, in most cases. MGDs in this category are subarranged by:
Narrative MGDs for RDA Guidance:

- **MG: Aggregates**
- **MG: Fictitious and Real Non-Human Entities**
- **MG: Transcription-Punctuation**

Narrative MGDs for RDA Guidance are organized by the topic being discussed. MGDs in this category are subarranged by:

- Overview
- Changes from Original RDA
- Implementation with Metadata Examples
  - Guidance
  - MARC Examples
  - BIBFRAME Examples
- Cataloger Judgment Areas

Narrative MGDs for RDA Relationships:

- **MG: Relationships: Agent-Agent**
- **MG: Relationships: Agent-WEMI**
- **MG: Relationships: WEMI-WEMI**

Narrative MGDs for RDA Relationships are organized by the entity being described and the entity being related. MGDs in this category are subarranged by:

- Overview
- Changes from Original RDA
● Implementation with Metadata Examples
  ○ Guidance
  ○ MARC Examples
  ○ BIBFRAME Examples

**MG: Relationships: Agent-Agent** is an Official RDA Toolkit update of [PCC Guidelines for the Application of Relationship Designators in NACO Authority Records](#).

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**Narrative MGD for RDA Resources:**

**MG: Vocabulary Encoding Schemes**

**MG: Vocabulary Encoding Schemes** is organized by possible approaches to using vocabulary encoding schemes in bibliographic description. This MGD is subarranged by:

- Overview
- Changes from Original RDA
- Implementation with Metadata Examples
  - Topic 1: Using the RDA Vocabulary Encoding Schemes
    - Guidance
    - Marc Examples
    - BIBFRAME Examples
  - Topic 2: Using Other Vocabulary Encoding Schemes
    - Guidance
    - Marc Examples
    - BIBFRAME Examples
  - Topic 3: Not Using a Vocabulary Encoding Scheme
    - Guidance
    - Marc Examples
    - BIBFRAME Examples
  - Topic 4: Mixed Approaches
    - Guidance
    - Marc Examples
    - BIBFRAME Examples
- Cataloger Judgment Areas

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**Narrative MGD for Specific cataloging topics:**

- **MG: Access Point Syntax**
Narrative MGDs for Specific cataloging topics are organized by the topic being presented. In general, these MGDs follow this subarrangement:

- Overview
- Changes from Original RDA
- Implementation with Metadata Examples
  - RDA element
  - Guidance
  - MARC Examples
  - BIBFRAME Examples
- Cataloger Judgment Areas

### 1:1 MGDs

1:1 MGDs are mapped to a specific LC-PCC PS in the Official RDA Toolkit, and are generally tied to a specific Option or element subsection in the Official RDA Toolkit.

### 1:1 MGD Structure

- Header at top of each page with link to RDA element or subelement
- Guidance
- MARC Examples
- BIBFRAME Examples
- References and Notes
  - References to Original RDA Toolkit instructions, LC-PCC PSs, or PCC documentation. References and Notes were used in mapping existing RDA instructions and PCC policies and guidance to the Official RDA Toolkit. This information serves as provenance for the MGD but may be helpful to all users
- Update History
  - Document tracking. All MGDs have 2022-01-31 as the initial release date. When an update is made, the day of the update will be added in addition to any previous dates
Some 1:1 MGDs have multiple sections for Guidance, MARC Examples, and BIBFRAME Examples, when there are multiple topics to be covered in the MGD. In most of these MGDs, there will be a Table of Contents at the beginning of the MGD for internal navigation.

1:1 MGDs by Entity

**Works**
- MG: Work: Access point for work: Constructing access points
- MG: Work: Access point for work: Additional elements and designations
- MG: Work: Access point for work: Additional elements and designations: Distinguishing characteristics
- MG: Work: Authorized access point: Additional elements and designations
- MG: Work: Authorized access point: Additional elements for creator of work
- MG: Work: Creator corporate body of work
- MG: Work: Dissertation or thesis information
- MG: Work: Frequency
- MG: Work: Note on metadata work: Complex see-also references
- MG: Work: Note on metadata work: Nonpublic general notes
- MG: Work: Preferred title of work: Additional omissions and changes: Parts of works
- MG: Work: Preferred title of work: Title not found in original language or is not applicable
- MG: Work: Source consulted: Subfield $u and $v
- MG: Work: Variant access point for work: Additional elements and designations
- MG: Work: Variant access point for work: Constitutions, charters, and other fundamental laws
- MG: Resources: Authorized access points for an administrative regulation, etc.

**Expressions**
- MG: Expression: Authorized access point for expression: Additional elements and designations
- MG: Expression: Language of expression
- MG: Expression: Revision of expression
- MG: Expression: Script
- MG: Expression: Summarization of content

**Manifestations**
- MG: Manifestation: Accessibility content
- MG: Manifestation: Carrier type
- MG: Manifestation: Contributor agent of still image
- MG: Manifestation: Date of manufacture: GPO publications
- MG: Manifestation: Date of production: Recording
- MG: Manifestation: Date of publication: CIP cataloging
- MG: Manifestation: Date of publication: Date of publication not identified
- MG: Manifestation: Date of publication: date of publication not identified
- MG: Manifestation: Distribution statement: CIP cataloging
- MG: Manifestation: Extent of manifestation: CIP cataloging
- MG: Manifestation: Extent of manifestation: Terms
MG: Manifestation: Extent of manifestation: Identifier for manifestation: Two or more identifiers
MG: Manifestation: Manufacture statement: CIP cataloging
MG: Manifestation: Mode of issuance
MG: Manifestation: Note on edition statement: Integrating resources
MG: Manifestation: Note on edition statement: Multipart resources
MG: Manifestation: Note on publication statement
MG: Manifestation: Numbering within sequence
MG: Manifestation: Other title information
MG: Manifestation: Place of publication
MG: Manifestation: Printer corporate body: Government printers
MG: Manifestation: Printer corporate body: Privately printed works
MG: Manifestation: Publication statement: Recording changes in publication statements
MG: Manifestation: Statement of responsibility: Two or more agents
MG: Manifestation: Statement of responsibility relating to edition
MG: Manifestation: Supplementary content
MG: Manifestation: Title proper
MG: Manifestation: Uniform Resource Locator: Original URI no longer active
MG: Manifestation: Variant title of manifestation
MG: Manifestation: Variant title of manifestation: Recording an unstructured description

Items
MG: Item: Modification of item

Corporate Bodies
MG: Corporate Body: Additional elements and designations in authorized access point for corporate body
MG: Corporate Body: Additional elements and designations in authorized access point for corporate body: Individual instance of an ongoing conference
MG: Corporate Body: Additional elements and designations in authorized access point for corporate body: Initialisms and acronyms
MG: Corporate Body: Additional elements and designations in authorized access point for corporate body: Place
MG: Corporate Body: Additional elements and designations in authorized access point for corporate body: Ships
MG: Corporate Body: Authorized access point for corporate body: Body whose name implies administrative subordination
MG: Corporate Body: Authorized access point for corporate body: Heads of state, heads of government, etc.
MG: Corporate Body: Name of corporate body
MG: Corporate Body: Non-governmental body with name that includes the entire name of the higher or related body
MG: Corporate Body: Preferred name of corporate body: Minor changes of name
MG: Corporate Body: Preferred name of corporate body: Proposed bodies
MG: Corporate Body: Related corporate body of corporate body
MG: Corporate Body: Variant access point for corporate body: Base variant access point

Families

MG: Family: Address of family
MG: Family: Authorized access point for family: General
MG: Family: Authorized access point for family: Usage
MG: Family: Category of family
MG: Family: Definition and scope
MG: Family: Family history
MG: Family: Field of activity of family
MG: Family: Hereditary term of honour
MG: Family: Language of family
MG: Family: Preferred name of family
MG: Family: Prominent member of family
MG: Family: Related place of family
MG: Family: Related RDA entity of family
MG: Family: Related timespan of family
MG: Family: Variant access point for family
MG: Family: Variant name of family
MG: Work: Source consulted: Family

Persons

MG: Person: Access point for person
MG: Person: Alternate identity of person
MG: Person: Preferred name of person
MG: Person: Preferred name of person: Non-preferred script
MG: Person: Profession or occupation
MG: Person: Related timespan of person

Places

MG: Place: Access point for place: Choice of larger place
MG: Place: Access point for place: Initial articles
MG: Place: Access point for place: Places within cities, etc.
MG: Place: Access point for place: Treatment for certain places
MG: Place: Authorized access point for place: Ambiguous entities
MG: Place: Authorized access point for place: Change of name
MG: Place: Authorized access point for place: Places with the same name
MG: Place: Category of place
MG: Place: Identifier for place
MG: Place: Location
MG: Place: Name of place
MG: Place: Note on place
MG: Place: Part of place
MG: Place: Part place
MG: Place: Place governed by
MG: Place: Place of conference of
MG: Place: Preferred name of place: Abbreviations
MG: Place: Preferred name of place: Data provenance
MG: Place: Preferred name of place: Different forms from GEnet
MG: Place: Preferred name of place: Names found in non-preferred script
MG: Place: Preferred name of place: Names that include a category of corporate body
MG: Place: Preferred name of place: Sources of information
MG: Place: Preferred name of place: Tribal entities in the United States
MG: Place: Related corporate body of place
MG: Place: Related person of place
MG: Place: Related place of place
MG: Place: Related timespan of place
MG: Place: Related work of place
MG: Place: Subject place of
MG: Place: Variant access point for place
MG: Place: Variant name of place

Relationship Labels

https://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/mgd/relationshipLabels/index.html

Subject Relationships

MG: Work: Analysis of expression
MG: Work: Analysis of item
MG: Work: Analysis of manifestation
MG: Work: Analysis of work
MG: Work: Commentary on expression
MG: Work: Commentary on item
MG: Work: Commentary on manifestation
MG: Work: Commentary on work
MG: Work: Critique of expression
MG: Work: Critique of manifestation
MG: Work: Critique of work
MG: Work: Evaluation of expression
MG: Work: Evaluation of manifestation
MG: Work: Evaluation of work
MG: Work: Review of expression
MG: Work: Review of manifestation
MG: Work: Review of work
MG: Work: Subject
MG: Work: Subject corporate body
MG: Work: Subject expression
MG: Work: Subject family
MG: Work: Subject item
MG: Work: Subject manifestation
MG: Work: Subject person
MG: Work: Subject place
MG: Work: Subject work
Series/Subseries

Work elements

- MG: Series: Access point of work
- MG: Series: Authorized access point for work
- MG: Series: Category of work
- MG: Series: Date of work
- MG: Series: Entity boundary of work
- MG: Series: History of work
- MG: Series: Identifier for work
- MG: Series: ISSN
- MG: Series: Issue of work
- MG: Series: Other distinguishing characteristic of work
- MG: Series: Place of origin of work
- MG: Series: Preferred title of work
- MG: Series: Preferred title of work: Series-like phrases
- MG: Series: Related corporate body of work
- MG: Series: Related RDA Entity of work
- MG: Series: Source consulted
- MG: Series: Variant access point for work
- MG: Series: Variant title of work

Manifestation elements

- MG: Series: Numbering within sequence
- MG: Series: Other title information of series
- MG: Series: Parallel other title information of series
- MG: Series: Parallel statement of responsibility
- MG: Series: Parallel title of series
- MG: Series: Series statement
- MG: Series: Series statement: Multiple series
- MG: Series: Statement of responsibility
- MG: Series: Title of series

Non-RDA elements

- MG: Series: Non-RDA elements

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**MARC and BIBFRAME Examples**

All of the MGDs have examples in MARC and in BIBFRAME.
● Some examples are made up
● Some examples are taken verbatim from bibliographic or authority descriptions
● Some examples are taken from bibliographic or authority descriptions, but modified to suit the example
● Some examples are taken directly from LC-PCC PSs for the Original RDA Toolkit

MARC Examples
● MARC examples are in Courier New, font size 11
● Bold formatting is used to highlight the relevant part of the examples
● MARC tagging is given
● The dollar sign ($) is used for delimiters
● Examples are numbered in the 1:1 MGDs
● Examples are numbered within each section of the Narrative MGDs

BIBFRAME Examples
● BIBFRAME examples are in Courier New, font size 11
● Bold formatting is used to highlight the relevant part of the examples
● RDF XML is used in the examples
● In most cases, a fuller RDF XML presentation of the data is given
● The RDF XML includes some bflc (BIBFRAME Library of Congress) properties and classes
● Examples follow the numbering used in the MARC examples
  ○ For example, the MARC example numbering will be the same numbering for the BIBFRAME examples
  ○ When there are multiple MARC examples for a specific topic, generally there will only be one BIBFRAME example
● There are many cases where BIBFRAME examples are not given, when current practices do not use BIBFRAME
  ○ For example, because authority work is not done in BIBFRAME, there will be no BIBFRAME examples for any of the Agent MGDs

Crowdsourcing Examples
When a suitable example could not be found to illustrate a specific cataloging situation, the text “Send examples to coop@loc.gov and include this document’s URL” is added. Please help us find suitable examples! The document URL is the PDF link, for example: https://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/mgd/manifestation/mg-m-productionStatement-01.pdf
Cataloger's Judgment Areas

Narrative MGDs have a section titled **Cataloger's Judgment Areas**. In some cases, this section is blank, and will be updated as the Official RDA Toolkit is implemented. In other cases, there already is text in the Cataloger's Judgment Areas. Please remember that this section of the Narrative MGDs will be updated as new data is received through the RDA Test, and RDA implementation.

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**Update History**

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