

To: MARC Advisory Committee
From: Everett Allgood, CC:DA Liaison
RE: AACR3/RDA: A Progress Report

The following report was prepared by Jennifer Bowen, ALA Representative to JSC; Marg Stewart, CCC Representative to JSC; and John Attig, CC:DA member. It describes the current plans for revising the cataloging rules, as well as the new development schedule. Further reports will be forthcoming as development proceeds. As noted in the final paragraph, the earliest that it might be appropriate to have a substantive discussion of the MARC implications presented by the new rules would be June 2006.

The two international committees who oversee the development of *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR)* met in Chicago from April 24-28, 2005, to discuss the best way to proceed with developing a new cataloging code to replace *AACR2*. The Joint Steering Committee for Revision of *AACR* (JSC) and the Committee of Principals for *AACR* (CoP) discussed feedback received recently from library constituencies and other rule-making bodies on a draft of Part 1 of an intended new edition of *AACR2*. Based on these discussions, the two committees reaffirmed the need to develop a new code to replace *AACR2*. However, the feedback received from the individual library constituencies has made it clear that a different approach is required than what was presented in the draft of Part 1.

To signify the change in direction, the JSC and CoP have agreed on a new working title for the code: ***RDA: Resource Description and Access***.

RDA will be a new content standard for resource description and access designed for today's digital world. *RDA* will provide:

- ✓ a more flexible framework for addressing the challenges of describing digital resources
- ✓ data that is more readily adaptable to newly emerging, more efficient, database structures
- ✓ data that is compatible with existing records already in online library catalogs, because of *RDA's* foundations in the principles established by *AACR*.

RDA will be designed as an online product for use in a Web environment. It will have the following specific features:

- ✓ The layout and formatting of instructions will be more "user-friendly," with instructions written in "plain" English so that the code can be used more easily beyond the library world.
- ✓ *RDA* will be organized around IFLA's *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR)* and related new data models. Part I of *RDA* will cover description and access; Part II will cover relationships; Part III will contain instructions for creating authority records for access points for persons and bodies, as well as for citations to works and expressions. Citations will consist

of a name (when appropriate) and a citation title. Citations for expressions will consist of the citation for the work plus additional distinguishing elements.

- ✓ Within *RDA*, instructions for recording data will be presented independently of guidelines for data display (such as ISBD), to provide more flexibility for use in a variety of online environments. ISBD structure and punctuation will be among the data display options documented in an appendix.
- ✓ The General Material Designation (GMD) will be removed from the title and statement of responsibility area. It will most likely consist of a series of data elements for Type and form of content and Type and form of carrier. These elements will contain controlled terms and will be appropriate for both display and access, producing what might be considered faceted form/genre terms applicable to the resource described.

As *RDA* is developed, drafts of each section of the new standard will be made available for review by major stakeholders. In addition to the constituencies formally represented on the JSC and the CoP, these stakeholders also include library administrators, system developers, metadata communities, MARC format developers, and international cataloging programs. The developers of *RDA* will actively seek feedback from all of these groups.

The change in direction will result in an extension to the overall timeline, including allowing time for a new draft of part I to be made available for constituency review. The following timeline presents a "best-case" scenario and is subject to change:

- May 2005-July 2005: Development of prospectus
- Oct. 2005-April. 2006: Completion of draft of part I, and constituency review
- May 2006-Sept. 2006: Completion of draft of part II, and constituency review
- Oct. 2006-Apr. 2007: Completion of draft of part III, and constituency review
- May 2007-Sept. 2007: Completion of General Introduction, Appendices, and Glossary
- 2008: Publication

A more complete report of the meetings of the Joint Steering Committee is available at: <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/0504out.html>

Further reports will be made to MARBI as decisions are made by the JSC based on feedback on the drafts listed above. Decisions on the rules for description and access in Part I of *RDA* based on feedback from the constituency review, will probably be made in time to report at the ALA Annual Conference in 2006. Depending upon progress to date, that conference may provide an appropriate forum for a joint CC:DA/MARBI meeting to discuss *RDA*.