

## IMPLEMENTING RDA A STEP CLOSER

### *There is still plenty to do in preparation for implementing Resource Description and Access in Australia.*

Like the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, Second Edition (AACR2), there are many parts of RDA where policy decisions will be required. RDA contains optional provisions, many of which are the same as optional provisions in AACR2. However, there are new options, and some AACR2 options have either changed or become 'required' information in RDA. Libraries Australia and individual institutions throughout Australia currently have policies that govern the use of the AACR2 optional provisions and these policies will need to be reviewed to ensure that they reflect the optional provisions in RDA.

Minimum record standards are another key part of existing cataloguing policies that will need to be reviewed. AACR2 set down levels of cataloguing description, and our network standard is based on these levels. RDA instead identifies the core elements in a bibliographic description that are considered to be the minimum requirements to enable users to identify and select resources appropriate to their needs. Other elements are included at the discretion of institutions and individual cataloguers, according to the needs of their users. The Libraries Australia minimum record standard will need to be revised to reflect this new approach.

The Library of Congress has already made preliminary policy decisions in relation to RDA, as part of the recent testing process. The new Library of Congress Policy Statements (LCPS) are similar in nature to the current Library of Congress Rule Interpretations. They outline Library of

Congress policy decisions on RDA non-core elements and optional provisions, as well as providing interpretation of certain RDA instructions.

Libraries Australia will review its policies in time for the implementation of RDA. Work is currently underway at the National Library of Australia to analyse RDA, the Library of Congress Policy Statements and our current policies, to see what changes are needed for the Australian context. Individual libraries within the Australian network will then have a framework within which to develop their own policies.

The RDA pages of the ACOC website (<http://www.nla.gov.au/lis/stdnrds/grps/acoc/rda.html>) remain your primary source of information about RDA in Australia, and there have been some recent updates. There is a new dedicated systems page which contains a systems FAQ and information about MARC changes required for RDA. We are also posting here any information from library system vendors, cataloguing vendors and shared databases about their plans for RDA implementation, as it becomes available to us. Our training materials page has also been updated, including a series of RDA background talks given recently for National Library staff. These talks explore the structure and purpose of RDA and the history of its development, as well as the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) and the Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRAD).

Visit the website to keep up to date on developments, or forward any specific questions about RDA in Australia to the RDA Implementation Project team at [nlarida@nla.gov.au](mailto:nlarida@nla.gov.au).

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