

Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access
ALA Midwinter Meeting
Dallas, TX, Jan. 21 and 23, 2012
Reported by Mark Scharff, MLA Liaison to CC:DA

The Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA) met twice during the ALA Annual Meeting in Dallas. The Chair, Lori Robare (University of Oregon) led the discussions. This report focuses on items of interest to the music library community. For more information about the meeting and for reports about activities mentioned below, please see the CC:DA web page at <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/index.html>. A link to the agenda with links to other documents is at <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/agen1201.html>. Presentation is more topical than chronological.

Reports

CC:DA Chair

The full report is at <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/docs/chair58.pdf>. The Chair called for confirmation of 19 votes that were taken electronically since the 2011 Annual meeting. A full listing can be found in the report; those of interest to MLA included a vote endorsing the MLA proposal to broaden the scope of *RDA* 7.24, on recording artistic/technical credits, to include all resources; a vote rejecting the MLA proposal for revising the *RDA* instructions on sources of information for identifying a resource, but approving a motion to establish a CC:DA Task Force, chaired by Mark Scharff, to examine larger questions raised by the proposal and to develop a proposal that would be more generalized and simpler, while still achieving MLA and OLAC objectives; authorization for an ALA response to an LC proposal to remove the concept of “names not conveying the idea of” a person or corporate body that challenged the proposal; and a response to an LC proposal for changing the term “Selections” in preferred access points to a different term (ALA did not approve). The Chair reported on progress being made in updating CC:DA documents and written procedures to accommodate the appearance of *RDA* and other changes in the cataloging landscape. Among these are a brochure about the committee, the online forms and instructions provided for instruction revision proposals, an orientation document for new members, and the Committee’s procedures document. Many changes are for the sake of new terminology, but others are more substantive. The committee subsequently approved the report of the Task Force on How to Submit a Rule Change Proposal to CC:DA.

CC:DA was asked to sponsor in name only a session for ALA Annual, to be programmed by the ALCTS International Relations Committee, titled “*RDA* Worldwide: Making the Assessment.” Some speakers are lined up. The committee endorsed the notion of sponsorship. The Chair concluded with a call for members for a newly-established task force to investigate changes in the Chicago Manual of Style as they affect *RDA* (like *AACR2*, the Chicago Manual of Style is the fallback position for matters not explicitly prescribed in *RDA*).

At the Chair’s invitation, CC:DA voted to establish two new task forces. The first will be charged to revise the brochure Building International Descriptive Cataloging Standards (the

current document is at <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/building.html>). The second will deal with descriptions of relationships in RDA and recommend additions to the instructions for creating structured descriptions (e.g. contents notes).

LC Report (Barbara Tillett, LC liaison to CC:DA). For a detailed report of LC initiatives, visit: <http://www.loc.gov/ala/mw-2012-update.html>

Tillett reviewed highlights from the report. Among items of interest to the music community:

- Changes and transitions in personnel: Deanna Marcum has retired from her position as Associate Librarian for Library Services. An early-retirement offer resulted in the loss of 180 positions throughout the libraries; 50 of those retirements were from the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate (out of 500 total employees); this necessitates some reductions in services. One change already in place is the shift from weekly to monthly compilation and distribution of new and changed headings in LCSH. Among those retiring were Judy Kuhagen, Senior Descriptive Cataloging Policy Specialist in the Policy and Standards Division, and Regina Reynolds, long-time serials specialist and most recently Head of the United State ISSN Center at LC. Larry Dixson, former LC music cataloger and most recently Senior Network Specialist at LC, died in December 2011.
- A consultant has been hired to study the future of Cataloging Distribution Service in the emerging technological environment.
- There is a new Web site for LC *RDA* implementation planning (<http://www.loc.gov/aba/RDA/>) Almost all the conditions for implementation that the national libraries set forth have been done or are on track. About 35 LC who were part of the *RDA* test have resumed cataloging using *RDA*; the goal is to build expertise to advise in the development of training materials for the rest of the Library's staff. *RDA* implementation for creating bibliographic records will be a gradual process at LC, rather than a "Day One" approach.
- The Library of Congress Policy Statements (LCPS) should be understood as being issued for use with *RDA*. Library of Congress Rule Interpretations (LCRIs) will still be available for use in *AACR2* cataloging, but will have no updates or changes.
- The Virtual International Authority File (VIAF) now incorporates 20 million authority records and 1 million associated bibliographic records. Name-uniform title records are now included.
- The use of ONIX data from publishers in ECIP cataloging in MARC has continued to grow.
- LC's Annotated Card Program is now named the Children's and Young Adults' Cataloging Program
- LC uses shelf-ready services from vendors in Italy, Argentina, China, and Japan.

- Numbers for original cataloging and total titles and volumes cataloged at LC rose in the past fiscal year; name-authority-record creation was down.
- Development continues on the National Library Catalog (a federated searching tool for LC collections); a public launch is expected soon

ALA Representative to the Joint Steering Committee (John Attig, Penn State University)

The November JSC meeting in Glasgow was its first in-person session since the publication of *RDA* since *RDA* publication. Attig summarized personal changes—Barbara Tillett (Library of Congress) is the new chair for at least two years, with renewal an option. Judy Kuhagen (q.v.) is the JSC Secretary. The Committee of Principals issued an invitation to the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek to become a full member; the invitation was accepted, and Christine Frodl became the first DNB representative to the JSC.

Discussing revision proposals to a published document proved a much easier task than considering revisions to a draft. ALA proposals of interest to music:

6JSC/ALA/3 (Revision of 9.13, Affiliation)—this was not approved. The FRBR Review Group will address problems in the code.

6JSC/ALA/4 (Expansion of scope of 7.24, Artistic/technical credits)—this was an MLA-initiated proposal. The JSC satisfied the MLA desire to extend the instruction to sound recordings and multimedia, but delayed implementation pending further consideration of related concerns with how the instruction could be generalized, and where statements of responsibility are recorded. ALA was invited to submit a revised version. CC:DA discussed this and concluded that the major constituency for this would be OLAC; further action was deferred until the OLAC liaison could determine whether that organization had the human resources to work on such a proposal.

The JSC also held a joint meeting with the ISBD Review Group and representative of the ISSN Network. The goal was to work toward harmonizing the groups' standards to achieve a functional level of interoperability. Some of the areas of conflict are how and when a title change requires a new description, and how to associate numbers such as ISSNs to these descriptions. Similar discussions may be in store with the FRBR Review Group.

Attig outlined some of the JSC's actions that respond to the demands of the U.S. national libraries for changes to *RDA* as a condition for adoption. One major activity is rewriting *RDA* in a plainer, more comprehensible style, without changing the meaning of the instructions themselves. Among the means for doing this are splitting long sentences into several shorter ones; moving strings of conditions preceding an action into numbered lists; clarifying definitions; and adding navigational guides. ALA Publishing has chosen Chris Oliver (McGill University) as copy editor for this project. The first five chapters to be rewritten will be Chapters

9-11, 6 (very important for music), and 17. A draft of Chapter 9 was completed in December. A list of recurring phrases has been compiled, so that changes to such phrases in one place can be assessed elsewhere.

Another piece of unfinished business is completing the online registry of *RDA* element sets and vocabularies, a necessary step in harmonizing *RDA* with other standards such as ISBD (see above). Some music terms await definitions in the *RDA* Vocabularies. Attig called for volunteers to help, and stressed that there was a “low bar” for quality that definitions had to meet. The element sets await JSC confirmation. A new Examples Working Group has been formed to provide recommendations for new examples and for their maintenance; when told that the PCC has a similar group, Attig responded that there should be communication. He stressed that future changes in *RDA* will come from constituent proposals—just telling the JSC to “fix it” won’t fly. The revision process is developing along a two-tiered system—one of fast-tracking for typographical errors and additions or changes to examples or lists; the other of considering formal proposals. Attig asked for and received CC:DA endorsement for making fast-track change proposals and handling any responses needed for them at his discretion.

RDA Revision proposals from American Association of Law Libraries (John Hostage, Harvard University)

The committee continued discussion on two resubmitted proposals for revisions in *RDA* Chapter 16.2: 1) to clarify how and/or whether to give special treatment to certain federations and countries for creating preferred access points for smaller political units (e.g. adding the name of a U.S. state to the name of the city rather than “United States”); and 2) to fill in some gaps in instructions for how to name overseas territories and insular areas. Tradition, geopolitics, JSC politics, and the effect on *RDA* examples were talking points. Some consensus emerged, but mostly a realization of the complexities involved.

Task Force for Governmental/Non-Governmental Corporate Bodies (Kevin Randall, Northwestern University)

The task force had the goal of developing a single set of instructions for creating preferred access points for the two types of bodies. Two major issues emerged: what types of bodies are entered subordinately (*RDA* 11.2.2.14), and differing rules on what levels of hierarchy to include or exclude. Type 6 of 11.2.2.14 (enter a body subordinately if its name contains the full name of its parent body) causes problems, especially for non-governmental bodies, because its application often depends on what representation of a body’s name the cataloger chooses to use. Other considerations in the discussion were how to balance the *RDA* principles of Representation and Differentiation, the relevance of other principles such as “parentage,” continuity, and collocation. A straw poll on whether to remove Type 6 got a majority, but no unanimous support. Some

other areas that may be explored—expanding the charge for consolidation to include instructions for religious bodies, looking at the implications for access points for meetings, and the apparently anomalous treatment of geographic qualifiers.

Revision proposal from the American Theological Library Association (John Myers, Union College, on behalf of Judy Knop, ATLA)

ATLA made three proposals: 1) to correct some reference numbers in 6.23.2.6 (Apocryphal Books) to point toward instructions for access points rather than for parts of larger works; 2) to remove Apocrypha as an intervening element between “Bible” and the name of such a book, and make some related structural changes; 3) re-ordering the rules for parts of sacred scriptures to create a general rule with some exceptions. Discussion brought out the opinion that the proposed instructions for the Apocrypha were overly detailed and needed streamlining; that an anomalous treatment of “Selections” in the current 6.23.2.9.7 needs to be dealt with; and that cataloging instructions are not the appropriate venue for making judgments about canonicity. Further work is needed on the second and third proposals.

ALA Publishing (Troy Linker, Publisher, ALA Digital Reference)

Linker acknowledged that until the past few months, new releases of the *RDA* Toolkit have been on a haphazard schedule; progress is now being made toward a more stable pattern. Optimally, releases would occur 8-10 times a year; typically on the 2nd Tuesday of a month. Fast-track changes could come in any release; updates from formal proposals would likely be clustered in April and October. It’s expected that by April 2012, a revision-history feature will be available to allow users to track changes over time.

The January release improved loading time by breaking chapters into pages. To get even better response time, especially for overseas users, consideration is being given to having multiple servers. Icons have replaced text in some places to support internationalization. A “virtual user group” has been formed which meets via the Web. A Toolkit Essentials Webinar is being given on a regular basis, and is archived. Special access and pricing offers are in place for training events. Linker added to Attig’s report on the *RDA* rewriting to say that implementation has not yet been scheduled because of problems to be solved with keeping the print resource in sync and controlling the quantity of revisions being made at one time. He expects the JSC to supply more examples. Greater ability to customize for user preference is coming. Links from OCLC and Sky River MARC help documents to *RDA* Element Set are being developed. Translations of *RDA* into French and German have been made; one for Spanish is underway.

Inspired in part by several revision proposals that posited significant changes to instruction numbers and sequence, Linker was asked what limitations the underlying data structure placed of

such changes. Briefly, the digital object identifiers underlying the text aren't human-interactable. The developers had expected that numbers naming deleted instructions would not be re-used. Changing this would be expensive for ALA, and by extension to users. Nonetheless, there seemed consensus that change had to be made. No definite action was outlined.

Paul Weiss (unaffiliated) announced that he would be leading an e-course on preparing for *RDA* on behalf of ALA Editions. Those interested should look for more information on the ALA Web site.

RDA Training Task Force (Mary Woodley, University of California—Northridge, and Kate Harcourt, Columbia University)

Neither Woodley nor Harcourt were present, but the Chair passed along the word that many webinars had been held with more to come. A fuller report is forthcoming.

RDA Programming Task Force (June Abbas, University of Oklahoma)

Abbas asked for suggestions for new members for the task force from non-academic libraries. Plans for the Annual conference include a one-day preconference, "A Change in Authority," featuring Ana Cristán and Paul Frank of the Library of Congress. Other sessions at Annual will include a session for ILS vendors, the *RDA* Update, a forum for non-MARC implementation, and a "Lessons Learned" forum.

Task Force on How to Submit a Rule Change Proposal to CC:DA (Chamya P. Kincy, UCLA)

The major charge was to revise the *AACR2*-specific document to include *RDA* terminology, to reflect the changes in the JSC's revision schedule, and to provide more guidance in drafting proposals. Some minor changes were proposed in the committee's discussion. The committee voted to adopt the document with those revisions, and discharged the Task Force.

Task Force on Machine-Actionable Data Elements in *RDA* Chapter 3 (Peter Rolla)

The group's charge is to look at the data elements in Chapter 3 that combine a quantity and a unit of measure (e.g. extent, dimensions) and to propose revisions that would make these elements more machine-actionable. The group planned to hold its first meeting during Midwinter, and expected to have a discussion paper ready by Annual. One of the group's initial discoveries was that the extent area for music is anomalous in that it contains data not only about quantity and a unit of measure, but sometimes data about content (e.g. "1 vocal score").

Program for Cooperative Cataloging Liaison (Kathy Glennan, University of Maryland-College Park)

Glennan's report can be found at <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/docs/pcc201201.pdf> She pointed out the many *RDA*-related materials to be found on the PCC Web site, including reports from three task groups dealing with various implementation plans for *RDA*; a PCC policy statement on *RDA* training; and a FAQ on *RDA*. Work continues on developing and revising standards for BIBCO Standard Records (BSR) in various formats, the latest being for archival formats. Work is also being done to revise training materials for cataloging e-serials.

CC:DA Webmaster (Melanie Polutta, Library of Congress)

Polutta showed mockups of three possible designs for a new CC:DA Web site. Discussion centered on a WordPress implementation, an open-source product that can serve as a resource management system. It is easy to use, can be used on devices such as smartphones and iPads, and can support a blog. There were some concerns about whether it could support structured searching of site content. Given ALCTS's and CaMMS's desire to get the CC:DA site migrated from Penn State, the committee recommended further discussion with ALA about using WordPress.

Task Force on Sources of Information in *RDA* (Mark Scharff, Washington University in St. Louis)

Scharff reported that the task force, in considering how to achieve the specific goals put forth in the original MLA proposal, had come across some fundamental questions that would need answers. He brought some of them for committee feedback.

- 1) What identifies a resource? *RDA* instructions are “geographic,” referring to a “source of information that identifies a resource as a whole” (2.1.2.2). This is not strictly true—it is the data that a source bears that identifies a resource. *RDA* implicitly privileges the title as being the primary identifier for a resource, but does not say so explicitly; this complicates any attempt to regard a collective title as more effectively identifying a resource than a string of content titles. Discussion indicated agreement with these assertions.
- 2) In choosing a source of information to identify a resource as a whole, is there any significance to the number of identifying data elements a source bears? Maybe, but other considerations are more important. For print materials, the conventions surrounding title pages are fairly well-established, but for the materials that prompted the proposal (sound recordings, videos) the conventions are not as well-drawn.

- 3) Is the *RDA* principle of Representation applicable? Yes—resources are best identified by the data that they present as such. Part of what the TF is doing is attempting to identify publisher conventions for the non-print materials, and develop instructions that reflect those conventions. This might require recasting the *RDA* instructions themselves.
- 4) Should a collective title be considered a better representation of a resource as a whole than a string of part titles? Responses expressed concern that the preference for a collective title not be an absolute.
- 5) Can *RDA* accommodate the *AACR2* practice (1.1G1) of identifying a predominant work and regarding its title as the title proper of the resource? This has been used by video catalogers to simplify the title area, for example, for DVDs containing a feature film and many other titled supplements such as trailers, interviews, alternate endings, etc. The fundamental principle of satisfying user expectations as to what a resource is called may be the strongest argument for this; the difficulty is writing instructions for choosing a preferred source of information that don't eliminate this possibility.

Scharff reiterated that the Task Force will be taking up the question of choosing sources of information for integrating resources. Hopes are for a proposal by Annual.

ALCTS CaMMS Executive Committee matters

Robare conveyed a concern of the Executive Committee that when discussion of proposals takes place on the committee's e-mail list, it's too closed an environment. The question was raised whether the CC:DA wiki could be open to the public as a read-only document. Lively discussion followed; despite concerns that frank discussion could be squelched and possible copyright problems with posting portions of *RDA* text, sentiment was that ALA policy calls for the wiki to be accessible. This may be better supported when the CC:DA site migrates to new software (q.v.)

Future meetings

CC:DA is scheduled to meet twice at Annual 2012 in New Orleans—Saturday, June 23, 1:30-5:30 pm, and Monday, June 25, 8:00 am-noon. Robare advised that the committee may need to resume meeting on Friday afternoon, a practice common during the *RDA* development process. This will depend on the number and complexity of revision proposals received.