Renate Behrens

Report from the European Representative to the RSC 2020

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Organisation and Strategy

Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile

Photo: Javier Mardones

RSC Meetings

– One in-person meeting in October 2019 in Santiago de Chile

– Web-conferences

– Asynchronous Meetings

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Meeting in Santiago de Chile October 2019

The annual in-person meeting of the RSC was very much affected by the unrest in Chile. The working conditions were not always easy, but the meeting was effective at the end. Unfortunately, the three-day "Segundo Coloquio sobre RDA en América Latina y el Caribe," with an expected attendance of over one hundred people from across the hemisphere, had to be cancelled. This meeting was to have been a step toward building a formal Latin American/Caribbean regional organization as the region prepares to join the RSC. Presentations for the colloquium by RSC members were posted on the RSC website and were shared directly with the registered attendees. These include information from each of the three RSC regional representatives about how their regional areas organized themselves and how they operate.

The next in-person meeting of the RSC is planned for October 2020 in Jerusalem, Israel.

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Virtual meetings

– RSC has temporarily suspended the web conferences due to the burden of the different time zones and quarterly asynchronous meetings are held instead.

– Those meetings are held in wiki areas (Basecamp) and usually last one week, so all members can work in their own time zone.

– Current schedule: September 2019, January, April and July 2020

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RDA Strategic Plan 2020-2022

At the request of the RDA Board, the RSC will develop a rolling three-year operational plan that will be harmonized with the "RDA Strategic Plan 2020-2022." Both the RDA Board and the RSC will have separate operational plans to support the overall strategic vision. A draft will be prepared which, when finalized, will give a clearer public picture of anticipated RSC work for the next two to three years.

Translation Working Group

– The RSC supported adding five translators to the Translations Working Group for the five official partial translations, noting that all official translations should be members of the Working Group. Partial translations are translations only of RDA Reference, not RDA instructions. Previously, partial translations were represented by a single member.

Technical Working Group

The membership of the Technical Working Group is being refreshed, and their Terms of Reference and task list are being updated.
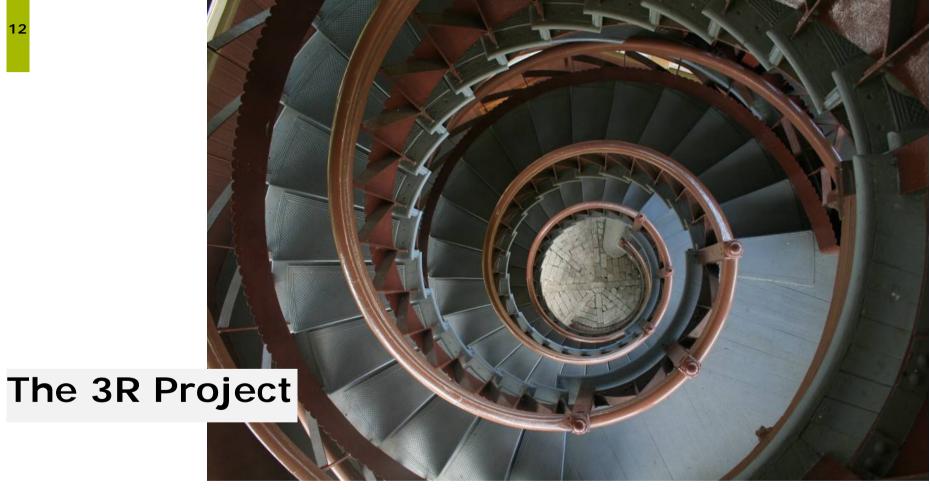
Task and Finish Working Groups

– Application Profiles Working Group (see report from Alan Danskin)

– Further working groups are planned e.g. for religious works or for archival materials

MARC/RDA Working Group

-   Set up at the end of 2019, not an RSC working group, but rather one formed by the Library of Congress

-   Alignment of MARC 21 with the Beta Toolkit

-   First proposals will be discussed in a virtual meeting this Summer

–   RSC representative in the group is Ebe Kartus (ORDAC)

The 3R Project

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3R Project for the English text completed

The 3R Project for the English text of RDA is now considered to be complete. It accomplished its goals of:

- Rebuilding the instruction repository to bring it in line with current data management best practices, make RDA data more modular and dynamic, and allow the RSC to track and manage a greater range of metadata associated with the instructions

- Adopting responsive design

- Bringing the site in compliance with established accessibility standards

- Making improvements to Toolkit navigation, display, and features to create a user experience that is more intrinsically of the web.

Switchover of the RDA Toolkit

-   A hard date for the Switchover of the Beta Site to official RDA status has been set at December 15, 2020.

-   The Switchover date and the start of the Countdown Clock on the original RDA Toolkit are no longer linked.

-   The start of the year-long Countdown Clock will be determined by full agreement of the RDA Board and RSC; this agreement will likely occur sometime in 2021.

Internationalization

–   The RSC is acutely conscious of the demands that
    internationalization of this standard requires.

–   The RSC is increasingly aware of and is taking steps to remove
    the Anglo-American focus of the content. Non Anglo-American
    communities are supporting this process, such as the EURIG
    Examples Working Group, which will provide examples for more
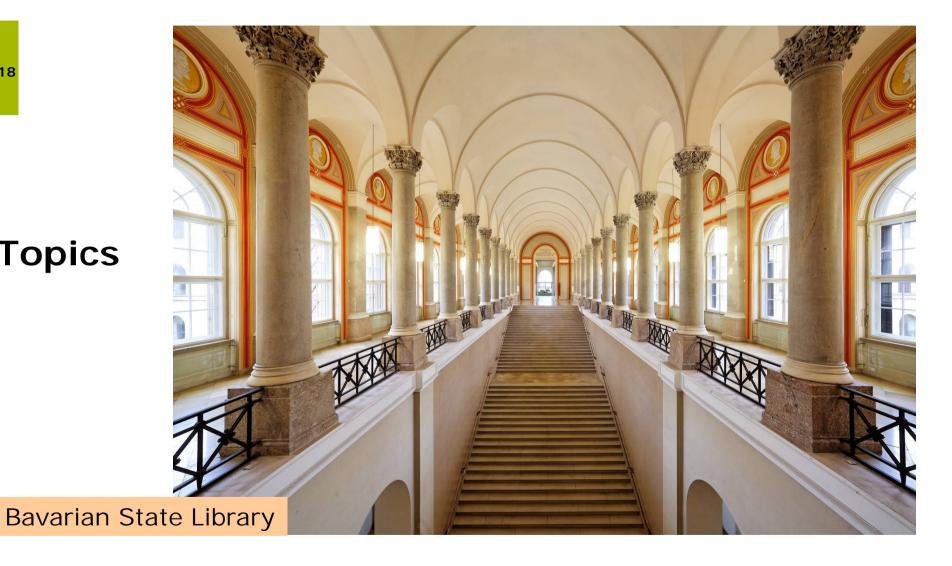   international reuse.

Revision Process

– For the time being, the actual Toolkit text is frozen and even in the Beta Toolkit only minor changes will be made until the end of 3R to guarantee a stable basis for adaption work and translations.

– The further review process (proposals, fast tracks etc.) is intended to be more flexible and a quarterly amendment procedure is planned.

Release of the Beta Toolkit

– Last release at the end of April 2020

– The release introduces new features and functionality as well as some relocating of RDA content.

– More efficient navigation of elements

– Introduction of policy statements (British Library and LC/PCC) as a test of the functionality of their display.

– More information https://www.rdatoolkit.org/April2020release

Topics

Bavarian State Library

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Resources Tab in the Beta Toolkit

– A 'community' area in the Toolkit to support policy statements, user-created documentation, and application profiles, and the new place of the original Toolkit appendices

– Task for the next future: a review of the Toolkit Resources menu and removal of the Anglo-American focus of the original Toolkit to accommodate international perspectives

Collective Agent

– ORDAC prepared a briefing paper in 2019

– The RSC has taken up the suggestions from ORDAC and would like to deepen the discussion in a working group.

– The next step could be a future Working Group to explore creating a new entity under Collective Agent for meetings, conferences, congresses, expeditions, exhibitions, festivals, fairs, etc. The new entity would need to be defined so it does not overlap with the Family or Corporate Body entities. This would be a refinement of the LRM model.

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Work boundaries

The briefing paper "Work boundaries" provided a description of the issues in determining the circumstances under which a new work should be described. The RSC agreed that text about work boundaries should be incorporated in a separate Guidance chapter.

Friendlier Labels

– NARDAC members reviewed in the last year the suitability of the RDA unconstrained element set to store user-friendly element labels and tried to develop a method for easy determination and maintenance of general user-friendly labels.

– Feedback from European communities has been cautious because English terms cannot always be used directly and the labels will often be made "friendlier" in the course of the translations.

Representative Expression

The LRM introduces the idea of a 'representative expression attribute'; this is a Work attribute that "records the values of those expression attributes considered essential in characterizing the work". The RSC elaborates and discussed the idea of an representative expression for aggregates.

Particularly from the European communities, it has been reported that the time for such considerations is too early.

Special thanks goes to

– Ahava Cohen who supports me in any way

– The EURIG Executive and Editorial Committee for the pleasant working atmosphere

– My colleagues from the RSC who are supporters even in difficult situations

– You all, my colleagues from all over Europe, for your trust and confidence!

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Thank you!

Renate Behrens
German National Library
Europe Representative to the RSC
r.behrens@dnb.de