RDA in the Arab Region
Challenges and Proposed Solutions

OSSAMA MAHMOUD, AUTHORITY FILE SPECIALIST

BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA (EGYPT)

AUGUST 13, 2014

OSSAMA.MAHMOUD@BIBALEX.ORG

Outline

- RDA Opportunities in the region
- RDA Threats and Challenges
- Proposed Solutions
- Arabic Union Catalog and National Libraries
- RDA Arabic Survey Results

Opportunities

- RDA Relationships (Master Text Relationships)
- AACR2 Compatibility (**Transmission, Isolation, Update**)
- Automated Arabic Catalogs are in the establishment phase
- Flexibility (**Undifferentiation, Judgement**)

Threats

- Language Problems (Translation, Communication, and Participation)
- Cost & Time
- Fear (Change, Inventory, Messy)
- Abbreviations and Ambiguity
- Diversity of Manifestations

Language

- Translation (Support Arabic Cooperative Translation, and Training)
- Communication (Regional Office, A**RDA-L**)
- Participation (JSC)

Cost & Time

- Special Pricing
- Cost of Training
- Time Consuming

Fear

- Supporting National Libraries to change
- Rule of Library vendors

AUC and National Libraries

- The AUC (Arabic Union Catalog) decided to apply RDA by the end of 2013

- 4 out of 22 Arabic National Libraries use RDA

RDA Arabic Survey Results

- 55% of RDA-trained Catalogers (High added-value)
- 29% of RDA-trained Catalogers (Normal added-value)
- 80% of Arabic Script Libraries find it could be applied
- Public and governmental Libraries are very interested in RDA
- 80% of ILS users tends to use RDA, while 57% of non-ILS users tends to use RDA
- Expert catalogers are more likely to estimate RDA

Thank You