# Alignments and cross-references between RDA and other standards:
Authority data as linking point for cultural heritage

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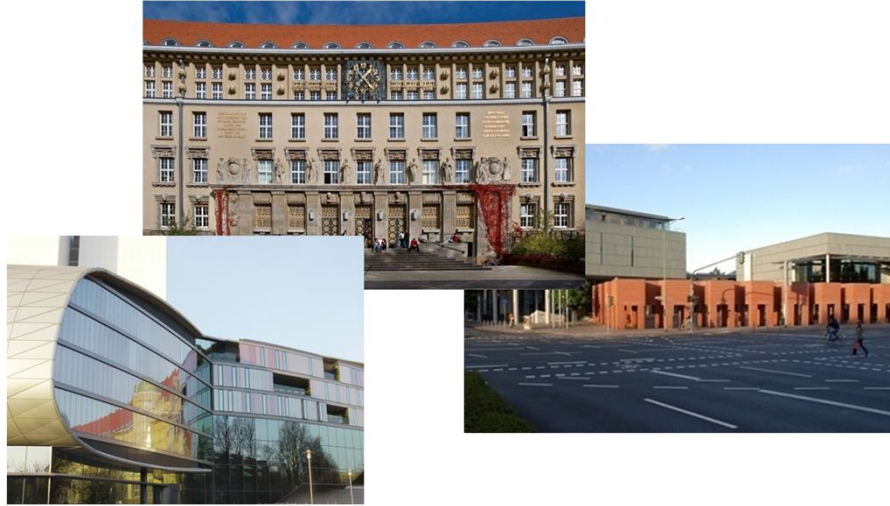
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The German National Library, founded in 1912, has two sites, one in Leipzig and one in Frankfurt. We are collecting publications from and about Germany including electronic and web-publications.

We have special collections as the German Museum for books and writing, the archive of the German exile and the German Music Archive. So we have been concerned with special materials right from the start of the implementation project.

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Contents

- The basics of RDA
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In the world of libraries, RDA becomes more and more the most used cataloguing standard. Currently, in Europe we see an increasing number of libraries cataloguing with RDA.

The idea to create a standard not only for libraries is as old as RDA itself when it started in the nineties. Simon Ewards, as Chair of the RDA Board, renewed this idea some time ago. "We should reflect on expanding the use of RDA by the wider cultural sector".
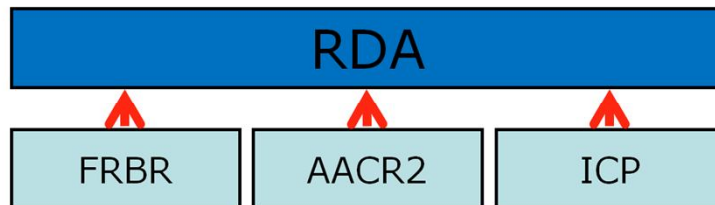
RDA is based on the International Cataloguing Principles ICP, the FRBR data model and the Anglo-American-Cataloguing Rules. These three principles have an effect on the cataloguing with RDA. They influence the way we catalogue our collections. They influence what resources we can cataloque with RDA.

... and all these principles are made from librarians for libraries.

AACR2 → RDA

- Internationalisation
- AACR2: Rules for libraries and books

RDA becomes more and more international. The AACR2 part in RDA is slowly diminishing. Every discussion paper, every proposal, every comment to RDA from a non-English speaking RDA user contributes to the internationalisation of RDA. The internationalisation is also one way to make RDA more open to the need of the non library sector.

RDA is based on AACR2. RDA continues the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules. But, are we aware that AACR2 were optimized for libraries and their book collections? This concentration of AACR2 to libraries and to traditional library collections is still very visible in RDA.

Clearly said: The AACR2 heritage is not the best starting point to win over cataloguers of the non library world to implement RDA in their databases.

FRBR → RDA
Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records

- Structured Framework for Bibliographic Data

- → FRBR **Library** Reference Model (LRM)

- FRBRoo, CIDOC CRM, EDM

RDA is not only the continuation of AACR2. RDA is also based on FRBR. FRBR brings a lot of user friendly elements in to RDA.

But is FRBR also useful to build a bridge to the cultural sector?

The FRBR data model gives us a structured framework for relating the data that are recorded in bibliographic records. The FRBR data model works the best with metadata of collections of monographs. Of course, it is possible to treat also resources of archives or museums. But if we do that, we feel the limits of the model. Does it make good sense to catalogue a unique resource with FRBR?

FRBR and RDA say a work is a „distinct intellectual or artistic creation." That means, something created by people. In non library collections we find also animals or stones, beings or things who are not created by people.

RDA has largely integrated FRBR. As we know, FRBR is under revision. The new name „Library Reference Model" expresses that FRBR will remain a library model.

RDA, our new standard, will be still based on a library model. Standards which help to join the library sector with other communities would be available with FRBRoo and CIDOC CRM. Possibly, it would be useful to integrate FRBoo inspired concepts in RDA and talking with Europeana and Digital Public Library of America DPLA who are bringing metadata for cultural heritage digital objects.

What does the integration of other communities in the organisational environment of RDA mean?

Our experience is: Archives, museums, digital humanities and others do not contact us librarians. They maintain their own standards, for example CIDOC CRM, International Standard Archival Descripiton ISAD(G) or even non standardised selfmade rules. We, the librarians have to contact them.

Talking with metadata specialists from other cultural organisations, like archives, we often notice that our colleagues think the librarians want to take over archival standards. They think RDA claims the lead in the metadata world.

That's why we had several discussions sessions to clarify the question and to point out what other cultural institutions beyond the library community need for a collaboration as partners.

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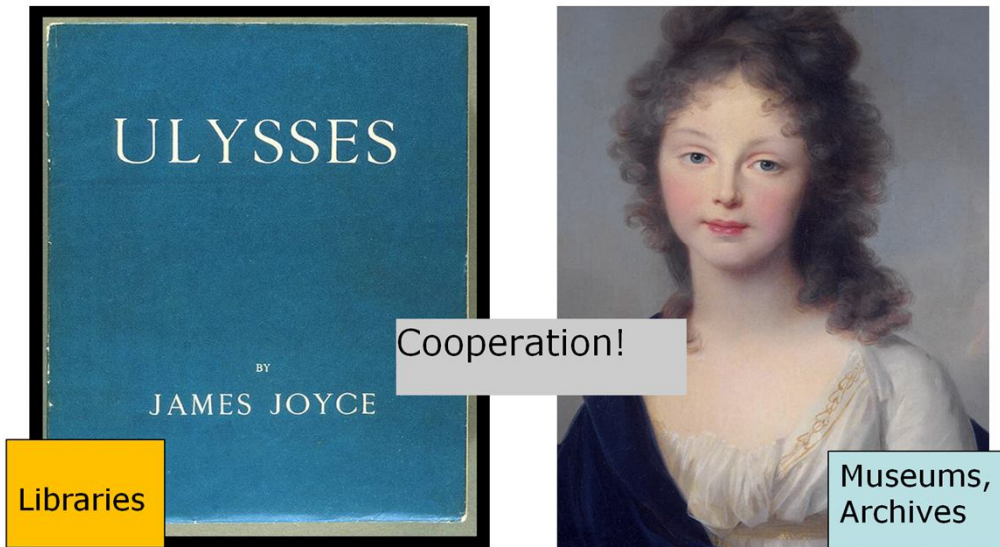
So we have to start a real discussion:

• Do they want collaboration with libraries?

• Do we have the same goals?
• What organisation do we need?

In the German-speaking community the discussion has started.

Powerful arguments for cooperation in the cultural sector are a more cost-efficient production of metadata and benefits for the users. But not all cultural organizations have the same goal. We librarians catalogue so that users and readers find their books and other resources. Some museums and archives tell us: Our database is for internal use. And sometimes the mission of the cultural institutions is not user-oriented.

Authority Data versus Descripitive Data

- Authority data have high value
- Authority data as linking point in the cultural sector

- Descriptive data are good for library users and other libraries

Looking for cooperation partners from the cultural and heritage sector, we have come across the authority data as a linking point. Authority data have a high value for the cultural sector.

The descripitve part of our catalogues, on the other hand, has a lower value. We produce the descripton of the resources for the needs of our users. These data have mainly a value in the library world. We need them for data exchanges.

But, what is the value of authority data?

To answer this question we will have a look at an existing authority file and its applications.

In the German speaking countries authority data and authority control are important. The existing authority file is named Gemeinsame Normdatei (GND) which means integrated authority file.

GND cooperation in three countries

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The GND is a cooperation of 16 partners in Austria, Switzerland and Germany hosted at the German National Library. Among them are National Libraries, State Libraries, Library Consortia, representatives from public or special libraries and a representative from the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany.

GND

- GND Authority file for persons, corporate bodies, conferences and events, geographic entities (places), topics and works

- Used for descpritive and subject cataloguing

- Cataloguing Codes
  - RDA (since July 2014)
  - RSWK (German rules for the subject catalogue)

The Integrated Authority File (GND) is an authority file for names of persons, corporate bodies, conferences and events, places, topics and works.

The descripitve catalogues and the subject catalogues in the German speaking area use the GND as authority file.

The cataloguing code for the GND authority file obeys "Resource Description and Access" (RDA) for the entities which are used for descriptive and subject cataloguing such as persons. For the entities which are only used for subject cataloguing, such as topics, we follow the RSWK, the German rules for the subject catalogue. By the way, it would be helpful to have rules for subject cataloguing also in the RDA toolkit.

GND	36	Keller, Gottfried 1819-1890 / Schriftsteller
GND	37	Keller, Gottfried 1873-1945 / Ständerat
GND	38	Keller, Gottfried 1874-1948 / Pfarrer
GND	39	Keller, Gottfried 1883- / Ingenieur
GND	40	Keller, Gottfried 1905-1975 / Pfarrer

As you know, we need authority control for our library catalogues.

We need authority control for the organisation and structure of our information. For example, authortity records help to distinguish persons with the same name. For example the GND identifies more than ninety persons with the name Gottfried Keller.

The classical three tasks of an authority file are:

First: To bring together what belongs together

And second: To separate what does not belong together.

And third: To identify the entity described in the authority record.

The main benefit is a better search result. Authority records make searching more accurate and predictable.

Link zu diesem Datensatz	http://d-nb.info/gnd/118506803
Person	Barth, Karl
Akademischer Grad	Prof. Dr. (verschiedene Ehrendoktorwürden)
Geschlecht	männlich
Andere Namen	Ba te Baruto, Kāru Baruto, Karu Baruto, Kāru Barth, Károly Barŭt'ŭ, K'al Bart, Karl Bate Barth, Karl Kaer, Bate 巴特 (Schriftcode: Hans) 卡爾·巴特 (Schriftcode: Hans)
Quelle	M; B 1986; Biogr. H. Emigr.; LCAuth; Wikipedia
Zeit	Lebensdaten: 1886-1968
Land	Schweiz (XA-CH); Deutschland (XA-DE)
Geografischer Bezug	Geburtsort: Basel Sterbeort: Basel Wirkungsort: Bern (Studienort) Wirkungsort: Berlin (Studienort) Wirkungsort: Tübingen (Studienort) Wirkungsort: Marburg (Studienort) Wirkungsort: Safenwil (1911-1921) Wirkungsort: Basel (1935-)
Beruf(e)	Theologe
Weitere Angaben	Schweizer reformierter Theologe, auch Titel über Mozart; Studium teilweise in Deutschland, 1911-1921 Schweizer Dorfpfarrer, 1913 Heirat mit Nelly Hoffmann; 1921 Berufung auf einen eigens eingerichteten Lehrstuhl in Göttingen, 1925 Professor für systematische Theologie in Münster, 1930 Berufung nach Bonn; Mitbegründer der Bekennenden [...] Schweiz [...] und zurückkehren; Professor für systematische Theologie in Basel bis [...] Gesellschaftskritik, z.B. gegen Wiederaufrüstung; SP-Mitglied (ab 19[...]) Theologe, Schweiz Schweiz. reform. Theologe
Beziehungen zu Personen	Barth, Nelly (Ehefrau) Barth, Fritz (Vater) Barth, Peter (Bruder) Barth, Heinrich (Bruder) Kirschbaum, Charlotte von (Lebensgefährtin und Mitarbeiterin)
Beziehungen zu Organisationen	Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (1921-1925) Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster (1925-1930) Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn (1930-1935) Universität Basel (ca. 1935-1962) Nationalkomitee Freies Deutschland (1945)

(Annotations: Variant names → Andere Namen; Geographic information → Geografischer Bezug; Biographical information → Weitere Angaben; Relationships persons → Beziehungen zu Personen; Relationships organisations → Beziehungen zu Organisationen)

In this record from the GND you can see what information can be provided.

Here an example for linking with the GND-number in the Wikipedia

Karl Barth, a Swiss theologian

You can see were you can find literature from and about him in the catalogues of the Swiss National Library and the German National Library

Another example from the Bildarchiv Foto Marburg, from their collection of images

A photo from a painting from two daughters of Wilhelm von Humboldt

On top of the slide at the right you see the authority record from the GND for Gabriele von Humboldt

This slide shows several linkings to the GND in the description of the photo in the database of the Bildarchiv Foto Marburg.

The value of authority data for the cultural sector

- Discussions about authority data in archives
- Digital humanities want authority control

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This year in March, the students of an archival course organised a talk about RDA in Swiss archives. The discussion following the talk underlined: the Archives in Switzerland are not interested in RDA. But they are a little jealous of the GND data, of the authoritiy data, of the libraries.

Several organisations of the historical sciences in Switzerland want authority data for the digital infrastructure they are currently developing.

The experts from non librarian communities, for example archivists or historians, want to reuse the data recorded in our authority files.

But they are not very eager to introduce our rules, they are not very interested to implement RDA in their databases. Especially, they want to reuse the identifiers of our authority records. The identifiers make it possible to link over different databases. The use of the identifiers of the authority records makes it possible to link a library catalogue with other databases.

Historians in Switzerland started a linking project, called Metagrid. It helps to link several databases with historical topics and persons. I will show an example of the Metagrid links

Lonsea League of Nations Search Engine

Gustave Ador

♂ ✳ 23/12/1845 (in Cologny: Switzerland) † 31/3/1928 (in Geneva : Switzerland)

Mark for connection search

Roles in Organisations

- Commission Mixte du Comité International de la Croix-Rouge et de la Ligue des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge : President *(1921)*
- Institut des Hautes Études Internationales : Member of a Committee *(1921-1928)*
- International Federation of League of Nations Societies : President *(1921-1922)*
- International Red Cross Committee : President *(1921-1928)*

Delegate

- LoN General Assembly: Fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly : League of Nations General Assembly Delegate (Representative)
- LoN General Assembly: First Ordinary Session of the Assembly : League of Nations General Assembly Delegate (Representative)
- LoN General Assembly: Fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly : League of Nations General Assembly Delegate (Representative)
- LoN General Assembly: Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly : League of Nations General Assembly Delegate (Representative)
- LoN General Assembly: Third Ordinary Session of the Assembly : League of Nations General Assembly Delegate (Representative)

Residences

- Cologny: Switzerland
- Geneva : Switzerland

Links from Metagrid.ch

| Dodis | HLS | GND | Elites suisses au XXe s. | Wikipedia |

Lonsea is the League of Nations Search Engine. This database is linked to other databases. For example with

... with Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland.

Historical Dictionary of Switzerland

Historisches Lexikon *der Schweiz* | Dictionnaire historique *de la Suisse* | Dizionario storico *della Svizzera*

Ador, Gustave — 03/07/2002 | segnalazione | PDF | stampare

deutsch
français

✳ 23.12.1845 Cologny,† 31.3.1928 Ginevra, rif., di Ginevra. Figlio di Louis, dirigente della Banca di commercio, e di Constance Paccard; abiatico di David-Marc Paccard. ∞ Alice Perdonnet, figlia di Gustave, banchiere, e abiatica di Vincent Perdonnet. Studiò letteratura e diritto all'Acc. di Ginevra, laureandosi in diritto nel 1868 e ottenendo in seguito il brevetto di avvocato. Nel 1874 fu eletto deputato al Gran Consiglio ginevrino quale candidato indipendente della destra liberale conservatrice (che in seguito si costituì come partito democratico); nel 1876 non venne rieletto e tornò in Gran

Nell'edizione a stampa questo articolo è corredato da un'Immagine. È possibile ordinare il DSS presso il nostro editore

Trova ulteriori informazioni su Gustave Ador sui seguenti siti:
Documenti Diplomatici Svizzeri (DDS) | Elites suisses au XXe s. | Lonsea

Links powered by metagrid, il progetto di messa in rete dell'Accademia svizzera di scienze umane e sociali (ASSU)

GND: 119485141 | VIAF: 76307569 | URL: http://www.hls-dhs-dss.ch/textes/i/I3848.php

Or with the the Historical Dictionary of Switzerland

The Swiss National Library with the catalogue Helveticat and the Bibliography of Swiss History joined Metadgrid. We we will activate the Metagrid links in our databases this autumn.

One of the main linking points of Metadrid is the Integrated Authority File GND.

As I said earlier, the digital humanities don't apply RDA. They use their own standards and they have no interest to introduce RDA. But they want cooperate in the libraries' authority control.

There are other similar projects in the German speaking area, for instance CultureGraph.

Why not use RDA in historical databases?

- Own standards and cataloguing tradition
- No data exchange
- RDA: too complex and too many rules
- „Core RDA"

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Why are the historical databases are not interested in RDA.

We have already said this several times, but feel that it bears repeating: They have their own standards and their cataloguing tradtion. And that works fine. Why should they change the rules?

In their descritpitve cataloguing there is no data exchange possible, because most of the items are unique. They collect and catalogue manuscripts, typoscripts and objects.

They tell us, we need a simple code, something with a maximum of fifty pages. We don't need thousands of rules and intepretations of these rules. Our people should catalogue and not study rules.

Well I could say, they don't understand the idea of standardisaton on an international complex background. But if I begin to think about the following comment from a historian, „RDA is too complex and too many rules", I have to admit to myself that this comment might have a little truth in it.

With every discussion paper and every comment RDA becomes more complex. I don't see one comment which makes RDA easier.

To win over other communities RDA should become a bit less complex.

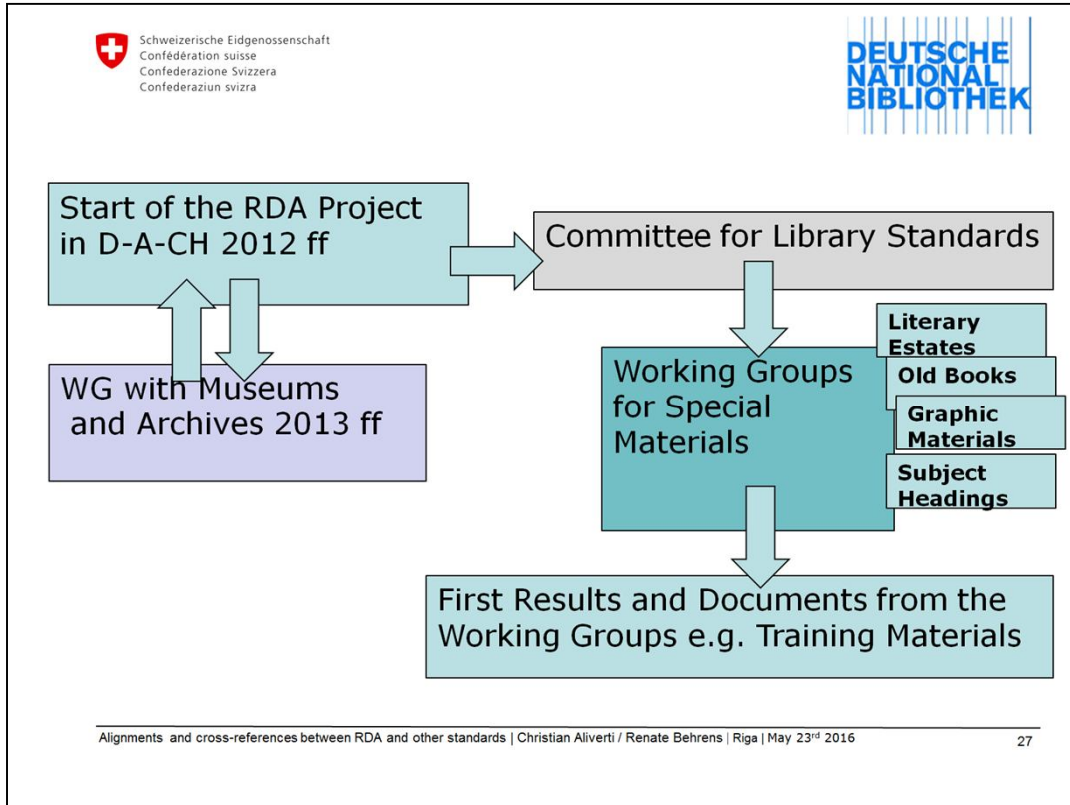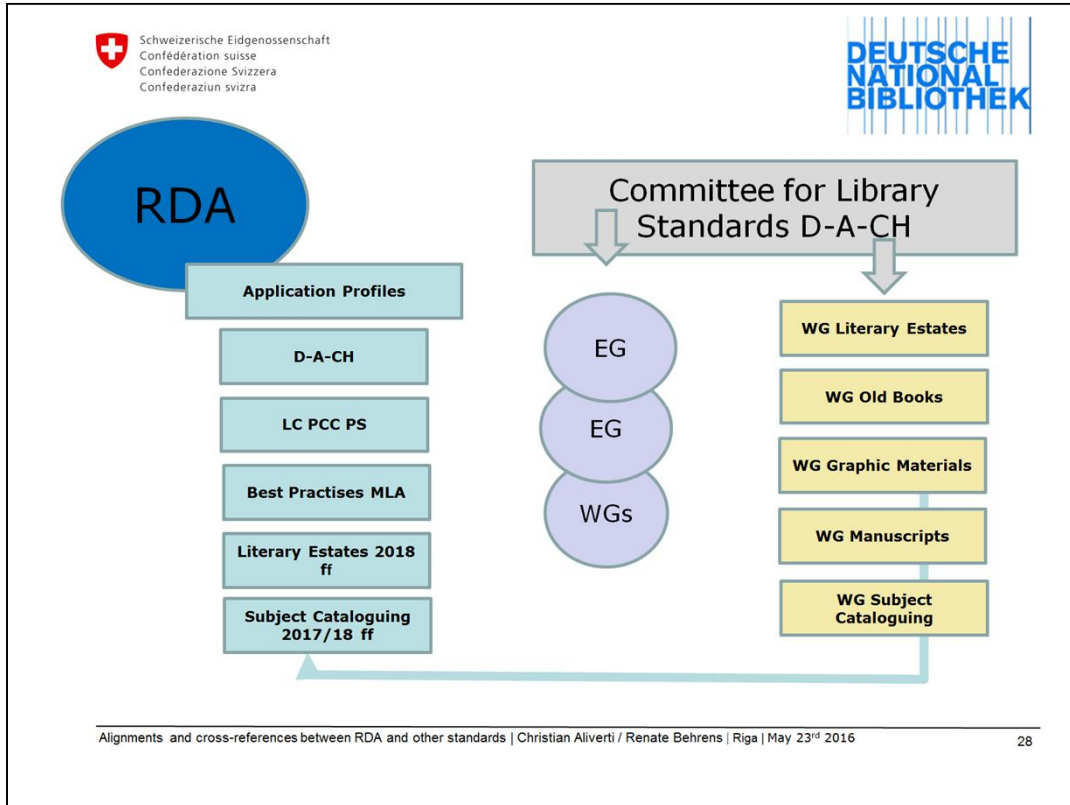What about a core RDA, the essence of RDA.

So let us summarize the main topics in the discussion of RDA and cultural institutions and why authority control is already an important linking point based on the GND.

This slide shows the first steps we made within our RDA implementation project concerning special materials from cultural institutions like museums and archives.

In the very first implementation phase from 2012 to 2015 the German-speaking community focused on special and rare materials and sought cooperation with archives and museums. A Joint Working Group between libraries and literary archives, the Working Group Literary Estates and Autographs Rules (RNA) was set up in 2014. Other groups followed which concentrate on aligning the cataloguing guidelines for old/rare books, manuscripts and graphic and other visual material.

- 2013 the RDA Project in D-A-CH initiate the dialogue between cultural instiutions with a workshop and a working group with museums and archives
- 2014 first working group for literary archives
- 2015 WG for old books
- 2016 WG for graphic materials
- 2016/17 WG planned for manuscripts
- 2017 WG planned for subject headings

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... what are the current plans of the German-speaking community in this context.

The goal of the alignment is not to transfer all the existing rules to the RDA Toolkit. This approach involves continuing to use other standards in addition to RDA to describe our collections, and making them compatible with RDA. As an example, the RNA are optimized for the needs of literary archives in the German language context. The Literary Archives use these rules to describe the estates and the personal papers of authors. The guidelines of the literary archives should be interoperable with RDA and any conflict with RDA should be avoided. The access points are constructed based on RDA guidelines and according to the rules of the Integrated Authority File (GND). The main objective is not, therefore, the full integration of special rules. On the contrary, full integration of all special rules would inflate the RDA Toolkit. It would therefore be preferable to use cross-references between the RDA Toolkit and the guidelines and rules of other communities to cover the needs of cataloguers.

So what is the goal of these working groups. Let us give an example. You can build a house like the one on the left or like the one on the right.

So the goal of the alignments is not to bring all the existing rules into the RDA Toolkit. This approach means to continue to use other standards than RDA to describe our collections and made them compatible to RDA. So the main objective is not a full integration of special rules. Quite the contrary, a full integration of all special rules would inflate the RDA Toolkit. So the better way would be cross-references between the RDA and the guidelines and rules of other communities to cover the needs of cataloguers. We should continue information exchange, workshops and cooperation with museums, archives etc.

Last but not least: Acceptance for the needs of communities providing cultural heritage and wider flexibility in RDA for the non librarien environments are required. Because there are so many ways to build a house or to work with standards for cultural heritage.
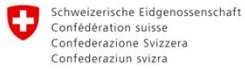
Thank you

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Please contact us for questions or discussion!