CC:DA/NARDAC Reps/2025/1

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**To:**ALA Core Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access

**From:**  Robert L. Maxwell and Adam L. Schiff, ALA Representatives to the North American RDA Committee (NARDAC)

**Subject:**  Report on NARDAC and RDA-related Activities, July 2024-January 2025  
  
**NARDAC**

The North American RDA Committee (NARDAC) is the entity that represents the North American region on the RDA Steering Committee (RSC). NARDAC’s membership for this period consisted of:

* ALA Representatives:
  + Robert L. Maxwell, Brigham Young University, 2021- ; NARDAC representative to RSC (2022- )
  + Adam L. Schiff, University of Washington Libraries, 2022-
* Canadian Committee on Cataloguing (CCC) Representatives:
  + Thomas Brenndorfer, Guelph Public Library, 2018- ; NARDAC co-chair (2025- )
  + **Hong Cui**, Library and Archives Canada, 2023-
* Library of Congress (LC) Representatives:
  + Melanie Polutta, 2019- ; NARDAC coordinator of web content; back-up NARDAC representative to RSC
  + Clara Liao, 2021-2024; NARDAC chair (2022-2024)
  + Trina Soderquist, 2025-
* Cataloging Training
  + Shawne D. Miksa, University of North Texas, 2024-
* French Language Cataloging
  + Daniel Paradis, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, 2024- ; NARDAC co-chair (2025- )

NARDAC met monthly since ALA Annual 2024 (except in August and November), conducting its work using Google Drive, Zoom, and email. The public NARDAC website is part of the RSC website: <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/northamerica>.

**Committee Work**

NARDAC submitted comments on 6 RSC proposals and discussion papers:

* RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1 – Proposal to revise name of corporate body

<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/uploads/RSC-ReligionsWG-2024-1-NARDAC%20response.pdf>

* RSC/TechnicalWG/2024/2/rev – Proposal to revise definitions of aggregate, aggregating work and aggregates guidance

<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/uploads/RSCTechnicalWG-2024-2rev-NARDAC%20response.pdf>

* RSC/Examples Editor/2024/1 – Proposal to add glossary definitions for fictitious entity and non-human entity

<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/uploads/RSC-Examples%20Editor-2024-1-NARDAC%20response.pdf>

* RSC/ORDAC/2024/1/rev – Dual-language naming of Corporate Body and Place

<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/uploads/RSC-ORDAC-2024-1-rev-NARDAC-response_0.pdf>

* RSC/ExtentWG/2024/1/rev2 – Discussion paper on the development of extent elements in RDA

<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/uploads/RSC-Extent%20WG-2024-1-rev2-NARDAC%20response.pdf>

* RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/2 – Proposal to revise name of corporate body

<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/uploads/RSC-ReligionsWG-2024-2-NARDAC-response.pdf>

NARDAC continued to work on a proposal relating to inconsistency in the transcribed manifestation elements related to source of information. The specific instructions within the Data provenance guidance page in the RDA Toolkit are [Recording a source of metadata that is a manifestation that is being described](https://access.rdatoolkit.org/en-US_ala-cfa18e03-17f2-378a-874c-86515bf7e0ac/p_vhp_lbr_vfb) and [Recording a source of metadata that is not a manifestation that is being described](https://access.rdatoolkit.org/en-US_ala-cfa18e03-17f2-378a-874c-86515bf7e0ac/p_c2x_z2r_vfb).

NARDAC is working on a proposal for relocation and revision of wording of two sets of condition and condition options in [Corporate Body: variant access point for corporate body](https://access.rdatoolkit.org/en-US_ala-b1a74717-02e3-30c5-b682-069445d85aa1).

NARDAC is also working on a proposal on [Person: term of rank or honour or office: Children and grandchildren of royal persons](https://access.rdatoolkit.org/en-US_ala-defc1f1e-cfb7-3100-af56-957e56687a98/p_rzm_jvm_ddb). For cases in which a “child or grandchild is known only as *Prince* or *Princess* or a similar term of rank, without a territorial designation” and the person also bears “another term of rank” it is currently unclear in which language the other term of rank should be recorded. As an example, should a cataloger record “Prince, Duque de Cádiz” or “Prince, Duke of Cádiz”? Should what is recorded as other term of rank be based on the language of the person, the language in which it was conferred, usage found in resources, or in the language of the cataloging agency?

NARDAC has written a proposal that will be submitted to the RSC in February 2025 to allow the inclusion of non-Latin script numerals associated with a given name in authorized and variant access points. RDA currently only addresses roman numerals in these access points. The element [authorized access point for person](https://access.rdatoolkit.org/en-US_ala-335fd204-e6f8-39ed-8681-d56c985fab59) currently has a condition that says “[Treat a roman numeral associated with a given name as an integral part of the name (e.g., in the case of some popes, royalty, and ecclesiastics).](https://access.rdatoolkit.org/en-US_ala-335fd204-e6f8-39ed-8681-d56c985fab59/p_pd3_kmp_xgb)” The [same condition](https://access.rdatoolkit.org/en-US_ala-e893d146-356f-3596-9c40-d1b0d626cb64/p_tgs_yyj_xfb) is also found in the element [variant access point for person](https://access.rdatoolkit.org/en-US_ala-e893d146-356f-3596-9c40-d1b0d626cb64/p_tgs_yyj_xfb). For RDA in MARC, MARC Proposal [2025-02](https://www.loc.gov/marc/mac/2025/2025-02.html) was approved by the MARC Advisory Committee on January 29, 2025 to allow non-Latin script numerals in subfield $b of X00 fields in the MARC 21 Authority and Bibliographic Formats.

The fall NARDAC Update Forum was held online on October 21, 2024. The recording is on the RDA YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLa0Gluu-OU> and also through the RDA Toolkit website at <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news/rda/2024-fall-nardac-update-forum>. The forum included an update from NARDAC chair Clara Liao, an update from Dr. Ahava Cohen, chair of the Joint RDA Board and RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence, and a presentation by Dr. Hannes Lowagie, head of the Bibliographic Information Agency of the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR) and the vice-chair of EURIG exploring the transformative potential of Microsoft PowerApps, focusing on the use of AI components for the detection and enhancement of metadata.

NARDAC has begun planning for its spring update forum to be held in April 2025 (probably April 14). The focus of the forum will be a presentation on the National Library of New Zealand’s implementation of official RDA in July 2024 and how it is going, lessons learned, etc.

**RDA Steering Committee (RSC)**

The RDA Steering Committee membership is currently:

Regional Representatives:

Europe: Ahava Cohen, National Library of Israel

North America: Robert L. Maxwell, Brigham Young University

Oceania: Charlotte Christensen, National Library of New Zealand

Position holders:

RSC Chair: Renate Behrens, Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

RSC Secretary: Anne Welsh

RDA Examples Editor: Jessica Grzegorski, Newberry Library

Technical Team Liaison Officer: Damian Iseminger, Library of Congress

Transitions Team Liaison Officer: Szabolcs Dancs, National Széchényi Library (Hungary)

Wider Community Engagement Officer: Charlene Chou, New York University

Education and Orientation Officer: Elisa Sze, University of Toronto

Ex officio members:

RDA Board Chair: Colleen Barbus

Director, ALA Digital Reference: James Hennelly

**Activities**

The RSC held two asynchronous (online) meetings, in July 2024 and January 2025 and one in-person meeting, in November 2024 in Washington, DC.

Highlights of the July meeting:

* A proposal from the Religions in RDA Working Group was considered (RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/1). This proposal revised wording under “Ancient and international bodies” and “Local places of worship” to generalize the language. These revisions passed. A part of the proposal was postponed to the November meeting for further discussion.
* The Extent Working Group provided a discussion paper, which was presented by the WG chair and would be discussed later, at the November meeting.
* RSC discussed a proposal from ORDAC clarifying treatment of dual-naming of corporate bodies and places. RSC did not make a decision at this meeting, but set up a “rapid-action group” to discuss and hammer out differences in time for the November meeting.
* A proposed Archives Working Group was discussed.
* Plans for a joint RSC/RDA Board Working Group on Artificial Intelligence were finalized, and the group reported it had met once.

Highlights of the November Meeting:

* The ORDAC proposal noted in the July meeting was discussed. This proposal was to include new language clarifying that if a corporate body or place name is commonly known by a form incorporating more than one language, that might otherwise be taken as parallel forms, that form may be chosen as the preferred name (e.g. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga; Disques Pyrrhic Records Inc.). After some discussion and revision the proposal passed.
* A proposal from the Technical Working Group (RSC/TechnicalWG/2024/2) to revise the definitions of aggregate, aggregating work and aggregates passed with some revisions.
* The Examples Editor proposed definitions of fictitious entity and non-human entity, to be added to the glossary (RSC/ExamplesEditor/2024/1). This passed with some amendments.
* A proposal from the Religions Working Group, RSC/ReligionsWG/2024/2, to revise “name of corporate body” was discussed and passed with some revisions.
* The discussion paper from the Extent Working Group, RSC/ExtentWG/2024/1/rev2, was discussed. This was an extremely complex discussion of the treatment of extent in RDA. RSC approved of the direction the WG was taking the issue, which generally followed a model for extent called Aspect-Unit-Quantity (AUQ) first proposed in a 2015 ALA discussion paper on machine-actionable data elements. RSC asked the WG to take their (extensive) suggestions back and prepare specific revision proposals for discussion at upcoming meetings. The Extent Working Group’s term has been extended by one year, to the end of 2025.
* The 2025 RSC schedule was announced (see also <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/2025publicsessions>)
  + 20-23 January, with public meeting Wednesday 22 January at 7 PM UTC
  + 7-10 April, with public meeting Tuesday 8 April at 6 PM UTC
  + 14-17 July, with public meeting Tuesday 15 July at 6 PM UTC
  + 17-20 November, with public meeting Tuesday 18 July at 7 PM UTC
* The meeting included an update from Ángela Quiroz Ubierna, who attended as a special observer; she is the RDA Board member for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Highlights of the January meeting:

* At the public meeting a live demo of the RDA-DACH manual (for European German-speaking countries) was given by Michaela Edelmann and Mathias Manecke from the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek. The presentation is available at <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/news>
* Elisa Sze, RSC Education and Orientation Officer presented the new document Slides for Educators <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/slidesforeducators>
* At the November meeting the creation of a new category of Working Group, Advisory Working Group, was discussed. Between then and this meeting this category was approved by the Board. The chief difference between an Advisory WG and a Task and Finish WG is the Advisory WGs can continue indefinitely. The Religion in RDA WG will be recategorized as an advisory WG and the new Archives WG will also be an advisory WG.
* Renate Behrens, RSC Chair, emphasized that there was room for volunteers on all the Working Groups <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/workinggroups> if people would like to get involved.
* It was noted that the Wikipedia article on RDA was extremely outdated and RSC discussed how to get it updated, since according to Wikipedia rules RSC members likely cannot update it themselves