

**Final U.S. RDA Implementation Update from the U.S. RDA Test Coordinating  
Committee  
(January 4, 2013)**

This represents the final quarterly update from the U.S. RDA Test Coordinating Committee on the progress and actions undertaken to meet the recommendations made in the Coordinating Committee's Final Report, issued in June 2011. The Coordinating Committee was designated by the senior management at the Library of Congress (LC), National Agricultural Library (NAL), and National Library of Medicine (NLM) to assume this monitoring role. The Coordinating Committee monitored progress and activities related to RDA preparation and implementation during the interim period between the end of the U.S. Test on December 31, 2010, and RDA implementation to occur on March 31, 2013 and after. The three U.S. national libraries have judged readiness for RDA implementation after verifying, as noted below, completion of a recommendation or convincing evidence that the recommendation is sufficiently on track to endorse implementation of RDA.

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In early 2012 LC announced that it had set **March 31, 2013**, as its RDA implementation target date. "RDA LC Implementation Date" is defined as the date when all catalog records newly created at LC will be produced according to RDA instructions. Partner national libraries (National Agricultural Library and National Library of Medicine; and British Library, Library & Archives Canada, Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (DNB), and National Library of Australia) have been apprised of LC's plans and — with the exception of DNB, which plans to implement in mid-2013 — also plan to target the end of the first quarter of 2013 as their RDA implementation date.

The updates use the recommendations section from the Coordinating Committee's Report so that the recommendations and the status can be viewed together.

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**Contingent on the satisfactory progress/completion of the tasks and action items below, the Coordinating Committee recommends that RDA should be implemented by LC, NAL, and NLM no sooner than January 2013. The three national libraries should commit resources to ensure progress is made on these activities that will require significant effort from many in and beyond the library community.**

To achieve a viable and robust metadata infrastructure for the future, the Coordinating Committee believes that RDA should be part of the infrastructure. Before RDA is implemented, however, the activities below must be well underway. In order to allow sufficient lead time for these actions to occur, the Committee recommends that RDA implementation not proceed prior to January 2013. Timeframes in these recommendations assume a start date of July 1, 2011 and represent the Coordinating Committee's best estimates. Many of the activities must occur simultaneously. The timeframes given are for each individual task. Therefore the timeframes given are not sequential.

- Rewrite the RDA instructions in clear, unambiguous, plain English.
  - Work with JSC to prioritize which chapters should be addressed and completed first. Prioritization should be based on comments gleaned during the U.S. RDA Test as identified by the U.S. RDA Test Coordinating Committee.
  - Identify and engage, in collaboration with JSC and the Committee of Principals, a writer to undertake rewrites.
  - Rewrite chapters identified as priorities.
  - Confirm readability of initial chapter rewrites.
  - *Timeframe for completion: within 18 months.*

**Status:**

The Coordinating Committee agreed shortly after issuing its report that this recommendation is better stated as “reword” rather than “rewrite.” It was not the Coordinating Committee’s desire to change the meaning or intent of the RDA instructions; the intent was to have RDA instructions written in clearer, less ambiguous language.

Accomplishments—

ALA Publishing announced on November 11, 2011: “[A]cting on behalf of the Co-Publishers of RDA: Resource Description and Access and under the direction of the Committee of Principals ... the selection of Chris Oliver as Copy Editor for improving the readability of RDA.” “This work is already underway. Ms. Oliver will first submit reworded chapter 9, followed by chapters 10, 11, 6, and 17. The work on these five chapters will be completed and put forward for approval by the Joint Steering Committee and review by the U.S. RDA Test Committee by June 2012. It is anticipated that the experience and knowledge gained from work on the initial chapter will inform the subsequent work and schedule.” <http://www.rdatoolkit.org>

The Coordinating Committee received chapter 9 for review in February 2012. For this first chapter, the Coordinating Committee completed its review within four weeks. For chapters 10, 11, and 6, the Coordinating Committee completed its review within four weeks.

To assure balance, the Coordinating Committee included two former RDA test institutions to assist with its review of the chapters—one institution that continued to apply RDA at the end of the Test and one institution that ceased applying RDA at the end of the Test.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed reworded Chapters 9, 10, and 11. The Coordinating Committee was pleased with the rewording in these initial reworded

chapters. Its comments on Chapter 9 served for the rewording of the other chapters that followed. After completing its review of Chapter 6, the Committee determined that it was unnecessary to review a fifth chapter (chapter 17) before the Committee removed itself from the rewording review process.

The [December RDA Toolkit release](#) included the initial publication of reworded chapters of RDA. The copy editor and ALA Publishing are on track to complete the rewording process for all RDA chapters and reissue RDA by late spring/early summer 2013.

The Coordinating Committee deems this recommendation to be completed.

- Define process for updating RDA in the online environment.
  - *Timeframe for completion: within three months.*

**Status:**

JSC will update content of RDA in the RDA Toolkit via two processes:

- (1) constituency proposals for changes in intent of existing instructions and addition of new instructions;
- (2) “fast track” process for correction of typographical errors, addition or removal of examples, addition of terms to vocabularies, addition of references, clarification in wording, etc.

JSC and ALA Publishing decided that major changes to the RDA content would appear twice a year (in 2012, in April and October releases of the Toolkit). Changes from the fast track process could appear in any of the releases of the Toolkit; the first changes from this process in 2012 were in the April release. (Visit <http://www.rda-jsc.org/news.html> for ongoing information.)

The Coordinating Committee deems this recommendation to be completed.

- Improve functionality of the *RDA Toolkit*.
  - Forward to ALA Publishing enhancements needed as gleaned during the U.S. RDA Test and work with ALA Publishing on a timeline for changes.
  - Working with ALA Publishing, identify a process for ongoing usability testing of *RDA Toolkit* enhancements.
  - *Timeframe for completion: within three months.*

**Status:**

Many of the improvements were already under way as the Coordinating Committee was completing its Report and recommendations. ALA Publishing has announced on the *RDA Toolkit* website improvements and future enhancements as well as mechanisms for

involvement of and input from *Toolkit* users. (Visit <http://www.rdatoolkit.org/> for ongoing information)

The Coordinating Committee deems this recommendation to be completed.

- Develop full RDA record examples in MARC and other encoding schemas.
  - Work with ALA Publishing to integrate examples into the *RDA Toolkit*.
  - Include examples for special communities (e.g., serials, rare books, music).
  - *Timeframe for completion: within six months.*

**Status:**

Complete examples by the Canadian Committee on Cataloguing were posted as a free resource (subscription not required) under the "Tools" tab of the RDA Toolkit as part of the January update to RDA. JSC, at its November 2011 meeting, charged a new Examples Group to prepare updated and additional examples in MARC and other encoding schemes to add to RDA instructions.

In addition to examples created and mounted under the purview of the Joint Steering Committee, as noted above, the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) established an RDA Records Task Group. The Task Group collected and reviewed 138 records (eight authority and 130 bibliographic, including three that were non-MARC). The records are consistent with revisions made to RDA that were included in the April 2012 release of the *RDA Toolkit*. The PCC RDA record examples will augment the body of RDA records available to catalogers to help with their understanding and application of RDA instructions. Questions and comments on these records may be submitted to <http://www.loc.gov/catworkshop/contact/>

The Coordinating Committee deems this recommendation to be completed.

- Announce completion of the Registered RDA Element Sets and Vocabularies. Ensure the registry is well described and in synchronization with RDA rules.
  - *Timeframe for completion: within six months.*

**Status:**

On August 1, 2011, the JSC announced: “The Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA (JSC), the DCMI/RDA Task Group (<http://dublincore.org/dcmirdataskgroup/>), and ALA Publishing (on behalf of the co-publishers of RDA) are pleased to announce that the first group of RDA controlled vocabularies have been reviewed, approved, and their status in the Open Metadata

Registry (OMR) changed to ‘published.’ This status change, from ‘new-proposed’ to ‘published,’ signals that the final steps have begun in reviewing the work of the DCM/RDA Task Group and ensuring that the RDA vocabularies (both elements and controlled vocabularies/concepts) are available in a stable form for the builders of applications.”

The Coordinating Committee deems this recommendation to be completed.

- Demonstrate credible progress towards a replacement for MARC.
  - Announce planning statement.
  - Identify the stakeholders, key players and experts needed.
  - Identify tasks and timeline for development.
  - Ensure development is underway.
  - *Timeframe for completion: within 18-24 months.*

**Status:**

There has been much discussion in the past few years about replacing MARC. Replacing MARC was a major recommendation of the Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control that former Associate Librarian Deanna Marcum set up in 2006. Dr. Marcum determined in spring 2011 that LC should begin to address these recommendations to replace the MARC format. She established an internal group to begin the process. The group drafted a general statement that was issued prior to ALA Annual Conference in June 2011. Following ALA Annual, the group drafted and issued in October a general plan on the Bibliographic Framework Transition Initiative. A website was mounted where comments on the plan can be submitted to LC.

LC intends to use a broad cross-section of experts from affected communities to help with the development, e.g., from the Semantic Web, Web content developers, linked data, libraries, publishing. LC has developed a list of experts and stakeholders that should be consulted or engaged. LC will present a briefing on the initiative on Sunday, January 27, 2013, 10:30-12 noon, in the Conference Center of the Washington Convention Center, Room 304. (Visit <http://www.loc.gov/marc/transition/> for more information.)

LC announced in May that it had contracted with Zepheira to help accelerate the launch of the Bibliographic Framework Initiative. A major focus of the project is to translate the MARC 21 format to a Linked Data (LD) model while retaining as much as possible the robust and beneficial aspects of the historical MARC format. Zepheira brings to the project extensive experience in LD technology for library applications. Eric Miller, who was a leader in the Semantic Web Initiative in its early days for the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and who has also worked in the library and information science field, leads the Zepheira team.

The Library of Congress tasked Zepheira to provide a model (or models) that can serve as a strong starting point(s) for discussion, and an analysis of related initiatives underway that will be useful to this effort. LC expects that the proposed model(s) will change and be further tuned based on valuable feedback from the community and a natural progression of requirements as they are addressed. The initial model(s) will serve as a basis for work focused on a demonstration system/service that will then, in turn, be used to further refine the model(s). The expectation is that such iterative feedback loops will eventually ensure a flexible bibliographic framework, a robust reference code, a supporting infrastructure for deployment, and an effective migration plan to support the community in making a transition from MARC to a new framework.

The Library of Congress will now proceed to organize various scenarios to enable community participation that will be broad and include international users and partners, various types of information agencies and libraries, and library suppliers. LC will post information as it emerges from this initial work, especially relating to projected milestones at the Bibliographic Framework Transition Initiative website ([www.loc.gov/marc/transition](http://www.loc.gov/marc/transition)).

In October 2012, the Library of Congress reported two important milestones: the introduction of a draft data model for web-based bibliographic description and a first meeting of a small group of early experimenters currently exploring the feasibility of the proposed model. The new model is simply called BIBFRAME, short for Bibliographic Framework.

The model document is a high-level view of the BIBFRAME model—a primer. The model is a draft and expected to change. The Library shared the model with the community not only to inform of progress being made but also to engender conversation and constructive feedback. The URL for the document *Bibliographic Framework as a Web of Data: Linked Data Model and Supporting Services* is: <http://www.loc.gov/marc/transition/pdf/marclld-report-11-21-2012.pdf>

As the document states in its introduction, much remains to be done, but it is important to remember that this model, like MARC, must be able to accommodate any number of content models and specific implementations of the broader information community, but still enable data exchange between libraries.

The second milestone was partnering with six organizations to join the Library in testing and experimenting with this new model. These organizations, dubbed the Early Experimenters, are: British Library, Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, George Washington University, National Library of Medicine, OCLC, and Princeton University. LC convened the group in Washington, DC, for two days in October. From then until the second meeting held at the Library in December, the institutions and the Library have all be investigating how past and future data might fit into the model. After the meeting in December, they have agreed to share the experience and results with the wider

community with the expectation it will stimulate broader explorations. The Library of Congress will be doing the same, on both counts.

The Coordinating Committee deems this recommendation to be completed.

- Ensure and facilitate community involvement.
  - Prioritize needed updates to practices, decisions, and documentation.
  - Prioritize and submit changes to JSC for RDA content.
  - Determine community involvement in the process, e.g., the role of Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC), OCLC, special interest communities, etc.
  - Determine best method(s) to share decisions with community.
  - *Timeframe for completion: within 12 months.*

**Status:**

LC has been furiously engaged in planning for the eventual implementation of RDA. In that process, it has been working with various external communities to ensure that all are aware of decisions and documentation that will need to be prepared or changed. JSC and ALA Publishing have set up mechanisms for receiving changes to RDA content, some of which can be fast tracked.

Some of the special interest communities are working to make needed changes and soliciting community agreement on outstanding issues. Each community is determining the best method for engaging its community members.

LC offers outreach, assistance, and feedback as warranted and as consulted. One special interest community, music, has established the RDA Music Revisions Facilitation Task Force. The TF is charged to compile known music issues related to RDA identified by the North American JSC constituencies (ALA/MLA, CCC/CAML, and LC). Ongoing work is to continue identifying new issues and prioritizing them.

LC has updated the LC Policy Statements (LCPSs) that replaced the LC Rule Interpretations. As they are updated, a summary of the releases of the LCPSs will be posted. (For more information, visit [http://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/lcps\\_access.html](http://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/lcps_access.html)) One of the Coordinating Committee co-chairs gives updates on the Committee's monitoring efforts at the ALCTS RDA Update session at each ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference.

The Library of Congress and the Program for Cooperative Cataloging announced in December 2012 a title change of the "Library of Congress Policy Statements" to "Library

of Congress-Program for Cooperative Cataloging Policy Statements" (LC-PCC PSs) effective with the October 2012 release of the RDA Toolkit. The new title reflects the ongoing collaboration of LC and PCC in adopting a single set of policy statements, with clear labels indicating any differences in application. Adding "PCC Practice" statements has already begun, and will be ongoing until completed; developing new policy statements, negotiating changes to existing statements, etc., will be an ongoing activity shared by LC and PCC.

Current Library of Congress-Program for Cooperative Cataloging Policy Statements (LC-PCC PSs) are freely available as part of the RDA Toolkit. Go to [Access the RDA Toolkit](#) and click on the "Resources" tab; a license to the Toolkit is not required. This allows fast and easy access through a single source to the most current policy information. Copies of LC-LCC PSs are also available in [Cataloger's Desktop](#).

LC has continued to work with various communities to share its documentation, answer questions, and otherwise engage constituents to facilitate and ease implementation of RDA for all.

Barbara Tillett, chief of LC's Policy & Standard Division (PSD) until her retirement in November 2012, served as the Joint Steering Committee chair, forging an ongoing relationship to JSC matters. PSD policy specialists submit RDA content changes for consideration by JSC.

PCC and OCLC are fully engaged in planning the RDA implementation process. OCLC issued a discussion paper, "Incorporating RDA practices into WorldCat." For more information, visit <http://www.oclc.org/us/en/rda/default.htm>

In Europe, the European RDA Interest Group (EURIG) was formally launched. Consisting of more than eighteen members, EURIG was established to promote common professional interests of users and potential users of RDA in Europe. At its January 27, 2012, meeting it determined, among other next steps, "to send a first set of proposals to JSC in the Fall of 2012. A second set of proposals, requiring more work and coordination with other groups (e.g. FRBR RG) could be addressed in 2013."

The Coordinating Committee deems this recommendation to be completed.

- Lead and coordinate RDA training.
  - Prioritize training focus and schedule led by LC.
  - Engage PCC, Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), and other bodies.
  - *Timeframe for completion: within 18 months.*

**Status:**

LC has developed in house training materials, both for the former RDA test catalogers who resumed applying RDA in November 2011 and, in anticipation of the eventual RDA implementation, for the 400 plus LC staff who will need to be trained. LC is mounting all of its training materials for use by various communities, both national and international. LC is keeping PCC in the loop concerning training matters and timelines. LC determined and announced, in conjunction with U.S. and foreign national libraries a Day One to help with planning its training timeline. In order to train the 400 plus additional staff, LC needed a six month lead time before its Day One. LC's Day One is March 31, 2013, after which all bibliographic and authority data created by the Library will be according to RDA. LC has developed a long range RDA training plan that was mounted and shared broadly following the January 2012 ALA Midwinter in Dallas. The plan is available at:

[http://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/pdf/RDA\\_Long-Range\\_Training\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/pdf/RDA_Long-Range_Training_Plan.pdf)

LC has mounted a new website devoted to sharing the latest news related to RDA implementation planning: Resource Description and Access (RDA)—Information and Resources in Preparation for RDA. The site is located at: <http://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/>

There are links to training documents, presentations, exercises, and examples of records as well as to other RDA related sites. More links will be added as items are created, edited, and updated as preparations for RDA proceed. The page originally created for LC documentation related to the US RDA Test is no longer maintained. Links from that site were migrated to the new site, as appropriate.

LC serves as the PCC Secretariat. The PCC Secretariat is preparing training on RDA authorities for NACO libraries that was rolled out in March 2012. The PCC Standing Committee on Training is assisting the training effort through its role in developing a review mechanism for NACO libraries once their RDA authority training is completed. It is being planned for as many current NACO members as possible to take this training before the PCC Day One for RDA Authorities, helping to ease the transition to RDA. **PCC Day One for RDA Authority Records is March 31, 2013.** PCC Day One for RDA Authority Records is harmonized with the LC RDA Implementation Date, which is also March 31, 2013. The PCC does not see a similar need for a PCC Day One for RDA Bibliographic Records. The PCC Policy Committee believes that each institution should transition to RDA bibliographic record contribution on its own timetable, with the understanding that RDA NACO authority training should precede RDA bibliographic contribution. (Visit <http://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc> for more information.)

One of the Coordinating Committee members serves on the ALCTS RDA Planning and Training Task Force, helping the Coordinating Committee to stay tuned in to ALCTS RDA activities.

LC has augmented the training efforts reported in the January 2012 update in many ways. One exciting one is developing the RDA for NACO Catalogers course and mounting it on the Library's iTunesU site. The course has 42 components (25 webcasts and seventeen slides, quizzes, and exercises). LC will add components as new ones are created. The next one will be for non-Latin materials.

<http://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=528274103>

PCC has been vigorous in its pursuit of readiness for RDA implementation. PCC established various task groups to assure that the issues that need resolving for a community of collaborators to make such a massive change in cataloging instructions as the RDA implementation will entail. Among them are

- Hybrid Record Guidelines TG
- Access Points for Expressions TG
- Acceptable Headings Implementation TG
- Authority Source Citation TG
- CONSER Standard Record TG
- Hybrid Integrating Resources TG
- RDA and the BIBCO Standard Record for Textual Monographs TG
- RDA Policy Statements TG
- RDA Provider-Neutral Model and Reproductions TG
- RDA Records Examples TG

(Visit <http://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/> for more information.)

One of the Coordinating Committee co-chairs continues to give updates as part of the ALCTS RDA Update Forums during ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference.

The Coordinating Committee deems this recommendation to be completed.

- Solicit demonstrations of prototype input and discovery systems that use the RDA element set (including relationships).
  - Identify groups/organizations/vendors that could provide models.
  - Determine availability of funding to support prototype efforts.
  - Engage and produce initial prototypes.
  - Utilize demonstrations in education and training efforts about the library community's new metadata infrastructure.
  - *Timeframe for completion: within 18 months.*

**Status:**

The Coordinating Committee reached out to various entities to solicit information regarding what vendors and other relevant groups are developing. The Committee

worked with Deborah Fritz, MARC Database Consultant with MARC of Quality, to review the work that Ms. Fritz has done to create a template that demonstrates how RDA elements can be used. The application can serve as a prototype of input software using the RDA element sets and relationships; as an element list and schema development tool that might help to show what is needed in an official machine-actionable element list and Schema; as a MARC mapping visualization tool that might help to spur development of machine-actionable crosswalks; and as a training tool.

The Coordinating Committee continued to work with Deborah Fritz and MARC of Quality to give input to the template that she and her partner, Richard Fritz, have developed, RIMMF—RDA in Many Metadata Formats. The Committee is hosted a presentation that she gave for the cataloging community during the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, in June 2012.

The Coordinating Committee deems this recommendation to be completed.