

# Resource Description & Access (RDA) FAQs for RSA Libraries

Revised June 23, 2011

This hand-out is also available at <http://www.alliancelibrarysystem.com/RSAmiscDocuments.cfm>

## **Has a decision been announced regarding the adoption of RDA?**

Yes. On June 13, 2011, the Executives of the Library of Congress (LC), the National Agricultural Library (NAL), and the National Library of Medicine (NLM) issued a statement on the *Report and Recommendations of the U.S. RDA Test Coordinating Committee* regarding the implementation of RDA.

From p. 2 of the cover statement by the LC, NAL, and NLM executives: “In the final analysis, the RDA Test Coordinating Committee recommended that the national libraries adopt RDA with certain conditions and that *implementation will not occur before January 1, 2013.*”

For more information about the U.S. national libraries’ decision regarding RDA, see the following documents:

- The cover statement is available at:  
<http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/rda/rda-execstatement-13june11.pdf> (3 pp.)
- An executive summary of the report is available at:  
<http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/rda/rda-execsummary-public-13june11.pdf> (8 pp.)
- The full *Report and Recommendations* is available at:  
<http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/rda/rdatesting-finalreport-20june2011.pdf> (192 pp.)

## **Will the RDA rules affect an RSA library?**

Yes. Some OCLC member libraries are going to continue to create records using RDA, even though the U.S. national libraries will not implement RDA in the near future. All full records in WorkFlows are OCLC records. You will likely encounter RDA records as you attach your items to records in WorkFlows and also as you search for records in OCLC Connexion, if your library uses Connexion.

## **Will RSA staff provide RDA training?**

Yes. RSA plans to offer workshops to discuss significant differences between AACR2 and RDA that are relevant to copy catalogers at RSA libraries. Information about RDA workshops will be posted to the RSA listserv.

RDA workshops taught by RSA staff are not intended to provide in-depth RDA training for those who perform original cataloging.

## **Where can I access the RDA rules?**

The preferred method to access the RDA rules is through a paid subscription to the online product, the RDA Toolkit. Since the RDA rules are still under development and will not be implemented by the U.S. national libraries in the near future, RSA staff will not obtain a consortial quote so RSA libraries may purchase Toolkit subscriptions at a discount.

If your library would like to subscribe to the Toolkit, go to <http://www.rdatoolkit.org/subscribe>  
Print versions of the RDA rules are also available. Go to the ALA Store: <http://www.alastore.ala.org/>

After RDA is implemented, no sooner than January 1, 2013, RSA staff will poll all RSA libraries to find how many are interested in subscribing to the Toolkit. RSA will use that information to obtain a consortial quote from the RDA Toolkit publisher.

### **How can I search for RDA records in OCLC?**

OCLC created the Descriptive Conventions index to retrieve RDA records. In the command line search box of Connexion Client or Connexion Browser, enter `dx:rda`

Due to the large number of RDA records that have been contributed to OCLC, another search term must be combined with `dx:rda`. A search using only `dx:rda` will retrieve too many records to display in Connexion.

Example: To search for RDA records for books published in 2004, enter `dx:rda and mt:bks and yr:2004`

### **How can I identify an RDA record?**

RDA records will contain 040 \$e with value *rda* and Leader/18 (Desc) coded *i* if ISBD punctuation is used, *c* if ISBD punctuation is used but not present at the end of subfields, or blank if ISBN punctuation is not used.

### **If a record created according to either AACR2 or RDA is in OCLC, will a duplicate record be created according to the other code?**

No. OCLC staff will merge duplicate records. Never edit an RDA record to follow AACR2 rules, and never edit an AACR2 record to follow RDA rules.

### **Does OCLC have a policy statement on RDA cataloging in WorldCat?**

Yes. Go to <http://www.oclc.org/us/en/rda/policy.htm>. This policy remains in effect until further notice.

### **Can I load an RDA record into WorkFlows?**

You may import an RDA record into WorkFlows as long as it *does not use an encoding level value of 3*. RDA records may contain RDA-related MARC fields that have not yet been added to the WorkFlows MARC tag table. The records will load with these fields labeled as “undefined.” The undefined fields do not affect RSACat display.

### **Can I see an RDA record that has been loaded into WorkFlows?**

To see an example of an RDA record in WorkFlows, do a title search for *Improving education for English learners*

To see how that RDA record displays in the RSACat, go to <http://bit.ly/fatRYk>

### **Where can I find documentation the Library of Congress used during its test of RDA?**

Go to the Library of Congress’s web site: <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/RDAtest/rdatest.html>

### **Where can I see examples of RDA records versus AACR2 records?**

- Changes from AACR2 to RDA. Part 1: Description / Adam Schiff  
<http://faculty.washington.edu/aschiff/ALCTSWebinarPart1-WithNotes.pdf>
- Changes from AACR2 to RDA. Part 2: Access Points / Adam Schiff
- <http://faculty.washington.edu/aschiff/ALCTSWebinarPart2-WithNotes.pdf>
- Examples for RDA Compared to AACR2 / Library of Congress  
<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/RDAtest/rdaexamples.html>