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RDA in Germany, Austria, and German-speaking Switzerland – a new standard not only for libraries

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The project for the implementation of the international standard Resource Description and Access (RDA) to libraries in Germany, Austria, and German-speaking Switzerland was completed at the end of 2015 after running for just three years. This project was carried out cooperatively with 16 partners and its success was due to no small extent to the libraries' long tradition of using common standards, despite the cultural diversity of the countries involved. A major asset in implementing such a project was the fact that the German-speaking countries have had a common library-policy body for more than fifteen years in the form of the Committee for Library Standards (Standardisierungsausschuss, STA) in which the national libraries, library networks, public libraries, and special libraries are all represented at the managerial level. From the outset the Committee for Library Standards has concerned itself with the adoption of international standards by libraries and library networks in the German-speaking countries and, in the autumn of 2011 after a long period of preparation, resolved to launch a project for implementing the RDA standard and to oversee the process as the governing body. This resolution was put into action in July 2012 with the establishment of a dedicated RDA working group which reports directly to the

Committee for Library Standards. The German National Library (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, DNB) assumed responsibility for managing and organising the project.

Standards in libraries

Libraries collect, catalogue, and make available different types of materials such as books, CDs, sheet music, and many other resources. They have been doing this for centuries and, having always recorded and kept their data so carefully, they eventually amassed a huge data pool. Libraries are now some of the largest data providers in the world. However, not all libraries do it in the same way. Different cultural backgrounds and organisational circumstances have led to significant degrees of heterogeneity in some cases. As a consequence, it is not possible to share all this excellent quality data for common use. Yet this is the very purpose of using international standards and it was the starting point for the adoption of RDA by the libraries.

But what does the new standard intend to achieve and why has the library community decided to make such a transition? Here, the name says it all: Resource Description and Access, or RDA for short, involves describing materials in a way which makes them accessible. The focus is therefore now clearly and distinctly on the potential users. The Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) model on which the standard is based applies this principle consistently. With its strong user orientation, it basically reverses the approach that libraries have pursued – maybe excessively – to date. The main emphasis is not on what the library's needs are when it comes to describing a resource, rather on the way the user asks when searching for it.

Starting point of the project

A basic requirement was to take the extremely heterogeneous situation in the three countries into account. In Germany, organisation of the academic libraries is largely taken care of by the six regional library networks. The public libraries have a loose organisational structure which includes relevant offices. In addition, however, there are also numerous facilities which do not belong to any network, including many special libraries, such as church or governmental libraries. Furthermore libraries in Germany use different cataloguing formats whereas the cataloguing rules have been nearly consistant according to the Rules for Descriptive Cataloguing in Academic Libraries (Regeln für die alphabetische Katalogisierung in wissenschaftlichen Bibliotheken, RAK-WB).

Most of the academic and administrative libraries in Austria are organized in the Austrian Library Network (Österreichischer Bibliothekenverbund, OBV). Over 80 libraries participate actively in this network through online cataloguing. These include the Austrian National Library (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, ÖNB), the university libraries, the libraries of colleges of education, individual ministries, numerous universities of applied science, and further important collections (e.g. Austrian Academy of Sciences (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, ÖAW), Sigmund Freud Society (Sigmund Freud Gesellschaft). Libraries organised in the Austrian Library Network use a cataloguing format (Aleph Sequential, ASEQ) based on the German-speaking machine readable library exchange format (Maschinelles Austauschformat für Bibliotheken, MAB2), in combination with the RAK-WB.

Even though Switzerland is a very small country, its library scene is characterised by diversity. It reflects the country's federal character and its linguistic variety. Switzerland is a confederation

of 26 cantons, each with a high degree of autonomy and with a cantonal library holding its own heritage collection. Moreover, there is a large number of university and other research libraries, which are also under the authority of the corresponding canton. Broadly speaking, they are organised in two library networks; RERO (Réseau des bibliothèques de Suisse occidentale) is the network for the libraries in the French-speaking part and IDS (Informationsverbund Deutschschweiz) for the libraries in the German-speaking part of Switzerland. The Swiss National Library (Biblioteca nazionale svizzera, BN) is not a member of either of these networks. There is no national coordination of cataloguing rules, codes, authority files or subject headings. MARC 21 is the common format and most libraries use AACR2 or a standard that is based on AACR2, often with in-house rules. The different cataloguing codes and levels make it challenging to de-duplicate bibliographic records and display search results. The same differences mean that data exchange usually requires post-processing. If all libraries adopt RDA, Swiss library catalogues could become more homogenous in the future, making it easier to merge and exchange data.

Yet in order to achieve the goal of genuine standardisation, as many institutions as possible had to be brought on board. This was a major challenge for the project. Based on the structure described above, the Committee for Library Standards and the Office for Library Standards of the German National Library charged with carrying out the project in the German-speaking world has been working continuously since 2001 on the introduction of an international standard for the description of library holdings. First of all the necessary technical conditions had to be created for this and it was necessary to introduce a common technical language for all libraries in the form of the international format MARC 21. Secondly the standard had to be translated as

quickly as possible into German. This was completed at an early stage in the process by the German National Library. This working translation is being continuously improved in an ongoing process. The standard originally came from the Anglo-American environment and its adoption by the German-speaking countries was itself a major challenge, and so this translation played a significant role, not least in terms of its general acceptance.

There was unanimity among all parties that the previous standards and regulations were not capable of meeting the needs of the new technical environment, yet such a change still represented a major upheaval. Sixteen partner institutions were brought together under one organisational umbrella to define the conditions for the transition to the new standard in numerous working groups. The work extended from purely organisational issues, such as the provision of rooms for training the librarians, through to clarification of special matters such as in the field of music materials or old books, for which specialist expertise needed to be found. But it was equally important to solve problems that were not exclusive to libraries and are of great importance for the user institutions. An example of this is the multilingualism in Switzerland.

In the very first step of implementation, agreement was reached regarding special materials and the results were turned into dedicated training materials. These areas include: music, maps, legal and religious writings, and old books.

The Anglo-American RDA users who implemented the standard a few years ago only recently began to focus on this issue. An international workshop on rare materials, for instance, was held during the annual session of the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA (JSC). The RDA project in the German-

speaking world was presented here in the form of a lecture (Aliverti and Behrens 2015).

The Committee for Library Standards began some time ago to incorporate the work on special materials into its portfolio of tasks. Back in 2015 a working group was set up to revise the Rules for the Cataloguing of Literary Estates and Autographs Rules (Regeln zur Erschließung von Nachlässen und Autographen, RNA) including representatives mainly from literary archives. Another working group on old books started work in 2015. Experts from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland are represented in both working groups. The establishment of working groups on manuscripts and printed graphics is planned for 2016. These, too, will report directly to the Committee for Library Standards.

Further work

In addition to completing all the work documents and the practical preparations for the changeover, a further major focus in the last quarter of 2015 was planning the further work with and on the standard RDA. This included deferred items from the implementation project (such as the representation of hierarchies), but also ongoing tasks, such as the supervision and development of the policy statements. The Committee for Library Standards therefore commissioned a further one-year reworking phase until the end of 2016. At the beginning of 2016 the project manager compiled a list of tasks. These were then prioritised together with the Committee for Library Standards. Work on the individual tasks then started immediately. In March 2016 the training materials will be updated on the basis of feedback received during the training sessions. A final release is scheduled for November 2016.

Also at the beginning of 2016, a revision procedure was set up for the German-speaking countries. All changes to the standard RDA, which arise during the annual international review, are published. The German National Library coordinates the tracking of all changes in the translation and in all work and training documents. The RDA-Info-Wiki[1] is the most important communication medium for this and all subsequent work stages.

Strategic realignment of the RDA bodies

Back in 2014, the Committee of Principals resolved to reorganise the RDA bodies. This was based on the RDA's fundamental desire to be applicable internationally for all types of materials from all cultural institutions. The new structure is to be gradually phased in by 2019.

As the first tangible evidence of this, the Committee of Principals was renamed the RDA Board and the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA (JSC) became known as the RDA Steering Committee (RSC) on 6 November 2015. This move was accompanied by a relaunch of the website www.rda-rsc.org.

The new organisational structure of the two bodies will be put into place by 2019 together with all stakeholders and will serve the internationalisation of standards in particular. In addition, profiles for special applications are to be drawn up to promote the use of RDA in other cultural institutions.

Both the RDA Board and the RDA Steering Committee will change their organisational structure. Regional offices are to be set up for Africa Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and Oceania in addition to the existing members:

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[1] https://wiki.dnb.de/display/RDAINFO/RDA-Info.

the North American professional associations and ALA Publishing as the representative of the so-called co-publishers. In September 2015 CILIP and the British Library joined forces to represent the UK. From 2016, the British Library (BL) will be represented by the European member. In consultation with the BL, the German National Library will initially serve as the European representative in the RSC. From 2019, a European representative will then be named by the European RDA Interest Group (EURIG). The only condition stipulated by the RSC for performing these tasks is that the representative should be chosen from the circle of RDA users.

One of the main topics of the European RDA Interest Group (EURIG) at their three-day 2016 session in Riga will therefore be the necessary changes in the organisational and decision-making structure of the existing interest group. One of the purposes here it is to clarify legal issues governing e.g. the cooperation of European RDA users and their joint representation in the RDA committees. During the transitional period, the EURIG representatives have agreed to collaborate more intensively.

Some key project stages are described below.

Standard Elements and Policy Statements for the German-speaking countries

The first work package of the RDA project which started in October 2012 comprised basic decisions for the implementation of RDA in the German-speaking countries and the development of policy statements. In its decision to change to RDA, the Committee for Library Standards also agreed on implementation scenario 2 (linked bibliographic and authority records) (Delsey 2009, 4), which is the scenario that most libraries continued to use for the transition to RDA (El-Sherbini 2013, 75). Nevertheless, there was a need to discuss this scenario in more detail, e.g. the recording of elements of works and expressions in the composite description. The different types of description were also an issue that had to be addressed: the hierarchical description of multipart monographs has a long-standing tradition in the German-speaking countries. RDA provides three different ways of describing a resource (comprehensive, analytical, hierarchical; ("RDA Toolkit" 2016, pt. 1.5) and so whole-part-relationships and their bibliographic description in general had to be analysed.

Before the working group started to go through the whole RDA text, the members of the working group took a closer look at the elements defined in the standard. According to RDA the core elements must be included in a resource description as a minimum (if applicable and readily ascertainable) ("RDA Toolkit" 2016, pt. 0.6.4), and the "inclusion of other specific elements or subsequent instances of these elements is optional". The agency responsible for creating the data may choose: a) to establish policies and guidelines on levels of description and authority control to be applied either generally or to specific categories of resources and other entities […]" ("RDA Toolkit"

2016, pt. 0.6.4). Further elements were defined as mandatory elements for the German-speaking countries and are called "additional elements" ("Zusatzelemente"). The core elements and the additional elements constitute the so called "set of standard elements for the German-speaking countries". Two of these sets were published in October 2013: one for authority data and one for bibliographic data; they are a binding minimum standard for authority data and bibliographic records. Both sets were updated in the course of the project and are currently available in version 1.6.[2]

German policy statements had to be developed and so the RDA working group concentrated on working through the RDA text chapter by chapter to identify those instructions and issues where clarification was needed in order to enable cataloguers to describe resources consistently and in a collaborative environment:

> The basic policy for this process includes orientation towards the current standard, international exchangeability of the data, and cost-effectiveness of recording in the cataloguing institutions. However, for adoption in the German linguistic and cultural environment, adjustments are occasionally needed that are described by policy statements. These, however, should only be inserted at points where the RDA has no or only inadequate rules and where none of the LC-PCC PSs (Library of Congress-Program for Cooperative Cataloguing Policy Statements) is applicable. (Behrens, Frodl, and Polak-Bennemann 2014, 695)

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[2] https://wiki.dnb.de/display/RDAINFO/Regelwerk.

Furthermore, RDA offers alternatives and options at many points. Each of them was discussed and a decision was made whether the alternative or optional instruction should be applied or rejected.

After the approval by the Committee of Library Standards the policy statements were published on the DNB-website and as "D-A-CH" (Anwendungsrichtlinien für den deutschsprachigen Raum, D-A-CH AWR) in the RDA toolkit in August 2014 (continuously updated ever since). D-A-CH comprises policy statements, explanations, examples, and instructions. Some instructions or policy statements need explanation and a more detailed description to help cataloguers to apply the rules as intended. In some of the D-A-CH policy statements there is a link to a public wiki space within the DNB wiki where all the instructions ("Arbeitshilfen") can be found: RDA does not refer to any format, but sometimes guidance is needed in order to choose the corresponding category for each of the elements.

Technical Implementation

During the process of developing the policy statements, the RDA working group identified areas and topics which affected the data formats: those for the exchange of data (MARC 21, MAB 2 – the German equivalent to MARC 21, which is still in use to exchange data from network catalogues to local library systems) as well as the different cataloguing formats (MARC 21, Aleph Sequential (ASEQ) and PICA). A topic group was established to examine these areas and to implement RDA in the different formats. Each project partner was represented in the implementation group for the German-speaking countries, which mainly dealt with the data exchange in MARC 21. Furthermore, sub-groups worked on the implementation in the different cataloguing formats.

The implementation group started its work in January 2014 and focused on the following tasks:

- – consistent application of MARC 21 for data exchange
- – communication with system vendors
- – recommendations for local systems and their formats (PICA, ASEQ)
- – identification of key subjects in dealing with legacy data and recommendations
- – information exchange on technical tools to facilitate RDA cataloguing

Twelve areas were identified which affect data formats and which had to be communicated to the system vendors as well as those responsible for systems in the library networks. A workshop was held in October 2014 to inform the stakeholders about the necessary changes and about the application on which the implementation group had agreed.

In total, 40 changes to the data formats were required to enable RDA cataloguing in different areas, e.g. compilations, multipart monographs, nature of the content. For production, publication, distribution, and manufacture statements the new MARC field 264 was implemented as well as its equivalents in the cataloguing formats of the different library systems. Similarly, the new MARC fields 336, 337, and 338 for content, media, and carrier types had to be taken into account during the implementation phase. The relationships between work, expressions, manifestations, and items, and also the relationships between the aforementioned entities and persons, corporate bodies, and families had to be analysed and some changes were necessary to allow the relationship designators to be recorded. A solution had to be found for the different cataloguing traditions with regard to serial

cataloguing, as the German-speaking countries focus on the latest issue of a serial when creating the bibliographic description.

The changes were documented and are publicly available on the RDA-Info-Wiki.

Training

From the beginning of the project in 2012 (and even before), information events and basic courses have been offered in the project partners' institutions. Library staff have been familiarised with RDA basics, the RDA Toolkit, and FRBR. Moreover, the project of implementing RDA was publicly announced throughout the German-speaking library community and those involved and engaged in the RDA working group were keen to give presentations at conferences to update cataloguers, library staff as well as the interested public and report on the project progress.

The staff training in RDA cataloguing completed the implementation and was one of the main tasks in the last year of the project. The work package "Training materials and courses" comprised not only the development of training modules and the necessary materials but also the training itself. A topic group responsible for the training concept and materials for cataloguers of bibliographic resources was established in May 2014.

A sub-working group for authority data was set up in December 2012 which was responsible for the implementation of RDA in the authority file as well as for the training. The cataloguing of authority records according to RDA in the Integrated Authority File (Gemeinsame Normdatei, GND) was implemented in October 2014 and marked the first milestone on the way to the new standard. To prepare the cataloguers of authority data for the

transition, some basic training modules had to be ready by the first quarter of 2014: a general introduction to FRBR, to RDA, and the RDA Toolkit.

This was in line with the plan to develop training modules, similar to the Library of Congress' approach. The topic group responsible for the training drew up a detailed training concept, defined target groups for the training (e.g. acquisitions staff, cataloguers) and a timeframe for the development of training materials. The following modules and associated training topics were announced in a public statement in December 2014:[3]

1 Fundamentals, basics and introduction (FRBR, RDA Toolkit, chapter 0, policy statements, set of standard elements etc.)

2 Basics of RDA cataloguing – theory (new elements in RDA, preferred source of information, chapter 1, transcribe vs. record etc.)

3 Basics of RDA cataloguing – practice (composite description, chapters, and policy statements related to elements for manifestations, expressions, and works and their relationships etc.)

4 Authorities (instructions and policy statements requiring the recording of all authority data according to RDA)

5A RDA advanced – monographs (multipart monographs, integrated resources, compilations, reproductions, conference papers etc.)

5B RDA advanced – serials (serials and works, subseries, creators, etc.)

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[3] https://wiki.dnb.de/download/attachments/94676180/Schulungskonzept_end.pdf.

6 Special Topics (rare books, religious works, musical works, etc.).

The training materials were prepared cooperatively by the respective topic groups, e.g. the group that had worked on whole-part-relationships compiled the training material for compilations and multipart monographs. All the materials included knowledge gained during a testing phase of the instructions and the corresponding policy statements.

For all the contents that had to be prepared, standardised templates for Word documents and Power Point presentations were supplied that all topic groups had to use. A collection of examples was built up and complemented throughout the project duration.

First and foremost the material was prepared without any consideration of the different formats. Small groups then translated all the documents and presentations into the cataloguing formats in use at the project partners' institutions. Regular updates were issued as well, and by the end of March 2015 the training material was finalised and published under CC-BY-NC-SA.[4]

The training itself was conducted autonomously by the project partners and different approaches were taken: some used e-learning-platforms, others took a train-the-trainer-approach etc. Standardised certificates for the training were developed to guarantee transparency.

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[4] https://wiki.dnb.de/display/RDAINFO/Schulungen.

On January 1st 2016 the transition to RDA officially became reality and the German-speaking countries have been cataloguing according to the new standard since then.

Feedback from RDA cataloguers

FRBR and RDA have been in use by the library community for more than ten years and many cataloguers reported that they were pleased when the training courses finally started as they were particularly interested in the new concepts and the implementation of the standard that promises to provide "a comprehensive set of guidelines and instructions covering all types of content and media".[5]

The transition period for the shift to RDA cataloguing lasted from October to December 2015. Some institutions started earlier (depending on the training schedule), others at the beginning of 2016. There are no concrete and comprehensive survey results yet about the cataloguers' first experiences with RDA, but some feedback was given during the training sessions and when the first questions arose during daily cataloguing practice: cataloguers like the idea of describing the bibliographic universe according to FRBR entities and are especially fond of the composite description, as they have the possibility to link bibliographic records to work records in the authority file. Furthermore, the new elements of content, media, and carrier type are much appreciated as are the relationship designators to express the relationships between WEMI and persons, families, and corporate bodies. However, they admit that the wealth of

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[5] http://www.rda-rsc.org.

instructions can be confusing although the RDA Toolkit itself is easy to use as an online tool and is searchable.

Specific requirements regarding multilingualism in Switzerland

Switzerland can be divided into four linguistic areas where (Swiss) German, French, Italian, and Romansh are traditionally spoken. Switzerland has three official languages: German, French, and Italian, while Romansh is the official language for communication with people who use it as their mother tongue. The federal constitution requires the government to treat these languages equally. Furthermore, an ordinance[6] stipulates that administrative units of the Confederation, e.g. the National Library (NL), provide their most important website content in German, French, and Italian. It follows that this should also apply for the online catalogue Helveticat, the national bibliography Swiss Book and the Bibliography on Swiss History.

RDA Rule 0.4.3.7 reads as follows: "Data that are not transcribed from the resource itself should reflect common usage in the language and script chosen for recording the data. The agency creating the data may prefer one or more languages and scripts." This corresponds to the linguistic preferences in AACR2 (Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR et al. 2005, pt. 0.12). RDA Rule 0.11.2 demands "… elements [added by the agency] are generally recorded in a language and script preferred by the agency creating the data." ("RDA Toolkit" 2016, pt. 0.4.3.7)

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[6] https://www.admin.ch/opc/it/classified-compilation/20101351/201410 010000/441.11.pdf.

In conformity with the law, the NL's practice is to provide additional information in the bibliographic description in either German, French or Italian, depending on the language of the resource. The current situation is as follows: the language of the bibliographic records is also determined by the language of the resource. Italian documents are described in Italian, documents in other Romance languages in French and documents in all the other languages (including Romansh) in German. The continuation of this practice is in accordance with RDA, but not with the D-A-CH policy statements. D-A-CH policy statements 0.11.2 defines German as the working language. Approximately 25% of the catalogued resources of the NL are publications described in French or Italian. However, only a small proportion of these need additional information recorded by the NL and may be in conflict with the policy statement for the German-speaking countries.

The working language of the Integrated Authority File GND is German. However, personal, corporate, and place names in the authority records reflect the language of the resource, which may not necessarily be in one of the official languages. Alternatives in other languages, including French and Italian, are recorded as cross-references. In the authority records of the GND we add a language code to the cross-references in the official Swiss languages. The online catalogues of the NL and the Informationsverbund Deutschschweiz (IDS) analyse this code and display the headings in the users' requested/chosen/preferred language.

The policy statements for the German-speaking countries are being translated by the IDS into French. The translation helps the cataloguing staff with French as their native language to understand the RDA rules more easily.

Alignment between special materials and RDA in the German speaking countries

The Committee for Library Standards, as the decision-making body of the RDA project, represents only libraries and library networks. Under the RDA approach applicable for all resources of cultural heritage, the alignment between special materials and RDA has just started in the German speaking countries. The Committee for Library Standards has adjusted the project organization to the needs of the special materials. The Committee establishes joint working groups between libraries and non-librarian communities. This process started in 2014 with the formation of a joint working group between libraries and literary archives. In 2015, the Committee established working groups for manuscripts and rare books. A working group for graphic materials is at the planning stage.

Working groups for special cataloguing are a bridge between the communities. Hereinafter the organization of the joint working groups based on the example of the literary archives will be highlighted. The Joint Working Group for Literary Estates and Autograph Rules acts on behalf of the Committee for Library Standards and the KOOP-LITERA international. The KOOP-LITERA is the network of literary archives in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Luxembourg. The KOOP-LITERA international is editor-in-chief of The Literary Estates and Autographs Rules. The RNA is 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 Joint Working Group acts on behalf of the Committee for Library Standards and the KOOP-LITERA international. In the Joint Working Group, cataloguing specialists from literary archives and libraries work closely together. At the

end of the process, the Committee for Library Standards and the KOOP-LITERA international approves the revised rules.

The goal is not the full integration of the RNA in the RDA. The aim is to create guidelines that are interoperable with RDA and distinguish between the descriptive and the access point parts of the rules.

For the access points it is not intended to develop separate rules or rule interpretations for literary archives. The authority file GND controls the access points. The GND already applies RDA. Therefore, the access points in literary archives will be constructed according to RDA upon clarification of the GND guidelines. With the identification of specific needs for the literary archives for the access points (e.g. a new relationship designator) it is possible to add these requirements to the RDA Toolkit using the official procedure (RDA proposal/discussion paper or a policy statement). The use of the same access points and control of the access points by the authority file GND is the most important part of the alignment between the RNA and the RDA. Access points with GND identifiers will provide easier access to the collections. Also, the identifiers of the authority records make it possible to link a library catalogue with a database of a literary archive, or other online services, e.g. catalogues or Wikipedia.

The descriptive part of the rules needs to be completely revised. The Joint Working Group checks every instruction and avoids any contradiction of RDA. RDA does not have a solution for every cataloguing challenge for every resource. For example, there are not enough rules for cataloguing personal papers of authors or autographs. At the end, this revised part of the RNA will be a RDA policy statement for literary archives in the German language context. This statement will cover the needs of

the literary archives and will make the work of the cataloguers easier.

The Joint Working Group for Literary Estates and Autograph Rules is a pilot project. This Working Group is a model for further working groups, e.g. manuscripts, rare books or graphic materials.

In the near future, it is necessary to set up an organizational structure for all cultural institutions that guarantees interoperability of the rules. The precondition for this development towards acceptance of other standards is that the global and local RDA committees are open to the needs of the communities. Such further development can only succeed if all cultural institutions work with each other as equals.

Alignment between graphic materials and museums' collections (e.g. sculptures, physical objects) is only possible with a major development of RDA. The FRBR model and RDA are optimized for cataloguing traditional library collections like published monographs and serials. Cataloguing guidelines for non-library collections should be based on FRBRoo.[7] Thus, the progress and findings of FRBRoo should be integrated in RDA. Other conceptual work concerns the work entity, titles, hierarchies, and RDA implementation scenarios. In the context of unique objects, the definition of the work entity and the delimitation/demarcation of the other WEMI-entities should be reanalysed. A lot of objects do not have a title. A title is always mandatory in library cataloguing rules. The title is the heart of the cataloguing record. The harmonization of archive or museum standards with RDA requires the librarians' title concept to be

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[7] http://www.cidoc-crm.org/docs/frbr_oo/frbr_docs/FRBRoo_V2.4.pdf.

revised. In archival cataloguing models, the provenance of the items is more important than in library cataloguing models. Harmonization of the ISAD(G) provenance model (hierarchical description)[8] with the RDA instructions to series/items is desirable. The development of RDA implementation scenarios for museum and archive collections would be useful.

Cataloguing following implementation of RDA

The first stage of implementation is now complete. The 16 partners have begun to catalogue using RDA. The first data set based on RDA was entered into the database of the Austrian Library Network on 17 August 2015. The German National Library followed suit on 1 October 2015. The other project partners joined in successively.

As might be expected for a project of this magnitude, it makes little sense to claim that "Everything is done". Despite careful preparation it is impossible to predict how the processes will function in actual operation. It is also not yet possible to exploit the full range of opportunities offered by the RDA standard. Because this was apparent to all concerned from the very beginning, the launch was always referred to as the first implementation step. This logically implies at least a second step. The last half of 2015 therefore saw not only intensive implementation of the first step but also planning of the second.

In preparation for the transition to the RDA cataloguing code as described above, a set of standard elements was also generated for the German-speaking countries as minimum requirements for

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[8] http://www.ica.org/10207/standards/isadg-general-international-standard-archival-description-second-edition.html.

describing a resource. RDA itself prescribes the less comprehensive set of core elements as the minimum standard. The standard also permits deeper cataloguing based on "cataloguer's judgement".

The three national libraries involved in the project have developed a tiered cataloguing concept. It provides for three levels of cataloguing. Level 3 corresponds to the set of core elements, level 2 to the set of standard elements, and level 1 includes all the descriptive elements featured in the work itself.

In September 2015 the German National Library and the German library networks agreed to draw up a common procedure for future RDA-based cataloguing by summer 2016. All those involved will collect their production data in the first six months after switching to RDA. Until these figures can be analysed, all resources will be catalogued at level 2 (standard elements set).

Outlook

The successful implementation of the international standard RDA within the given timeframe has been deeply satisfying. Following the intensive training period in the autumn and winter of 2015/2016, the system is now being used in daily operation. If a project is to enjoy continuing success, however, those involved cannot afford to rest on their laurels. Library standards, too, need to move with the times and improve. In addition to completing the remaining tasks, it is important to maintain the cooperation established in the project. The pool of experts from the three participating countries brought together for the project should remain in place at the organisational level, for example, and made judicious use of for further development. Other cultural institutions, such as archives and museums, should also be

included in this process. The latter will be one of the focuses of the follow-up work; the foundations were laid for this during the project itself. The German National Library will be working hard over the coming years to ensure that these contributions from the German-speaking countries are acknowledged at the international level. From April 2016 it will be representing European interests in the standard's international governing bodies. This is a goal that can only be achieved based on active cooperation with the other library partners which was established in the now-completed project.

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ABSTRACT: The library community in Germany, Austria, and German-
speaking Switzerland achieved a common goal at the end of 2015. After more
than two years of intensive preparation, the international standard RDA was
implemented and the practical work has now started. The article describes the
project in terms of the political and organizational situation in the three
countries, and points out the objectives which have been achieved as well as
the work which is still outstanding. An overview is given of the initial efforts
to align special materials with RDA in the German-speaking countries, and the
tasks associated with the specific requirements arising from the multilingual
nature of Switzerland are described. Furthermore, the article reports on the
current strategic developments in the international RDA committees like the
RDA Steering Committee (RSC) and the European RDA Interest Group
(EURIG).

KEYWORDS: RDA; Germany; Austria; Switzerland; FRBR; Cataloguing.