What role can RDA/RDF play in the transition to linked library data?

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QUESTION ONE

RDA has been painstakingly aligned with the LRM; BIBFRAME has not. One of the most talked-about areas of concern is the absence of an expression entity in BIBFRAME. Could this, or other incompatibilities between RDA and BIBFRAME, have significant impacts?

QUESTION TWO

The RDA Toolkit can be used by libraries to produce data for different implementation scenarios: flat files, bibliographic/authority records, relational or object-oriented databases, and linked open data. For the final scenario, linked open data, RDA data can be created using the RDA element sets expressed in RDF. However, several libraries use the BIBFRAME linked-data model for creating data based on the RDA standard. Should they be using RDA-RDF?

QUESTION THREE

RDA/LRM/RDF contains elements that are essentially reified property chains, known as shortcuts, while BIBFRAME features many property chains that are not reified as specific elements - what many people call "nested" data. What are the pros and cons of property chains and reification, and do they cause interoperability problems?

QUESTION FOUR

Is the RDA Registry conceived as a standalone resource for creating linked library data? Why does the RDA Registry continue to be developed while many influential libraries are adopting BIBFRAME?

QUESTION FIVE

How can libraries best manage all the data models available for library linked data? Are there more sustainable models than BIBFRAME and RDA?

Panelist biographies

Karen Coyle

Karen Coyle has been involved in metadata standards and development since the early days of library automation. She has served on standards committees including the MARC standards group (MARBI), NISO OpenURL standard, and the ePub standard. She has served on standards committees of the World Wide Web Consortium, and is currently working with the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative on a standard for application profiles. Her web site is http://kcoyle.net.

Gordon Dunsire

Gordon Dunsire is an independent consultant, following a career in academic libraries and digital library research. He was Chair of the RDA Steering Committee during most of the 3R Project, and remains a member of the RSC Technical Working Group. He has participated in the development of IFLA bibliographic standards including the Library Reference Model (LRM), ISBD: International Standard Bibliographic Description, and UNIMARC. He is a recipient of an IFLA Medal for his work in bibliographic linked data and the Semantic Web. He is co-author of "Bibliographic information organization in the Semantic Web" and presents and publishes at international level. For a list of accessible presentations and publications, see http://www.gordondunsire.com/publications.htm.

Diane Hillman

Diane Hillmann is a partner in the consulting firm Metadata Management Associates, currently working with IFLA on their vocabulary management services. MMA was part of the initial RDA Registry, built on its Open Metadata Registry platform (http://metadataregistry.org). From 1977 to 2008 she was associated with Cornell University Library, as a Law cataloger, technical services manager, and manager of authorities and maintenance processes for the Cornell Library's database. She was Director of Library Services and Operations for the National Science Digital Library between 2000-2005 (http://nsdl.org). Diane was a founding member of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative and a member of its Usage Board and Advisory Board for many years. She edited (with Elaine Westbrooks) "Metadata in Practice," published by ALA Editions (2004) and published frequently on digital library and metadata issues.

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Damian Iseminger

Damian Iseminger is Head of the Music Bibliographic Access Section of the Music Division at the Library of Congress, a position he has held since January 2017. Prior to joining the Library of Congress, he was the Head of Technical Services for the New England Conservatory Library from 2007-2017.

Damian is heavily involved with the development of Resource Description and Access, the international standard for creating metadata for resources collected by libraries, and is the current chair of the RDA Steering Committee Technical Working Group. At the Library of Congress he is participating in the development of Library of Congress Policy Statements and Documentation for use with RDA with the Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division of the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access directorate.

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Sofia Zaponidou

Dr. Sofia Zapounidou is an information professional working for the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and a member of the Standing Committee of the IFLA Cataloguing Section. Her doctoral studies focused on the interoperability between well-known bibliographic data models. As a linked data enthusiast, she collaborates in LD projects with partners including the National Library of Greece, the Publications Office of the European Union, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the Ionian University, the International Hellenic University, and Open Knowledge Greece.

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