

RDA: Restructured, Redesigned, but...

Keeping up when the Toolkit is out of reach

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The last decade of changes in the cataloging landscape have had implications for equity

There are lots of reasons folks don't have access

Remember AACR2?

One book with occasional integrating supplements

Few continuing costs

Accessible language

Broken up into chapters by format

Cataloging was still complicated, but access to the rules was less prohibitive

RDA Toolkit Cost

Subscription model - yearly fees

Examples (In US Dollars)

1 user = \$195

2 users = \$185 per user x 2 = \$370

5 users = \$181 per user x 5 = \$905

20 users = \$166 per user x 20 = \$3320

This might be easy for organizations with resources who are committed to metadata work, but it is certainly not realistic for many.

Examples:

- 1 part-time cataloger
- Just a few staff who do everything
- Unsupportive pursestring-holders

RDA Toolkit language

Catalogers need to learn a lot of new vocabulary and build a new conceptual understanding. In spite of years of trainings so far, many of us still struggle. In addition, the official RDA Lab trainings offered on the Toolkit website cost several hundred dollars

For an institution with limited resources or where cataloging is undervalued, direct use of RDA's difficult text is unlikely to happen

Even folks with access can struggle

“We used it so little that we cancelled it... we were automatically renewing it without thinking, but the usage stats were terrible”--Jennie-Claire Crate, University of Kent

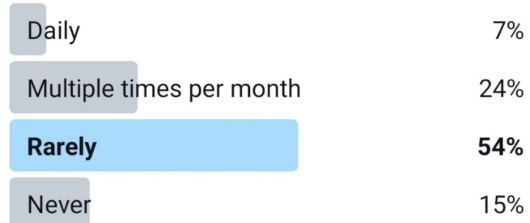
“In Germany, we have a national license, so every cataloger should have access. But I believe the number of concurrent users was reduced considerably some time ago because it just wasn't needed”--Heidrun Wiesenmüller



Lorier Expectations

@lorierlevels

[#askacataloger](#) Hey catalogers! Quick poll. If your organization has an RDA Toolkit subscription, how often do you use it?



41 votes • Final results

12:49 PM · 01 Apr 21 · [Twitter for Android](#)

So you don't have access. What can you do?



Think of cataloging iteratively

- Different encoding levels exist for a reason... not everyone catalogs to a Full Level standard
 - Something is better than nothing
 - Adding a level 7 (formerly K) record gives the next cataloger something to work off of
- There are (still) no perfect records!

Books that break it down

Brenndorfer, Thomas. *RDA Essentials*. 2nd edition. Published July 2020. Available from ALA for \$99.99.

James, Kate. *RDA in Practice: a Workbook*. To be published Spring 2021. Available from ALA for \$59.99.

Maxwell, Robert L. *Maxwell's Handbook for RDA*. To be published Fall 2021. Available from ALA for \$129.99.

Oliver, Chris. *Introducing RDA: a Guide to the Basics after 3R*. 2021. Available from ALA for \$46.99

Unfamiliar formats

**When you don't know
the answer**



**but you still attempt
the question. 🙄**

OLAC resources

OLAC Publications and Training

- Freely downloadable PDF documents on DVD, Blu-ray, video game, and object cataloging
- Easy to read and lots of examples

People to ask

Colleagues: even if you are a solo cataloger, is there someone else in your county or consortium? A contact through OLA TSRT (hint hint)?

FB group: Troublesome Catalogers and Magical Metadata Fairies

#askacataloger hashtag on Twitter

RDA-L list... and many others

Library of Congress resources

Catalogers Learning Workshop (CLW)

- Links to Library of Congress' RDA training materials
- Not yet updated for use with the 3R text - some portions assume you have Toolkit access
- Recordings explaining underlying concepts, guided training worksheets, and record examples for different formats
- Explore! -- OLAC, ALCTS (now part of CORE), OCLC training resources, and others

Or... what if...



GET WILD

What if you used another standard?

AACR2r or hybrid

- There are still a number of libraries and other organizations contributing records in AACR2 with added RDA fields
- Remember to use an ELvl code that indicates the level at which you are able to catalog - think iteratively!

Open Cataloging Rules

- In development -- steering group is actively working
- Seeks to be a freely accessible, understandable cataloging code under a Creative Commons license
- Get involved!

We are all in this
(bibliographic
universe) together

Questions or comments?

Thanks!

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