



IFLA Cataloguing Section's liaison to ALA CC:DA

Report on the American Library Association's Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access

2005-2006

Submitted to the Standing Committee of the IFLA Cataloguing Section

The Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access, commonly known as CC:DA, is a unit of the Cataloging and Classification Section of the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). The committee consists of nine appointed voting members plus ex-officio positions for the ALA Representative to the Joint Steering Committee for the Revision of AACR (JSC), the Library of Congress, and OCLC, thirteen liaisons from other ALA units, and fifteen liaisons from non-ALA organizations. The IFLA Cataloguing Section became one of those organizations in 2005. The current chair of CC:DA is Cheri Folkner from Boise State University in Idaho. CC:DA is the major locus for discussion of descriptive cataloging issues, especially changes to cataloging rules, in the United States. It meets twice a year during the Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference of ALA. Usually there are two sessions lasting about three hours each at each conference. Occasionally there are additional sessions when needed, for example to discuss a draft of RDA (*Resource Description and Access*). Between conferences, the committee conducts much of its business electronically.

In the past year, most of CC:DA's attention has been focused on the development of RDA, the successor to the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd edition* (AACR2). The Joint Steering Committee is the body responsible for developing RDA. It has appointed an editor, Tom Delsey, formerly of the National Library of Canada, and a project manager, Marjorie Bloss of Chicago. RDA evolved out of a desire to modernize AACR2 for the digital world of the 21st century, reorganize the rules for more consistency, make the rules more international, and appeal to other metadata communities outside the library world in order to facilitate better exchange of data with providers and users of information resources in all formats. RDA is designed to be a Web-based tool, but there will also be a print version. Publication is expected in 2008.

RDA is evolving to emphasize the content of bibliographic records with less emphasis on their display. It is taking on some aspects of a data dictionary <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_dictionary> with a tendency toward recording elements in isolation from each other. It has recently been found necessary to introduce the idea of

sub-types and sub-elements to show the relationships between elements. A much greater emphasis has been placed on the FRBR user tasks and FRBR group 1 and group 2 entities than in AACR2. On the other hand, ISBD display order and punctuation are being relegated to an appendix. The old concept of main entry is being redesignated as “primary access point”; there is still much discussion about whether this concept is still useful.

A draft of part A of RDA has been published and is undergoing constituency review. It covers resource description and relationships between resources. A draft of part B is expected at the end of 2006 and will cover access point control, i.e. authority records.

CC:DA takes a strong interest in standards and documents that emanate from IFLA, especially FRBR and the ISBDs. Whenever a document in the field of descriptive cataloging is issued for worldwide review, the committee usually establishes a task force to review it and make comments. For example, last October it submitted comments on *Functional Requirements for Authority Records: A Conceptual Model*, in May it issued comments on the draft revision of ISBD(A), and at this writing is preparing to review the consolidated edition of the ISBDs.

URLs

ALA Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alctscontent/catalogingsection/catcommittees/ccda/ccda.htm>

Resource Description and Access

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rda.html>

Prototype demonstration of RDA

<http://www.rdaonline.org/>

Submitted by

John Hostage

Liaison to ALA Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access