

RDA (Resource Description and Access) Resources

RDA is the new cataloging standard designed for the digital environment that is replacing the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, 2nd edition (AACR2r). The American Library Association, the Canadian Library Association, and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals are the co-publishers of RDA (and were responsible for AACR2, as well). **Note:** MARC has been updated for RDA, but the Library of Congress has started an initiative to replace MARC.

According to these RDA co-publishers, RDA will provide:

- “A flexible framework for describing all resources - analog and digital
- Data that is readily adaptable to new and emerging database structures
- Data that is compatible with existing records in online library catalogues” (JSC-RDA Committee, 2010)

Library Automation systems can generally accept RDA records and may support changing entirely to RDA format. Destiny Library Manager, for example, has supported RDA records since 2011, but after March 31, 2013 (the Library of Congress' RDA implementation date), Follett began offering MARC records in the new RDA format. Follett's existing Alliance Plus records (Follett's MARC database) will not be converted to RDA, but new Alliance Plus records will be available in RDA format. Districts have the option in Destiny to change their preferred MARC record format to RDA format. Other vendors offer AACR2 to RDA conversion services. Most libraries will have a combination of RDA, AACR, and AACR2 records with blends of old and new MARC fields for years to come.

The primary changes in RDA when compared with AACR2:

- RDA focuses on relationships between works from the intellectual content (entities) to the form of the item (how it is experienced)—entities, expressions, manifestations, and items—to better help users find just what they need.
- RDA specifies certain data elements as **core elements** that have to exist in a record: Title Proper, Statement of Responsibility relating to the Title Proper (245 _c), Edition Statement, Serial numbering, Publication Data, Extent of Resource (if known), Content Type, Carrier Type, Series (if applicable), and Identifiers for the Manifestation (ISBN, etc.). Other elements can be added, but they are not required.
- RDA assumes that a lot of resources will be in **electronic/digital format**.
- **3 new MARC fields** that use controlled vocabularies of terms (unless the list does not include a term for the item) replace the General Material Descriptor (GMD)/245 _h are the most visible change in RDA, though there are many additional changes:

336 Content Type

Form of communication/way to be perceived

337 Media Type

Type of intermediation device required to access resource

338 Carrier Type

*Format of storage medium
(can be a trade name if not in list)*

See p. 2 of this document and <http://rdabasics.com/2012/09/10/content-media-and-carrier-fields/> and

<http://www.loc.gov/standards/valuelist/rdacontent.html> for more information about these fields.

- The **264 field**, **Publisher** replaces the **260 field**, **Publication, Distribution, etc. (Imprint)**, and **abbreviations** are not as widely used in this or other fields unless transcribed from the work itself or unless used for measurements (cm, mm, etc.). There is no longer a “home country” provision; RDA uses the first place of publication listed.
- Headings and added entries are now called **Authorized Access Points** in RDA.
- RDA focuses on content more than how the data is to be entered into a record. RDA is more flexible than AACR2 in many ways and will give instructions but will often offer an option (alternative instruction) for the library to do what it wants to do. With that, it is important for agencies to be consistent and to establish policies. For example, RDA has **no requirements for punctuation**. If a library wants to continue using punctuation, RDA offers an Appendix D to follow. RDA offers many more options for many fields than exact instructions as AACR2 required. RDA also allows for looking for information outside the item (publisher's web site, Amazon.com, etc.) if it will help identify the item for users.
- RDA emphasizes transcribing what you see in the item as far as capitalization, punctuation, abbreviations, etc. to make things as clear to users as possible. RDA generally **avoids abbreviations** to take full advantage of digital tools' searching capabilities and because abbreviations were used previously in cataloging to suit the limitations of a card catalog card.

The main exceptions are for:

- Units of measurement
- Abbreviations that are regularly used in resources and are commonly understood by users (e.g., SAT)
- Abbreviations that a resource uses to identify itself. For example, edition is no longer abbreviated as ed. unless that is how the resource lists it. Use 3rd Edition, not Third Edition, if that is on the resource. Series volumes are no longer abbreviated if the resource does not abbreviate the term (volume is volume, not v.; number is number, not no.).
- There is a lot less Latin in RDA. For example, [et al.] is no longer used in the Statement of Responsibility (245 _c); all contributors are listed or optionally, e.g., {and 3 others}.
- Dates and associated information for names are spelled out. For example, approximately, not ca., is used; If a month is included for a person's dates, it is spelled out (August, not Aug.). Born is used instead of b.; died instead of d.

To find out more about RDA, please visit the following resources:

RDA Toolkit ([the online source for the RDA standard, it is a subscription resource but offers some helpful free resources](http://www.rdatooolkit.org/))
<http://www.rdatooolkit.org/>

Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA (JSC)
<http://www.rda-jsc.org/rda.html#faq>

Library of Congress' Resource Description and Access (RDA): Information and Resources in Preparation for RDA
<http://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/>

RDA in MARC; RDA Examples

<http://www.loc.gov/marc/RDAMarc.html> - Includes all changes to MARC for use with RDA
<http://www.loc.gov/catworkshop/RDA%20training%20materials/SCT%20RDA%20Records%20TG/index.html>

Ask Ms. MARC: MARC and RDA; Resource Description and Access (RDA)
<http://www.follettsoftware.com/askmsmarc.cfm>

“Getting Ready for RDA Without Panicking” by Mary L. Mastraccio (13 Jan. 2013)
<http://www.rdatooolkit.org/blog/511>

Library of Congress Documentation for the RDA (Resource Description and Access) Test: Examples for RDA - Compared to AACR2
<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/RDAtest/rdaexamples.html>

Fall Update on RDA by Harry Gaylord (Including sample RDA MARC and AACR2 Records)
<http://www.btsb.com/libcorner/tmyk/RDAupdatefall2011.php>

Titlewave: RDA Cataloging – When You’re Ready, We’re Ready
<http://www.titlewave.com/intro/cataloging.html>

Library of Congress’ Bibliographic Framework (BIBFRAME) Transition Initiative (for replacing MARC)
<http://www.loc.gov/marc/transition/>

Changes from AACR2 to RDA by Adam L. Schiff (University of Washington Libraries)
<http://faculty.washington.edu/aschiff/BCLAPresentationWithNotes-RevMay2011.pdf> - Great examples of MARC field changes
<http://faculty.washington.edu/aschiff/OCLCPresentation-Part2-WithNotes.pdf>

Content Type (336), Media Type (337) and Carrier Type (338) Examples:

Book:

336 _a text _2 rdacontent	337 _a unmediated _2 rdamedia	338 _a volume _2 rdacarrier
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eBook:

336 _a text _2 rdacontent	337 _a computer _2 rdamedia	338 _a online resource _2 rdacarrier
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Audiobook (non-musical sound recording)

336 _a spoken word _2 rdacontent	337 _a audio _2 rdamedia	338 _a audio disc _2 rdacarrier
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DVD:

336 _a two-dimensional moving image _2 rdacontent	337 _a video _2 rdamedia	338 _a video disc _2 rdacarrier
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Equipment:

336 _a [depends on the type of equipment] _2 rdacontent	337 _a unmediated _2 rdamedia	338 _a object _2 rdacarrier
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Note: Use *online resource* as the **carrier** for all online resources (e.g., eBooks, downloadable/digital audio, downloadable/digital video, etc.).

Computer Software:

336 _a two-dimensional moving image
 _2 rdacontent

337 _a computer
 _2 rdamedia

338 _a computer disc
 _2 rdacarrier

Carrier can be a
trade name if not
 in list of terms in
3.3.1.3.

336 _a computer program
 _2 rdacontent

Note: The Content Type (336) field is repeatable.

Music CD:

336 _a performed music
 _2 rdacontent

337 _a audio
 _2 rdamedia

338 _a audio disc
 _2 rdacarrier

Musical Score:

336 _a notated music
 _2 rdacontent

337 _a unmediated
 _2 rdamedia

338 _a volume
 _2 rdacarrier

Map:

336 _a cartographic image
 _2 rdacontent

337 _a unmediated
 _2 rdamedia

338 _a sheet
 _2 rdacarrier

Examples of some of changes to abbreviations in the physical description (extent of item) (Glennan, 2014)

AACR2	RDA
196 p.	196 pages
22 vol.	22 volumes
ca. 500 p.	approximately 500 pages
[75] p. of plates	75 unnumbered pages of plates

Examples of some of changes to physical description terms

AACR2	RDA
p.	pages
ca.	approximately
i.e.	that is
acc.	accompanied
unacc.	unaccompanied
arr.	arranged
ill.	illustrations
col.	color
facsim.	facsimile
ed.	edition
S.I.	[place of publication not identified]
s.n.	[publisher not identified]
n.d.	[date of publication not identified]

Examples of some of changes to Relationship Designators for those associated with a resource

AACR2	RDA
ill.	illustrator
pro.	producer
drt	director
act	actor
cmp	composer

Works Cited

"Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA: RDA." *Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA: RDA*. Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA (JSC), N.p. 2010. Web. 2 Mar. 2013. <<http://www.rda-jsc.org/rda.html>>.

Glennan, Kathy. "A Brief Overview of Some of the Changes from AACR2 to RDA." *A Brief Overview of Some of the Changes from AACR2 to RDA*. Yale University, 17 Jan. 2014. Web. 14 Oct. 2014.
<<http://www.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/rdaoverview.htm>>.