RDA and interoperability in library catalogues: DC and MARC

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Presented at the DCMI Libraries Community meeting, DC-2008,
23 Sep 2008, Berlin
RDA

Resource Description and Access

- Content standard for bibliographic metadata
- Successor to Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR)
  - 150 years of development
  - Publication as an online product in June 2009

- Closely aligned with Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR)
  - Metadata model developed by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
RDA utility

✧ Independent of metadata format
  ✧ Can be used for DC and MARC formats
    ✧ and many others

✧ RDA attributes mapped to DC-Lib and MARC21
  ✧ Mappings published as part of RDA product

✧ RDA attributes declared in RDFS
  ✧ DCMI RDA Task Group – work-in-progress
    ✧ DC Application Profile(s) being developed
    ✧ More at Workshop 6 tomorrow
Attribute content

✧ RDA provides rules for creating content of metadata attributes
✧ Two main methods
  ✧ Transcription from item/manifestation being described
    ✧ “As is”
      ✧ AACR abbreviations, Latinisms, etc. excluded from RDA
      ✧ E.g. what and where is the title of this website, CD-ROM, book?
  ✧ Use of controlled vocabulary values
    ✧ Values being declared in SKOS by DCMI RDA TG
Content/Carrier Clarification

✧ AACR and other content guidelines confuse/conflate information carrier (FRBR item/manifestation) with information content (FRBR expression/work)
  ✧ Web “document” can carry spoken word
  ✧ Spoken word can be carried on CD, DVD, magnetic wire/tape, film, etc.

✧ RDA uses controlled terms for content and carrier types
  ✧ Based on underlying ontology of the RDA/ONIX framework
RDA/ONIX framework example

✧ RDA content type “spoken word”
  ✧ High-level label for a framework *base content category*

✧ Category attributes
  ✧ Character: Language
  ✧ SensoryMode: Hearing
  ✧ ImageDimensionality: not applicable
  ✧ ImageMovement: not applicable

✧ User: what resources have content I can listen to?
  ✧ = OPAC: what content types have SensoryMode: Hearing?
    ✧ (“Spoken word”; “Performed music”; etc.)
  ✧ then OPAC: list bib records with these content types!
Improving interoperability (1)

✧ Semantic Web
  ✧ RDA attributes and values in RDFS and SKOS
  ✧ MARC21 currently looking at similar approach

✧ Controlled terms cover all content and carrier types
  ✧ Terms available to DC and MARC formats
  ✧ Ontology compatible with publisher metadata

✧ Initiatives to apply FRBR model to MARC21 and DC catalogues
  ✧ OCLC WorldCat is a hybrid
  ✧ DC Scholarly Works AP is based on FRBR
Improving interoperability (2)

- RDA attribute mappings to DC-Lib and MARC21
  - Application to OPAC and union catalogue indexes
- RDA is ready for Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRAD)
  - IFLA initiative, real-soon-now
  - May also be declared in RDFS (as well as FRBR)
- RDA designed for international use
  - E.g. German translation planned
Thank you

✧ g.dunsire@strath.ac.uk
✧ More information/presentations on RDA website
  ✧ http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/jsc/rda.html
✧ And UK constituency committee website
  ✧ http://www.slainte.org.uk/aacr/news.htm
✧ And DCMI RDA Task Group wiki
  ✧ http://dublincore.org/dcmirdataskgroup/
✧ WorldCat (DC/MARC21 hybrid union catalogue)
  ✧ http://www.worldcat.org/