



IFLA Metadata Newsletter

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Bibliography Section

Cataloguing Section

Subject Analysis and Access Section

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The newsletter is published twice a year (June and December).

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Ongoing projects, activities, and
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<http://www.ifla.org/bibliography>

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*Tailpiece, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design
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[https://www.si.edu/object/tailpiece%3Achndm_195
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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear Members of the IFLA Bibliography (BIBS), Cataloguing (CATS), and Subject Analysis and Access (SAA) Sections,

As 2020 draws to a close, we can say that, from the viewpoint of our activities in IFLA, it has been an unusual but not unsuccessful year.

We didn't meet at the annual conference, and, after careful consideration, the three metadata sections chose not to move their respective open sessions to an online format, but they had fruitful business meetings nonetheless, thanks to all who were able to participate. It was great to be able to see each other, even on a screen, for a couple of hours. The presence of observers to some of the meetings made for richer, more informed discussions. Despite everything that has been going on, the members and volunteers of the standing committees and working groups found time to further important projects.

The Bibliography section's *Common Practices for National Bibliographies* has been completed and will soon be published. The *National Bibliographic Register* saw a few new entries, while members of the section have been active in organizing conferences on Bibliography and Bibliographic Control, and furthering work on recruitment and diversity.

The Cataloguing Section (CATS) has set up plans for 2021. There will be some continuity: on Names of Persons and Anonymous Classics, on MulDiCat, on ICP. There will also be some novelty, on authority control and entity management, on the dissemination of key documents produced by the section and by its working groups. Taking into consideration the new working conditions, the 2019-2021 working plan is on track.

The Subject Analysis and Access (SAA) Section is making plans for the 2021 WLIC. SAA's established working groups are planning a special issue of articles on automatic processes and technologies for subject representation and access in the semantic web environment (IFLA Genre/Form Working Group), continue to contribute to the genre/form vocabularies (Automated Subject Analysis and Access Working Group), and review and assess the necessary knowledge and skills required of information professionals for quality subject representation, analysis and access (Training and Education in Subject Access Working Group).

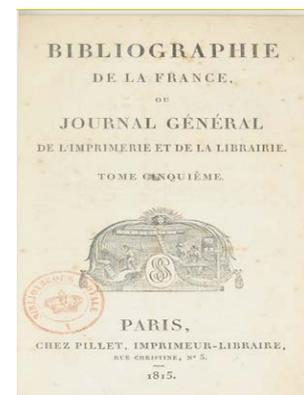
Once again, the *IFLA Metadata Newsletter* is an inspiring and welcome reminder of the many important initiatives in our field and the resilience of our professionals.



Athena Salaba, Chair of the Subject Analysis and Access Section Standing Committee



Vincent Boulet, Chair of the Cataloguing Section Standing Committee



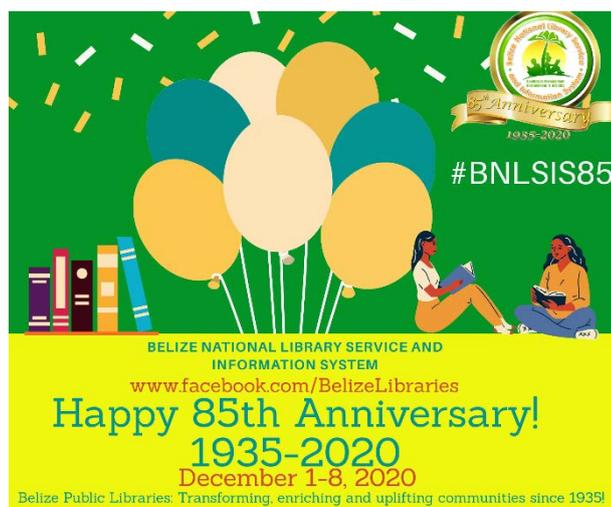
Mathilde Koskas, Chair of the Bibliography Section Standing Committee

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BELIZE

The Belize National Library Service and Information System

Contributed by **Felene M. Cayetano**, Librarian, Belize National Library Service and Information System, National Heritage Library, Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize



(Courtesy of the Belize National Library Service and Information System)

The Board and Staff of the Belize National Library Service and Information System invite all persons near and far to celebrate 85 years of public libraries in Belize during December 2020. The theme for this milestone is: **Belize Public Libraries: Transforming, Enriching, and Uplifting Communities Since 1935.** Commemorative activities from libraries across the country have been recorded and posted on <http://www.facebook.com/BelizeLibraries>, as well as on individual branch library Facebook pages. An official launch was posted online on December 2nd and a panel discussion was posted online as a closing event on December 8th. Contact your nearest library for details. To share your library photos or videos past and present, use #BNLSIS85. Thank you.

NEWS FROM BRAZIL

Brazilian Translation of IFLA LRM into Portuguese

By **Isabel Ayres Maringelli**, Head of Archives and Library, Pinacoteca de São Paulo, Professor, Fesp, São Paulo, Brazil

Between March and September 2020, a group of Brazilian specialists and researchers in cataloging have translated the *IFLA Library Reference Model* (LRM) into Portuguese. The group was led by Isabel Ayres Maringelli and Zaira Regina Zafalon and included José Fernando da Silva Modesto, Liliana Giusti Serra, Luiza Wainer, Marcelo Votto Teixeira, and Raildo Machado. The publication is now available on the [IFLA website](#) and we do expect to have more Portuguese speakers around the world studying and thinking about this new model.



Title page of the Brazilian translation of the IFLA Library Reference Model into Portuguese

NEWS FROM CHINA

The Launch of MALA Hub in Macao

By **Priscilla Pun**, Head of Technical Process Unit,
University of Macau Library

*Macau Academic Library Alliance (MALA)*¹ initiated and launched a region-wide academic resource-sharing project entitled *MALA Hub* in 2020, with the support and sponsorship of the Higher Education Bureau of Macao SAR Government. The purpose of the project is to pool together, disclose, and share with each other all kinds of resources available for all the MALA members, including physical pieces, the Alliance's subscribed e-resources, individual library paid resources, open access resources, and in-house developed digital resources from the MALA libraries. *Figure 1* shows the platform of MALA Hub

https://mala.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?vid=MALA&lang=en_US.

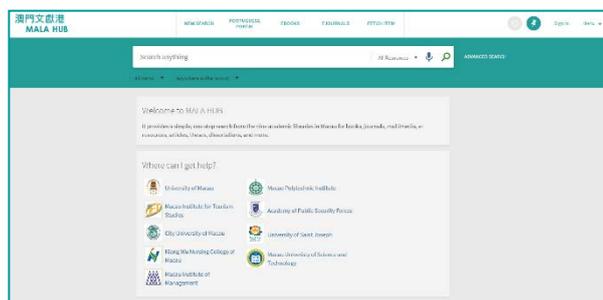


Figure 1. MALA Hub Platform as the Central Portal

This project was implemented by using Primo, a commercial discovery system from the company ExLibris. There are mainly three tiers in the framework of the project, namely:

- Central Portal: integrating the resources and relevant metadata obtained from all the MALA members, open access resources, etc.
- Institutional Portals: the local discovery system for gathering and storing all the resources and

¹ Macau Academic Library Alliance

<https://library.um.edu.mo/html/org/mala/about.html>.

² There were 9 library members in MALA. In the MALA Hub Project, only 7 of them are with their own

relevant metadata from individual library members of MALA. Seven individual Primos have been established and assigned to the seven individual libraries of MALA respectively.

- Topic-Specific Portals: by leveraging and defining particular criteria for the metadata consolidated from all the MALA members (including open access resources), topic-specific portals could be designed in a flexible way.

For instance, *Portuguese Portal* (see *Figure 2*), allowing the metadata criteria for resource language to be Portuguese or to include Portuguese; *Macau Dissertations and Theses Portal*, with all the bibliographic data and digital resources of dissertations and theses from the Macao local institutions discovered on this portal, and so on. More subject portals are planned to be done in the coming years. The framework could be concluded as “1 + 7 + N”, which refers to “1 Central Portal + 7 Institutional Portals + N Subject Portals”².

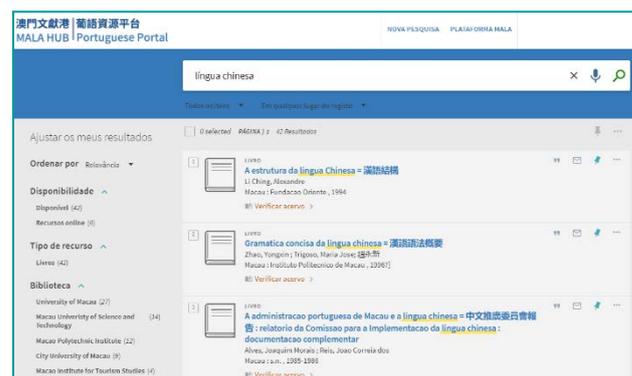


Figure 2. Portuguese Portal of MALA Hub Project

Furthermore, interlibrary loan and document delivery services among MALA libraries and with *China Academic Library & Information System (CALIS)* in mainland China have also been included in the project.

This project facilitates the discovery and use of information resources among MALA libraries and the local community. It saves the time and avoids

institutional portals respectively while the remaining 2 small libraries use the Central Portal for service and without their own institutional portals.

the repetitive administrative work from individual MALA libraries, as well as to advance the effective metadata management and collaboration in a shared environment.

Chinese Version of IFLA LRM Published

By **Ben Gu**, Director, Foreign Acquisitions and Cataloging Department, National Library of China

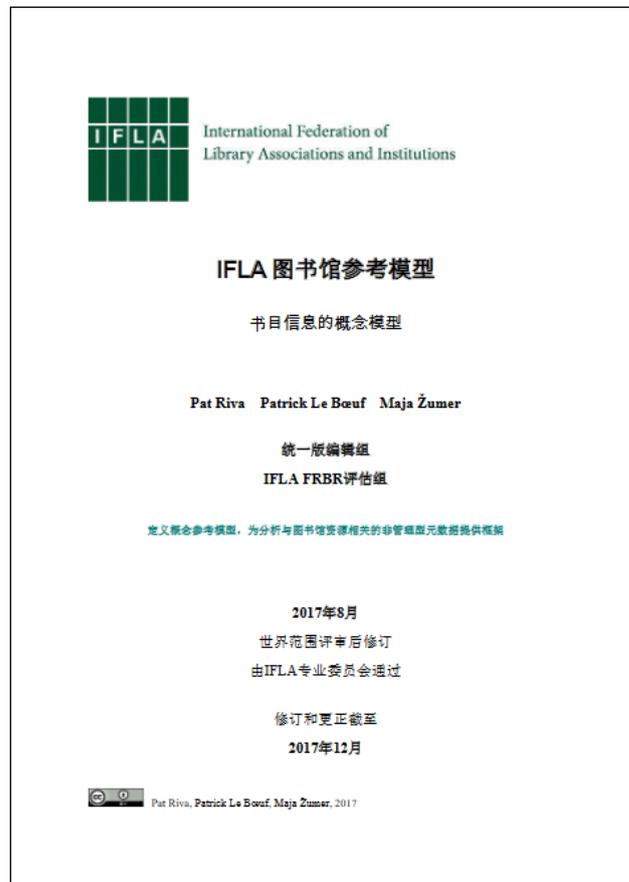
The Chinese version of the IFLA LRM (*IFLA Library Reference Model: A Conceptual Model for Bibliographic Information*) was published on the IFLA website on December 5, 2020. It was translated by catalogers of the National Library of China in the past two years.

Since the publication of FRBR (*Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records*) in 1998, there had been little attention from the Chinese library community until September 2002, when Barbara Tillett visited Beijing and introduced it to colleagues in China. During the middle of the first decade of the 21st century, there were quite a lot of articles on FRBR published in Chinese journals of library science, and there were also some experimental projects for the application of FRBR to Chinese library catalogs. The Chinese version of FRBR (jointly by librarians from Shanghai Jiao Tong University Library, the Shanghai Library, Peking University Library, and the National Library of China) was finally released on the IFLA website in 2008.

With the adaptation of ISBD to FRBR, the conceptual model family has been paid more attention by Chinese library catalogers and scholars. FRAD (*Functional Requirements for Authority Data*) was translated into Chinese by Lu Wang and other colleagues from the National Library of China (NLC), and was published in January 2010. Then, FRSAD (*Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Data*) was translated by Sha Liu from the Wuhan University, and was published in December 2013.

However, FRBRoo and LRM had received little attention from China before 2016, when Pat Riva gave a lecture with the title "IFLA Library Reference Model: Overview" in NLC, Beijing, China, October

21, 2016. About 120 librarians from NLC and other libraries in Beijing attended the lecture, and got the latest information about the IFLA LRM. Then, more Chinese librarians began to keep up with the future development of FRBR/LRM.



Title page of the Chinese version of the IFLA Library Reference Model

Since the RDA Toolkit Restructure and Redesign (3R) Project has implemented the IFLA LRM, we thought it important to have a Chinese version. Thus, six catalogers from NLC jointly completed the translation, and finalized it in May 2020. Much time was spent for the deliberation of the text and the understanding of the new terms. The translation is also a process of comparison and learning of related standards, formats, and rules.

We hope the Chinese version of the IFLA LRM will promote the understanding of the international cataloging related activities in the Chinese library community.

NEWS FROM FINLAND

Photo courtesy of Katerina Sornova

By **Katerina Sornova**, Agent Metadata Services,
National Library of Finland

International Standard Name Identifier (ISNI)

National Library of Finland (NLF) became an ISNI Registration Agency in June 2020. As the Registration Agency we can request new ISNI assignments from the ISNI Assignment Agency and provide ISNI related services to our customers. You can find basic information about ISNI and NLF's ISNI services on our new [website](#) (only in Finnish).

The coverage of the ISNIs for public identities in the Finnish Authority Name File is almost 80%. We are working on increasing this number by enriching the data we have in our catalogue. ISNIs can be picked up, for example, from KANTO - Finnish Agent Data Service via open interface (<http://finto.fi/finaf/fi/>).

We still have to work on ISNI processes. How can we automate them as much as possible and how the ISNIs can be smoothly included in cataloguing workflows. At the same time, we are looking for partners among publishers and copyright organisations for a broader implementation of ISNI.

In November 2020, we arranged an ISNI webinar for publishers together with colleagues from The British Library and ISNI International Agency (ISNI-IA). You can find program and slides on our [webinar's website](#) (mostly in Finnish, part of the slides in English). We have to figure out how we share data from MARC 21 to ONIX and how we match the ISNIs we have in our database with the publisher's

registries. ONIX (ONline Information Exchange) is the publisher's tool for distributing information about their publications.

Name Metadata Service for Finnish Memory Organisations

In the past years, we have been working on so-called Nimitietopalvelu (the unofficial name in English is "Name Metadata Service"). This service enables the Finnish memory organisations (libraries, archives, and museums) to share, manage their data, and to describe persons, families, and corporate bodies (agents) in one place. Our goal is to create a production platform that can be fully integrated into the catalogers' interface in the different systems that are used by memory organisations. The plans for Name Metadata Service were presented at the IFLA satellite meeting in August 2016 ([PDF](#) of presentation, 224 KB).

We have been working together with archives and museums to harmonize the way we describe agents to achieve more compatible data in the future.



Frieze, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum; Carey Bros. W.P. Mfg. Co.; CCO; https://www.si.edu/object/frieze%3Aachndm_1979-91-367

NEWS FROM GERMANY**News from the German National Library (DNB)**

By **Elke Jost-Zell**, Department of Subject Cataloguing, German National Library

The Corona Pandemic and the German National Library

The Corona pandemic continues to have its impact on the DNB and its operations. The library is still open for employees and users, under the necessary precautions but many staff members mostly work from home. Meetings and events were transferred

into the digital space, this includes exhibitions. Inspired by the general requirement of social distancing, the German Museum of Books and Writing, which is part of the DNB, developed a virtual exhibition in this topic:

https://www.dnb.de/EN/Kulturell/VirtuelleAusstellungen/vas_node.html#doc147488bodyText7.



Library work 2020 (Photo courtesy of Dana Maria Zell)

Integrated Authority File (Gemeinsame Normdatei, GND)

The Integrated Authority File (Gemeinsame Normdatei, GND) is an authority file for persons, corporate bodies, conferences and events, geographic names, subject headings, and uniform titles. The German National Library (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, DNB), the library networks of the German speaking countries, the Union Catalogue of Serials (ZDB), and other institutions contribute to it. Increasingly other institutions in the cultural heritage and academic sector use GND authority records for facilitating access to collections and data.

WikiLibrary Manifesto

In collaboration with Wikimedia Germany, the German National Library published the WikiLibrary Manifesto on November 17, 2020. With this

manifesto, the two partners are paving the way towards a future-focused, freely accessible, and open Semantic Web. The German National Library is thereby supporting the establishment of a data ecosystem that above all facilitates the sustainable use of cultural and research data.

The WikiLibrary Manifesto is underpinned by the findings of a software analysis conducted by the German National Library on Wikibase as an alternative and user-friendly technical basis for the 8 million data sets of the Integrated Authority File (GND). The evaluation was carried out in close dialogue with other European national libraries that also wish to implement Wikibase. One GND Wikibase entry offers the potential for numerous new connections and expansions. In addition, Wikibase can be used to provide access to the GND for different stakeholders for whom library-based editing interfaces do not appear suitable.

The manifesto is aimed at all institutions that are interested in a comprehensive data ecosystem based on the FAIR Data Principles for the simplified recording, linking and cataloguing of knowledge.

Further information:

<https://www.wikimedia.de/projects/wikilibrary-manifest/> (in German).

New GND Website: GND.network

Responding to the increasing interest in the Integrated Authority File (Gemeinsame Normdatei, GND), the German National Library will launch a new website named **GND.network** early in 2021. The website will present extensive information on the changes and developments following the GND's opening for non-library institutions as well as presenting new ways of participation.

For information on the GND, please contact Jürgen Kett, Office for Library Standards, AfS (j.kett@dnb.de) or check the website: https://www.dnb.de/EN/Professionell/Standardisierung/GND/gnd_node.html.

RDA Work

Libraries in Austria, Germany, and German-speaking Switzerland (DACH region) closely cooperate with respect to necessary RDA adaptation work. A group

of cataloguing experts has developed a concept for the adaptation of work to the new RDA Toolkit in the German-speaking area and setting up a corresponding project for implementation. Within the framework of this project, which is scheduled to run for two years, an RDA DACH handbook for practical cataloguing is to be developed.

A working group of the national libraries of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland (D-A-CH) has worked on a draft for an application profile for the German-speaking countries. It contains the needed elements for intellectual cataloguing in the levels of work, expression, and manifestation, thus enabling the interlocking of the planned DACH RDA Handbook with the international RDA level.

For information on RDA in the D-A-CH region please contact Renate Behrens, Office for Library Standards, r.behrens@dnb.de.

DNB Lab: Access to Data Sets and Digital Objects

The German National Library's new DNB Lab is a central access point to the bibliographic data and several collections of digital objects, opening up new kinds of resources for science and research. As a nexus for presenting, accessing, and reusing digital resources, DNB Lab grants its users a transparent access to the library's open access data, object files, and full texts by download and via various interfaces.

Whether users are interested in digitized works on architecture, design, painting, or printing, dating from 1918 to 1933, or focus their attentions on the exile press - the OAI2 interface allows them to request metadata and links to image files of digitised works in the public domain in METS/MODS format without registering beforehand.

DNB Lab also provides data dumps with an unrestricted access to more than 500,000 online publications and 245,000 online university publications from Germany.

If you are interested in data stock held by the German National Library that is not freely available, please contact Anke Taube, Department 2D.1 Digital Services, Content and Digitisation, at lab@dnb.de.

You will find further information on the services at <https://www.dnb.de/dnblab>.

DNB Glossary – Library Terms Decoded

Online publications, Germanica, GND, entities ... the linguistic world of the German National Library, and libraries in general, is shaped by a variety of acronyms, abbreviations, and technical terms that are not always easy to understand for users and the general public. In addition, networking with other domains and the arrival of artificial intelligence in the library world also requires an increased degree of linguistic transparency.

The German National Library has developed a glossary, enabling website visitors to easily look up unknown terms. All entries are available in German and English. (Please use the page's language selection respectively.) You are invited to "click by" — since the collection of terms is constantly being expanded, it's always worth taking a look at https://www.dnb.de/EN/Service/Glossar/glossar_node.html.

NEWS FROM KAZAKHSTAN

National Bibliography in the Electronic Era: The New Trends of Development

By **Aliya Saidembayeva**, Head of National Bibliography Service, National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Almaty, Kazakhstan

The electronic National Bibliography of Kazakhstan was created at the National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the end of the 1980s. It entered history as a digitization of the library-bibliographical space of the republic.

The first Programme for the Electronic Calculating Machine (the computer), "The automated library-informational system" was created at the National Library of Kazakhstan in Almaty city.

There are in the universal fond of the Library almost seven million units of storage.

The Library is the only, and the largest, in the republic keeping the works of print production. The nucleus of its fond has been accumulating for more than one hundred years, reflecting the documented achievements of science and technology, art, and the works of the writers and poets in the languages

of both majority and minority peoples of different countries of the world.

The National Library of Kazakhstan, in accordance with the Law on culture and other laws, has the right to receive legal deposits of the Kazakhstani editions of all kinds and types on different carriers. Each separately published edition with a unique name is subject to eternal storage and reflection in the National Bibliography, including its printed and electronic editions on discs and including the databases accessible at the site of the National Library.

The priority for the acquisitions of the fonds, in cooperation with the Cultural centres of the Assembly of the peoples of Kazakhstan, is also the formation of the collections of documents for the representatives of other nations that reside within Kazakhstan.

The National Bibliography also solves the tasks of searching the dispersed knowledge about Kazakhstan, about the Kazakhs that gave the state its name, and in the Kazakh language – as part of the world treasury which is the linguistic diversity. This is already the responsibility of the Kazakh people, who have an ancient history and inhabit a state at the centre of the Eurasian continent, as well as near and far beyond its limits. For the Kazakhs of Russia, China, Turkey, and a number of other countries, the National Library and its resources have become accessible in this electronic era.

The National library continues the publication of print works of the National Bibliography, the layouts of which are created in the electronic format. For instance, work continues on the bibliography of the history of Kazakhstan: “Bibliography on the history of Kazakhstan: The pre-revolutionary period” from 1964; and the two-volume “The history of Kazakhstan: The pre-revolutionary period,” published in 1988.

Additionally, the two-volume index (amounting to 576 pages), “The history of Kazakhstan (from the most ancient times to the beginning of the XX-th century)” includes printed sources, published after 1985. The number of pages reflects the unfading interest in the prerevolutionary history, which has only strengthened since independence.

The multi-volume fundamental index “Kazakstannyn korkem adebiyeti” (“The artistic literature of Kazakhstan”) was continued with volumes covering 1958 to 1967 published in 2008, covering 1968 to 1977 published in 2012, and covering 1978 to 1987 published in 2016. Into the database flowed the massive bibliographical output reflecting the literary process of Kazakhstan for 30 years and which opened for remote access the names of the Kazakhstani writers and the titles of their artistic works.

From the whole number of indices prepared by the Service of National Bibliography of the National Library, we will single out “The philosophical sciences of sovereign Kazakhstan;” “The ethnoses of Kazakhstan;” “The ‘Alash’ movement: The history and the modern times,” about the first political party; and the series “The returned names,” dedicated to the repressed poets and writers Zh. Aimauytov, A. Baitursynov, M. Dulatov, M. Zhumabayev, and Sh. Kudaiberdiyev.

There within the framework of the bio-bibliographical series “The art of Kazakhstan” were published the indices dedicated to the unique composer and the genius of Kazakh music, Kurmangazy Sagyrbayev; the first professional artist of Kazakhstan, Abylkhan Kasteyev; the king of Kazakh waltz, Shamshi Kaldayakov; the composer and virtuoso performer of music on the dombra, Dina Nurpeyisova; and others.

An example of effective national bibliography in the electronic era is the unique two-volume fundamental retrospective bibliographical index “Nursultan Nazarbayev – the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan” of 2010, covering sources from 1963 to 2010. The purpose of the index is the creation of the fullest bibliography reflecting the establishment of presidential rule in Kazakhstan. The basis of the index is the Data-base of the National Library about Nursultan Nazarbayev which has been maintained since 1993.

This Bibliographical Data-base became the basis for the formation of the Full-text Data-base, The electronic library “Nursultan Nazarbayev – the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.” In addition, the National Library of Kazakhstan also

renders methodological and informational assistance to the library of the First President – Elbasy.

The National Library is one of the first of the libraries of the Ministry of Culture of the republic to become a publisher of discs. The first was the disc “Musical heritage of Kazakhstan.” Released for the tenth jubilee of the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan was another disc, “Astana – arman kala.” In 2006 during “The year of Abai in Russia,” “The year of Pushkin in Kazakhstan,” the Library prepared the CD-ROM “The poetical year of Russia and Kazakhstan”

At the forefront of Kazakhstani libraries in the usage of high technologies, the National Library of Kazakhstan gained fame as the elaborator of the First Kazakhstani ABIS. The bibliographers of the National Library were the first in the country to receive the Certificates of registration for an object of intellectual property for the Data-bases. This included the bibliographers of the Service of National Bibliography, the authors of the Data-base “Kazakhstan: The past and the present.”

These achievements determined the readiness for the creation of the innovative project for the elaboration of the authority/normative files for the formation of the national authority files: “the name of the person” and “the clan name.” The National Library was the first in Kazakhstan, as well as the first among the countries of the CIS in the region of Central Asia, to create such files.

In this direction the National Library of Kazakhstan is closely cooperating with many libraries around the world. The leading links are those with Russia. The basis for the creation of the authority files at the National Library of the RK was the Russian communication format for the presentation of the authority/normative records in machine-readable form, which were based on the second version (2001) of the international format UNIMARC/Authorities.

In the electronic era, the National Library carries out its activities in virtual auditoriums as well as in the physically real ones. During the quarantine in the country, introduced in connection with the

worldwide coronavirus pandemic, the Facebook page of the Library hosted the online presentation of the index dedicated to the 80th birthday of the well-known Kazakhstani composer Eskendir Khasangaliyev. It was watched by more than thirty thousand users of the social network.

The issuance of electronic copies and electronic editions in the Private cabinets of readers/users is a forward-looking innovation. The coronavirus pandemic showed that the populations of Kazakhstan and other countries are ready for distant operations: people work distantly, first-graders study distantly, students distantly defend their diplomas, physicians consult their ill patients in WhatsApp; specialists hold conferences virtually, and so on. The country lives. The librarians are also ready.

Cataloguing Practices in Kazakhstan Amidst Pandemic: The Nazarbayev University Library Experience

By **April R. Manabat**, Expert Librarian, Nazarbayev University Library, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

The COVID-19 pandemic has indeed brought a drastic change both in industries and educational institutions around the globe. This crisis has forced many governments to close many institutions, even cultural centers such as libraries, to minimize physical and social interactions with the hope of “flattening the curve.” The same is true in Kazakhstan. Libraries are forced to close their doors physically but still expected to respond to the informational needs of their clients remotely. As many schools and universities are now shifting into the online mode of learning, libraries are putting their best efforts to providing synchronous and asynchronous services to their clients during the pandemic.

The Nazarbayev University (NU) Library is one of those libraries in the country that was also forced to close the physical library doors to their clients due to the pandemic. As a relatively young university library, it has been offering relevant, comprehensive, and current resources and services to the entire academic community since 2010. As

NU decided to adapt the online mode of learning during the Fall 2020 and the incoming Spring 2021 semesters, the library willingly extended its collections to the community by providing extended access to electronic resources and online databases alongside with the various online library services such as interlibrary loans, virtual reference assistance, virtual library orientations, and information literacy programs, among others.

To facilitate easy access and retrieval of these electronic resources and databases even during the pandemic, the librarians, especially the cataloguers, have been working tirelessly to make them available online for the community. Aside from print collections, e-books are being cataloged to make them readily available to library users through the library's online public access catalog (OPAC). Because their in-house integrated library system (ILS) allows them to catalog these kinds of materials, e-books that are always accessible are being included in the collection; links to these resources are provided alongside other metadata. With the use of available cataloguing tools online such as the Library of Congress (LC) Classification Web, cataloguers were able to classify and assign appropriate subject headings to these resources. Although cataloguing of e-books has been done even before the pandemic intensified in Kazakhstan, this crisis allows them to focus more on processing these collections. Aside from this, the NU library has recently implemented the creation of authority records for the library collection to bring together library materials that belong to a common author or creator.

Due to the nature of their work, cataloguers are expected to work physically in the library. As the pandemic heightened in the country, bulk number of print materials from previous acquisition orders have arrived and need to be processed. To continue the work, scheduling of cataloguers was done wherein they were allowed to physically work at the library. With the idea that some of these materials will be needed by clients, working on a scheduled basis was seen as the best way to continue moving forward. To ensure cataloguers' health and well-being, proper safety protocols were implemented such as maintaining social distance, wearing of face

masks and gloves, proper handwashing, and undergoing PCR at least every two weeks.

The NU Library's experience is probably no different than many other libraries around the world. With the primary goal of responding to the informational and research needs of their clients, in a true sense, the libraries and librarians become the frontliners in catering to these needs during these trying times.

NEWS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

National Bibliography of the Netherlands Next Steps

By **Brigitte den Oudsten**, Information and Collection Specialist, National Library of the Netherlands

and

Meta van der Waal-Gentenaar, Metadata Specialist, National Library of the Netherlands

There are worldwide only two countries with a national library that does not have a legal deposit. In 2019, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB), the National Library of the Netherlands redefined the selection criteria for the National Bibliography and identified the information needs of the various existing and potential users of the bibliography. In 2020, the KB analyzed potential metadata sources for the Dutch National Bibliography for the period from 1940 till now. The focus has been placed on making the bibliography as complete as possible. We have identified four most important sources, as our library system and the national ISBN agency. We compared these two sources by means of the ISBN and a sample by title. And in these sources, we did random checks to investigate which metadata was present and to analyze the quality of the metadata.

Also during 2020, we made a plan for three new initiatives for the year 2021. The first concerns a catalogue called *Brinkmans Cumulatieve Catalogus* (1833-2001), one of the mentioned four most important sources. The KB is planning a project to convert this catalog into structured data, so we can compare it with other sources. The second initiative is a subsequent title comparison sample between

the metadata in our library system and that of the national ISBN agency. The third is a plan to improve the quality of the metadata in our library system.

As our library system is being replaced, we are also considering a new infrastructure for the national bibliography.

Exploring Possibilities Automated Metadata Generation

By **Sara Veldhoen**, Research Software Engineer, National Library of the Netherlands

The KB research group on automatic metadata creation focuses on automated tools for subject indexing and author indexing. We are developing a web application that can assist in both tasks by providing ranked suggestions for a publication. Last summer, an intern from the University of Amsterdam (Artificial Intelligence) successfully applied Machine Learning for the task of author indexing on a representative dataset. We are now combining his results and our own results on subject indexing using Annif, the open source tool that is being developed at the Finnish national library. We aim to run a first pilot with our cataloguers in spring 2021, to find out how people may use the tool and to improve it further.

KB, the National Library of the Netherlands, Joins Forces in National Cultural AI Lab

By **Meta van der Waal-Gentenaar**, Metadata Specialist, National Library of the Netherlands

To use the possibilities of Artificial Intelligence for cultural research and make technology aware of the cultural context, eight Dutch institutions have joined forces in the Cultural AI Lab. The Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI) (national research institute for mathematics and computer science), the KNAW Humanities Cluster, the National Library of the Netherlands (KB), the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision, the Rijksmuseum, TNO (the Netherlands Organisation for applied scientific research), the University of Amsterdam, and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam have joined forces in the Cultural AI Lab. [More information at the KB website](#). At the moment two projects concern metadata.

The [SociAI Bias Observatory](#) (SABIO) project is aimed at investigating bias in the digital collections of the members of the Dutch Digital Heritage Network. In this project, we investigate how collection managers and curators create and add metadata to collection objects, and how bias in these metadata can be detected using statistical models. We aim to create a knowledge graph on top of existing collection databases that make prejudices and imbalances in the data explicit, so that they can be addressed, as well as taken into account by users of the data.

The [AI:CULT project](#) addresses the gap between AI and our digital cultural heritage. The project addresses two case studies with societal parties that are tasked with providing access to national heritage and who have voiced their vested interest in using AI for their workflows – the [National Library \(KB\)](#) and the [Institute for Sound and Vision \(NISV\)](#) – (i) automatically analysing and enriching object-level descriptions and (ii) creating data stories and narratives from raw collection data. Both institutions acknowledge that the straightforward application of AI reflects biases present in the training data. In the AI:CULT project, bias detection and filtering methods will be developed for direct testing on the heritage institutions' work floors.

NEWS FROM RUSSIA

National Library of Russia (Saint-Petersburg, Russia) and Consolidation Resources of the National Bibliography: Metadata, Authoritative Control, and Subject Access

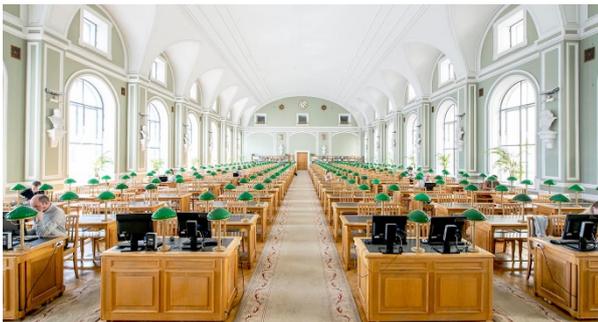
By **Stanislav Golubtsov**, Deputy General Director for Library Work, National Library of Russia (Saint-Petersburg)

National bibliography – an essential part of the bookstore culture. The main goal of the national bibliography is to be a complete bibliographic record of publications issued in the country, which allows you to save cultural heritage and make it available for users all over the world.

The challenges faced by libraries in the context of the pandemic urgently require the consolidation of national bibliography resources. Therefore, it is extremely important to determine its forms and organizational models.

All participants of the book industry, not only libraries but publishers and booksellers, are interested in creating optimal conditions for ensuring the availability and distribution of all documents created and planned for publication, both in printed and electronic form, within a single distributed digital platform.

All stakeholders in the book industry are strategically committed to improving the efficiency of resource use within their segment. Consequently, expectations for the consolidation of national bibliography resources vary and are not always obvious to representatives of related segments. It is also important to take into account the interests of end users-readers.



(Photo courtesy of National Library of Russia (Saint-Petersburg))

International principles of bibliographic cooperation, as set out in the IFLA guidelines "National Bibliography in the Digital Age" and "Guidelines for Subject Access in National Bibliographies" (both of which have been translated into Russian by specialists of the National Library of Russia) highlight the concept of interoperability (compatibility). That is the ability to work in different electronic systems and to use the data of these systems for their own purposes.

The National Library of Russia (Saint Petersburg), Russian State Library (Moscow), the Russian Book Chamber (ITAR-TASS branch), the Russian Book

Union, and the central libraries of the Russian Federation regions can be key participants in the formation of national bibliography resources.

The following three requirements for the information presented in them are crucial for the implementation of the concept of a consolidated National bibliographic resource:

- Completeness
- Quality
- Efficiency

This is the case when the call to choose any two requirements and limit yourself to them does not work. Compliance with all three requirements is critical for project implementation.

To ensure the completeness of information about publishing products, a system is being implemented for receiving signal information from publishers through the Russian Book Chamber (ITAR-TASS branch). However, since a significant part of the editions published in Russia do not go to the Federal libraries and the Russian Book Chamber and, consequently, are not reflected in their electronic catalogs, the central libraries of the Russian Federation regions are involved as suppliers of bibliographic and authoritative records for local publications.

Quality assurance of the submitted bibliographic and authoritative information is ensured through:

- the use of national formats for the presentation of bibliographic and authoritative data (RUSMARC) and their development in accordance with the trends of the world professional community (implemented by the National Library of Russia Expert Council for the development of RUSMARC formats (Saint Petersburg));
- the following of national cataloging standards and rules, as well as modern reference data models such as the IFLA LRM;
- the use of the National Library of Russia (Saint Petersburg) subject headings as a

mandatory standard tool for thematic access;

- the organization of input control and verification of data using a system of authoritative files, the creator, holder and main source of replenishment of which at the national level is the National Library of Russia¹ (Saint Petersburg); and
- the training by machine-readable cataloging and subject indexing in RUSMARC format provided by the National Library of Russia (Saint Petersburg).

The efficient reflection of publishing products is ensured by the delivery of bibliographic and authoritative records to local publications from the central libraries of the regions and interaction with publishers through the Russian Book Chamber (ITAR-TASS branch).

The Russian and international professional community has accumulated considerable experience in the development of information-accounting and information-search systems in the book publishing, bookselling, and information-library segments. This experience demonstrates, on the one hand, the diversity of tasks solved by all participants in the book industry, and on the other – the common interests and desire to improve the efficiency of resource use in each of the segments. In this situation, system integration at the level of information flows generated and used in each of the segments and their "seamless" interface is important.

Taking into account the formed information ecosystem of all participants in the book industry, it is necessary to form a single centralized digital platform with the possibility of implementing functional subsystems. The ability to scale subsystems involves the implementation of usage levels: federal, regional, etc. The openness of subsystems allows you to implement new functionality based on the operational tasks of each segment of the book industry. The presence of a regulatory and methodological framework allows you to avoid chaotic and uncontrolled complexity of

subsystems and distortions in the development of the system as a whole.

At the level of the reference data model, the system is based on the concept of a single description of an information resource, in which metadata is generated as it is transferred between subsystems.

The subsystem of primary accounting of publishing products is implemented on the basis of providing publishers with electronic copies of the publication at the stage of sending to print. Bibliographic data is generated based on the mandatory fields of the bibliographic record in accordance with GOST 7.0.100-2018, the Russian cataloging rules, and the RUSMARC format requirement for machine-readable bibliographic data.

The generated bibliographic data of the initial accounting of publishing products is transmitted to the **subsystem for generating bibliographic data**, which results in the necessary disclosure of significant features of the publication and filling in the corresponding fields of the bibliographic record.



(Photo courtesy of National Library of Russia (Saint-Petersburg))

The generated bibliographic data is subject to authoritative control within the framework of the national-level **bibliographic data verification subsystem**, and national authoritative files are generated. The functioning of this subsystem at the operational level is carried out by the National Library of Russia (Saint Petersburg), which ensures the principle of a single description of an information resource and the principle of reliability of this description.

The data generated in these subsystems must be disclosed, visualized, and exploited. The following subsystems are used to solve these problems.

The data disclosure and visualization subsystem allows you to present distributed data as a single information product with a user-friendly interface. This enables each end user to get the information they need using various search strategies, including using "search navigators" and searching for fuzzy data with a high degree of reliability, completeness, and accuracy of results.

The creation of an open extensible **data exchange subsystem** will allow the transfer of metadata between software used in the publishing, bookselling, and library-information segments using a system of converters and communication protocols.

The goal of sustainable development is achieved through the formation of a **training subsystem and the formation of professional competencies**, within which training, professional development, and certification of participants in the information system takes place.

The pool of regional participants will be able to operate each of the subsystems within the framework of the tasks set and in accordance with the granted powers and access rights, being included in a single national information system at the regional level. Thus, a **regional subsystem** is formed.

The open **subsystem for creating additional information and user services** will allow you to create the necessary information services, reports, and ratings necessary for participants of each segment, as well as to implement accounting and registration, control, and management functions.

Central libraries of the Russian Federation's constituent entities perform the functions of regional operators, providing data to the system based on cataloging of local publications obtained by local mandatory copy.

The consolidation of national bibliography resources is not limited to the current national bibliographic record. Retrospective resources are also important. Here, one of the key resources of

the national bibliography is the electronic catalog of the oldest national library of Russia — National Library of Russia (Saint Petersburg), that receives a mandatory copy of publications published in the country since 1810, fully reflected in its electronic catalog². It is also necessary to use consolidated catalogues and national bibliographic repertoires created by the national libraries of Russia, based on practical interaction with regional libraries.

The proposed model ensures rapid consolidation of national bibliography resources, efficient and even distribution of the load among the main performers. This is the key to success.

¹ Authoritative files at the international level in VIAF are presented by the National Library of Russia.

² The NLR electronic catalog includes information about publications from the year 1708 (the time when the civil font was introduced in Russia) and is supplemented by a system of electronic catalogs that reflect publications from earlier chronological periods.

NEWS FROM SWEDEN

A Metadata Shift at the National Library of Sweden

By **Stina Degerstedt**, Metadata Program Manager, Executive Support, (from 2021: Business Strategist, Collection and Metadata), National Library of Sweden

In recent years, major changes have taken place in the metadata world - a paradigm shift that is a natural consequence of the digital development in society and of how the media has changed. With manual description methods, national libraries are not able to handle the increased media flow, nor can they meet today's more advanced user needs.

At the National Library of Sweden, a number of initiatives are now underway that will run in parallel for a couple of years in order to achieve increased digital accessibility to our collections and services. One of these is a project named "The Metadata shift" (in Swedish "Metadataskiftet"). The primary purpose of this project is to kickstart and coordinate

various efforts to make work with cataloging and metadata much more efficient and more automated than it is today. The overall goal is increased learning, competence, development, and transfer in the metadata area. The target group is our internal activities related to metadata, and by extension the users of our services.



(Photo courtesy of Stina Degerstedt, National Library of Sweden)

Larger Steps Towards More Efficient Metadata Management

One could argue that a metadata shift has already taken place. However, there is a need for significant larger steps, primarily characterized by:

- Increased import of metadata from external sources. Publishers and other suppliers usually have a lot of data that could be reused.
- Introduction of new automated routines and methods. Digitization and increased access to digital content provide greater opportunities to use newer technologies such as AI and machine learning.
- Intensified investment in linked data. The new version of the national library catalog Libris is based on BIBFRAME 2.0. This gives us a good basis for further linked data strategies.

Mapping and Analyzing Metadata Flows

We began this project by launching two “work areas” both of which aim to identify the main opportunities for change and create a good basis for planning future pilots and projects.

The first one is about mapping and analyzing the library's different metadata flows in order to get a better picture. We need to compare and discover what can be better coordinated and what development we should start with. The mapping is still ongoing at the time of writing and the working group has identified at least 20 different metadata flows.

Working During a Pandemic

We, like everyone else, are affected by the pandemic and the restrictions that force most of us to work from home, from each one's laptop. However, we try to overcome the difficulties with the help of various digital collaboration tools. Instead of going on study visits we have arranged some digital meetings with some national libraries. This will provide the working group with useful insights and inspiration.



(Photo courtesy of Stina Degerstedt, National Library of Sweden)

Laboratory Activities

The second initial area of work is about exploring AI and machine learning. This is done in close collaboration with the library's own data lab, KB Lab. See more about the KB Lab in the previous issue of the *IFLA Metadata Newsletter* (6:1, June

2020, pages 20-21). We will look at the abilities that the Lab has developed and unconditionally examine what these can be used for. Work is currently underway on a prototype for image similarity and object detection. As test data for this prototype the library's collection on postcards will be used. From that we will go on with named entity recognition (NER). Entities such as names of persons, organizations, places, and subjects can be identified from images or text resources and further on linked to entities in other systems.

Data Analysis and the Big Shift

The uses for AI and language analysis are many. They can improve our manual routines, for example, support of authority and classification work. It will also be possible to work with large amounts of digital content. This is where the really big move will take place. With the help of trained language algorithms, we can now retrieve and process information from texts and images in a way that has not been possible before, and without going through ready-made and structured metadata. Search can be adapted to the user's needs in a completely different way than before.

A Shift for the Professional Role

The possibilities are many. But what about the challenges – will bibliographic control be seen as something superfluous? We can go a long way with automation and temporarily created metadata, but metadata must also extend and last over a long period of time. Structured and standardized data are the core ingredients for linking the present to the past and future and to the rest of the world. However, the metadata profession will inevitably change. Large amounts of more or less unstructured data must be handled. Curation of metadata has to take place as a continuous process, with the acceptance of different levels of quality according to different usage needs.

Running Until 2022

The Metadata shift as a project will last until 2022. We are happy to share our results along the way and are very interested in hearing about other similar projects and experiences.

NEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES

News from the Library of Congress



By **Susan R. Morris**, Special Assistant to the Director for Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

The following is a summary of metadata-related developments at the Library of Congress in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2020. Please also see the article on page 27 of this issue of the *IFLA Metadata Newsletter* on the ISSN Uplink.

BIBFRAME

BIBFRAME is an emerging encoding standard first developed in the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate (ABA) of the Library of Congress to facilitate use of library catalogue data in the linked open data environment. The director for ABA, Beacher Wiggins, announced in June 2019 that BIBFRAME would replace the MARC 21 cataloguing metadata standard after sufficient development, refinement, and testing. During fiscal 2020, progress

was accelerated for BIBFRAME in a linked open data environment. More than 100 cataloguing staff, including staff in five overseas offices and most processing units in ABA and other directorates, continued to participate in the BIBFRAME Pilot Project that tested production of BIBFRAME descriptions in a simulated cataloguing environment. Participants included copy cataloguers and cataloguers of text, maps, moving images, notated (print) music, rare books, sound recordings, still images, and moving images in 35mm film, BluRay, and DVD formats. The Pilot increased production in 2020 through ongoing improvements to the input/update interface (“BIBFRAME Editor”) and the BIBFRAME Database of descriptions. In particular, the BIBFRAME Editor software was adjusted to permit input and display of Cyrillic script. The Library of Congress BIBFRAME Manual was revised to reflect the improvements and to enable other libraries to access the publicly available version of the BIBFRAME Editor for use in their own cataloguing (available on GitHub at <https://github.com/lcnetdev/bfe/>; please also see <https://www.loc.gov/bibframe/implementation/>).

The entire BIBFRAME Database application (BFDB) and the Linked Data Service (LSD/ID) along with their platform, MarkLogic, were moved to the cloud (Amazon AWS) as part of the Library’s project to move all IT services to a new remote location or to the cloud. The change entailed substantial modifications to the transfer of data from on-premise systems to cloud-based systems, data processing and loading, and staff work habits.

In April 2020, the long-awaited BIBFRAME-to-MARC conversion tool was published by the ABA Network Development and MARC Standards Office (NDMSO). The converter, after further refinement, will permit BIBFRAME descriptions to be distributed to OCLC and other Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service customers in the MARC formats. The Library shares its BIBFRAME Editor and converter tools with the community via a GitHub repository at <https://github.com/lcnetdev/bfe/>.

The ABA Directorate is working with more than twenty libraries in the related LD4P (Linked Data for Production) project led by Stanford University

Libraries under an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant investigating the use of BIBFRAME in metadata creation and discovery. The Library of Congress has regular telephone conferences with seventeen libraries that are experimenting with resource description based on BIBFRAME principles in a linked open metadata environment. The seventeen research libraries that coordinated their BIBFRAME or linked open metadata experiences with the Library of Congress have suspended or reduced operations during the pandemic, and most are still not fully operational, slowing progress to some extent.

Bibliographic data in the BIBFRAME 2.0 database must be used in combination with authority data from the LC Linked Data Service (<https://id.loc.gov/>). In fiscal 2020, all the Library of Congress Classification schedules were loaded into “ID” and are now searchable in that service. In addition, NDMSO continued to ingest Wikidata links into “ID” for users who wished to consult both data sources. By the end of September 2020, more than 1.23 million links between the two data ecosystems had been created by the Library and Wikimedia community. After the move to AWS, traffic in “ID” nearly doubled, to about 1.1 million searches annually.

In November 2020, Beacher Wiggins announced plans to train all cataloguing staff at the Library of Congress to produce resource descriptions in BIBFRAME by the end of September 2021. Most staff will therefore be trained to use BIBFRAME before the Library of Congress begins to train them in the new RDA Toolkit that is scheduled for release on Dec. 15, 2020. The Library of Congress intends to implement the new RDA Toolkit no earlier than July 2022, to allow time to train all cataloguing staff in both BIBFRAME and the new RDA Toolkit.

COVID Pandemic Response

Like the rest of the international library community, the Library of Congress is currently deeply affected by the novel coronavirus pandemic. We want to express our solidarity with fellow librarians and library users around the world, and we send our most sincere hopes that all communities will soon

emerge from the pandemic, with as little personal and economic loss as possible.

The Library of Congress, with other U.S. Federal government agencies, has taken active steps to safeguard the health of its employees and minimize risks to its users and collections. The Library has stayed connected to the U.S. Congress and the American people while keeping employee health and safety as its first priority. Starting on March 3, 2020, before COVID-19 infections began to spread across the U.S., the Library reviewed its telework policies and began issuing health guidance to all staff. Beginning on March 11, 2020, the Library issued daily updates to all staff concerning the condition of the Library's facilities, staff working conditions and work requirements, and the spread of the coronavirus in the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan region. On March 12, 2020, the Library closed all its buildings and physical facilities to researchers and other members of the public. The Library's reading rooms remained open, with minimal staffing, to serve Congress as long as Congress was in session. The buildings and physical facilities are now fully closed until further notice, and all public Library events are cancelled through at least the end of December 2020. Also on March 12, 2020, Library staff were directed to test their home telework equipment to be certain that it would function well in the event that the Library buildings had to be closed to staff. Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, the Library directed all telework-enabled employees--those whose work was suitable for work at home and who had the necessary equipment--to work at home. For staff who were unable to telework, the Library offered a number of flexibilities, ranging from varying work schedules to minimize commuting time on public transportation to fulltime administrative leave for certain employees in high-risk groups. Beginning March 24, 2020, only critical employees who could not telework were permitted to work in Library buildings, with the objective of having only 50 of the Library's 3,100 staff members working in the buildings. From April 8 through 27, 2020, employees were not permitted to come onsite to pick up books for cataloguing on telework or to receive teleworking equipment, a measure designed to limit

possible staff exposure to the coronavirus. Many areas in the buildings were identified to receive enhanced cleaning or disinfection.

As the Library's primary cataloguing unit, the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate has about 150 regular teleworkers, and nearly all the rest of ABA's staff began teleworking in March and April 2020. The ABA Directorate has maintained production, at somewhat reduced levels, for all levels of cataloguing in most subjects and all language groups. The Cataloging in Publication Program has maintained production at approximately pre-pandemic levels--1,000 completed bibliographic records per week. The directorate's long experience with regular telework facilitated a smooth adjustment to the pandemic telework initiative.

The Library was able to restore partial onsite operations beginning June 22, 2020, and materials began to be delivered from the offsite storage facility in Cabin Branch, Maryland, to the Library's James Madison Memorial Building. To ensure the flow of new collections for acquisitions and cataloguing, 26 staff in ABA worked under overall supervision by the Cataloging in Publication (CIP) Technical Team supervisor to receive, unpack, and sort collection materials in the acquisitions mailroom and deliver them to the ABA processing sections. By early August 2020, all collection materials had been cleared from Cabin Branch storage—an estimated 20,000 parcels on 221 pallets.

The Library of Congress to date has been able to permit onsite staff to drive to the Library's campus on Capitol Hill and park in the Library's main garage. This has allowed employees to avoid crowded conditions on mass transit, where the coronavirus is believed to be a risk. When the Library reopens its reading rooms to researchers, there will not be enough parking spaces to permit parking for all onsite staff. The Library has a detailed plan for cleaning and safety when the reading rooms reopen, but no date for the reopening has been set.

Metadata Production

In fiscal 2020, the Library of Congress catalogued 252,564 new works, in addition to 283 archival records produced for manuscript repositories in the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections. Whereas twenty cataloguing staff left ABA during the year, high production was maintained through staff sharing arrangements and details that deployed scarce cataloguing skills most effectively; more descriptive cataloguing duties to technicians, as specified in their position descriptions; overtime opportunities in the second half of the year; shelf-ready production in the six overseas offices; and judicious use of cataloguing contracts. The ABA Directorate also obtained cataloguing metadata from shelf-ready vendors for portions of its new collection materials in Chinese, French, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish from Spain and Latin America.

Original cataloguing, the category of most interest to other libraries that depend on the Library of Congress for much of their cataloguing data, accounted for 181,278 records, actually exceeding the 154,221 produced the previous year. Copy cataloguing accounted for 24 percent of total cataloguing production, or 60,279 records. More than 73% of ABA's copy cataloguing was produced for publications from other countries. The cataloguing metadata that the Library of Congress produced are available everywhere in the Library of Congress Catalog on the World Wide Web (<http://catalog.loc.gov>) and are distributed via the Library's Cataloging Distribution Service and bibliographic utilities for the benefit of the entire library community.

The Cataloging in Publication (CIP) Program provided cataloguing in advance of publication for 58,631 monographs, on the request of publishers that had offices in the U.S. This number, which included 39,871 e-books, was more than ten percent higher than the 53,121 CIP records produced in fiscal 2019. The 32 institutional CIP Cataloging Partners cataloged 4,576 titles in fiscal 2020. The CIP Program served the needs of both the Library of Congress and the larger library community by providing high-quality metadata for

books and e-books considered likely to be widely acquired by libraries throughout the U.S.

The Library of Congress Dewey Program assigned Dewey numbers to 123,183 titles, an increase of six percent over the 116,090 Dewey numbers assigned in fiscal 2019.

RDA Progress

The Library of Congress continues its extensive support for the cataloguing instructions *RDA: Resource Description & Access*. The Library of Congress is an institutional member of the North American RDA Committee (NARDAC), which elects one representative to the worldwide RDA Steering Committee (RSC). During fiscal 2020, the Library's two representatives to NARDAC were Melanie Polutta, a cataloguing policy specialist in ABA, and Damian Iseminger, head of the Bibliographic Access Section in the Library's Music Division. Damian is also the RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer-Elect and will become the Technical Team Liaison Officer in January 2021.

The *Library of Congress-Program for Cooperative Cataloging Policy Statements* (LC-PCC PS) were not updated in fiscal 2019 because the RDA Toolkit remained frozen as a result of the RDA 3R Project. Once stabilization of the Beta RDA text was achieved in April 2019, the Library and the PCC began work on policy statement development. Based on recommendations of four joint LC-PCC task groups, in fiscal 2020 the Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division drafted and presented an action plan for moving the policy statements into the new RDA Toolkit (Beta). By July 2020, the resulting RDA LC-PCC Policy Statements Working Group had completed initial examination of all assigned chapters based on the current RDA, and converted the policy statements in the current RDA Toolkit for use in the new RDA Toolkit. The group then started examining every element and every option in the Beta Toolkit in order to ensure continuity with current cataloguing practices. This work is ongoing.

From October 2019 to March 2020, the Literature Section of ABA completed a pilot to evaluate the use of the Commonly Identified Title for works of

poetry. During the six-month pilot, 526 titles were catalogued following RDA 6.2.2.10. Works were catalogued and classified by their commonly identified title rather than a constructed “uniform” title. This process allowed for streamlining of team workflows. The pilot was a success and the new policy was endorsed overwhelmingly at the Library of Congress and by the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC). The Literature Section now is participating in a PCC feasibility study to catalog all literary genres according to RDA 6.2.2.10, using the commonly identified title.

Special Projects

To bring greater visibility to the Library of Congress’s rich African collections, the African, Latin American, and Western European Division (ALAW) in ABA and the African & Middle Eastern Division (AMED) in the Library’s General and International Collections Directorate (GICD) worked together on the Swahili Pamphlet Collection Project. An ALAW cataloguer created collection level records for twelve boxes totaling about 300 pamphlets, which had been housed in AMED for many years without bibliographic access. Each pamphlet was described in a note field of the collection level record. Volunteers in the ABA Asian and Middle Eastern Division catalogued material for the Persian Language Digitization Project sponsored by AMED and a collection of the Japanese Imperial Army and Navy materials and numerous Japanese rare materials for the GICD Asian Division.

The Library of Congress Name Authority File contains a large number of undifferentiated authority records for non-unique names, mostly created under AACR2, which was the Library’s main cataloguing code until March 2013. Undifferentiated authorities will be problematic in a linked open data bibliographic environment. Cataloguers have been applying RDA to create separate authority records for each identity, working from spreadsheets before all staff received telework laptops in [Northern Hemisphere] spring and summer 2020.

Subject Headings

Work continues to cancel Library of Congress Subject Heading (LCSH) authority records for “multiple” subdivisions (subdivisions that serve as models for subdividing by multiple different terms in a given category) and replace them with authority records for each individual valid heading string that is based on a multiple. In 2020, over 5,300 authority records for individual heading strings were created, over 130 authority validation records were revised, and 913 multiple authority records were cancelled. In addition, five free-floating multiple subdivisions that were authorized for use under names of persons were cancelled outright. Cancelling these subdivisions will simplify the maintenance and application of LCSH, particularly in a linked open data environment.

Supervisors in ABA

The ABA Directorate gained three new division chiefs and seven new first-line supervisors or section heads last year. Theron (Ted) Westervelt was named chief of the US/Anglo Division on September 30, 2019. Ted is currently chair of the Standing Committee for the IFLA Serials and Other Continuing Resources Section. Christine Dulaney joined ABA as chief of the Germanic and Slavic Division on January 6, 2020. Vivek Nadkarni became chief of the Acquisitions Fiscal, Overseas, and Support Division on June 21, 2020. The Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division gained two new section heads, Hien Nguyen and Clara Liao, on April 12, 2020. The US Arts, Sciences, and Humanities Division has three new section heads, James Estes for Serials—Arts, Humanities, and Sciences; Stephanie Brook Darnell for History and Military Science; and Jocelyn McNamara for Geography, Political Science, and Education. The ASME Division gained a China Section head, Ann Roddy, on April 27 2020. On August 6, 2020, Adrian Korz became supervisor of the acquisitions mailroom, a critical position that oversees the start and conclusion of many acquisitions and cataloguing tasks.

MEETING REPORTS

REPORT ON THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S ALCTS CAMMS SUBJECT ANALYSIS COMMITTEE, 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE, VIRTUAL MEETING ON JUNE 19, 2020

By **Dr. Judy H. Jeng**, Community Representative, Digital Public Library of America; IFLA SAA Representative to ALA/ALCTS SAC

The American Library Association's ALCTS CaMMS Subject Analysis Committee (SAC) met on June 19, 2020. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held online. The SAC Committee will not meet at Midwinter.

Janis Young gave reports from the Library of Congress regarding governmental bodies in Hong Kong and Macau. Hong Kong and Macau are special administrative regions of China, and it is unclear whether they will continue to have two official languages (Chinese and English in Hong Kong; Chinese and Portuguese in Macau). For that reason, the name authority records for all governmental bodies of the region itself and of local jurisdictions – should be coded as provisional (008/33=c) regardless of the language in which the authorized access point was established. DCM Z1 has been updated to reflect this policy.

Rosemary Groenwald from the Online Audiovisual Catalogers (OLAC) reported that OLAC celebrates their Ruby Anniversary this year and is recognizing the many contributions their members have made to the world of audiovisual cataloging over the past 40 years.

EDUG VIRTUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 5, 2020

By **Elise Conradi**, EDUG Chair; Head of Bibliographic Services, Biblioteksentralen AL, Norway

The European Dewey User Group (EDUG) and OCLC co-hosted a webinar on Dewey Translations on

November 5, 2020. The webinar consisted of four presentations with ensuing discussions. Tina Mengel of the German National Library opened with a presentation of ongoing work on editorial rules for Dewey translators. She was followed by Ingebjørg Rype of the National Library of Norway, who spoke about crowd-sourced built numbers in the Norwegian WebDewey. Rania Osman from Bibliotheca Alexandrina held a presentation about the various phases the Arabic translation project has gone through. Peter Werling rounded off the webinar by discussing the technical infrastructure for Dewey software, including the translation interfaces, WebDeweys in various languages, WebDewey Search, and CC-mapper, a mapping tool for mapping external vocabularies to Dewey. Approximately 40 people from around Europe attended.



EDUG Virtual Meeting (Photo courtesy of Elise Conradi)

The webinar was followed by the annual EDUG Business Meeting, this time virtually held, which had been postponed from May 2020. At the meeting, Elise Conradi (Biblioteksentralen in Norway) and Harriet Aagaard (National Library of Sweden) were reelected as Chair and Secretary, and Tina Mengel was elected as Vice-Chair. Elise Conradi was also reelected for a second term to serve as the EDUG representative on the Dewey Editorial Policy Committee. Members attending the meeting also discussed the implications of OCLC's recent cut to the Dewey editorial team, and resolved to write a statement to OCLC expressing shared concerns.

The next EDUG meeting will be hosted by the National Library of Austria and held in Vienna on May 7-8, 2021, if travelling is possible at that time.

STANDARDS NEWS

A COOPERATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY FROM THE GENRE/FORM WORKING GROUP

By **Ana Stevanovic**, Librarian, National Library of Serbia, Republic of Serbia; Co-Chair of the IFLA Genre/Form Working Group

and

Ricardo Santos Muñoz, Head of Technical Service, National Library of Spain; Co-Chair of the IFLA Genre/Form Working Group

Since its establishment in 2014, the [IFLA Genre/Form Working Group](#) has been working on several projects. The first project was gathering and sharing information about issues relating to genre/form usage worldwide. During 2017, the working group conducted a [survey](#) to explore the use of genre/form description in national libraries worldwide. In 2018, the working group initiated a new project, described below, that is now available on the group's website.

The aim of this project is to create an open cooperative bibliography of resources and references about genre/form on their webpage for the use of librarians interested in the field, be they beginners or experienced professionals. This bibliography consists of two parts. The first part is a compilation of bibliographic references (such as journal articles, presentations, and manuals) in any language, relating to any aspect of genre/form use, from basic concepts to highly specialized works, including theoretical foundations, case studies, user research, and descriptions of recent developments or projects. The second part is a compilation of genre/form vocabularies, thesauri or lists, in any language, which can be used as authoritative sources or reference sources to build other vocabularies, be they general or specialized in scope.

A first draft of both parts of the bibliography, compiled over the last year by members of the group, is available on the website here:

- Bibliographic references:
<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/classification-and-indexing/genreformrefs.pdf>
- Vocabularies:
<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/classification-and-indexing/genreformvocabs.pdf>

The group now invites the professional community to contribute to the collective knowledge and to help update and maintain the initial bibliography by proposing additional bibliographic references or vocabularies in any language. Proposals can be submitted by completing either of the two forms on the group's webpage here:

- Bibliographic references:
<https://forms.gle/8129mnEVDFeKzyT6>
- Vocabularies:
<https://forms.gle/6bYQxh889jv3BGeE7>

We invite the professional community to help maintain these cooperative bibliographies on genre/form.

NEWS FROM NAMES OF PERSONS PROJECT

By **Ricardo Santos Muñoz**, Head of Technical Service, National Library of Spain

and

Priscilla Pun, Head of Technical Process Unit, University of Macau Library

In this very difficult and bleak 2020, some good news is that there have been two important additions to the *Names of Persons* project, (<https://www.ifla.org/node/4953>) both coming from countries with non-Latin scripts.

The language file for "Chinese Names" was released in October 2020

https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/pubs/ifla_names_of_persons_chinese_names_2020.pdf

. The file is the result of the cooperation among the National Library of China, the Joint University Librarians Advisory Committee (JULAC), Hong Kong Library Association (HKLA), the Macau Library and

Information Management Association (MLIMA), and the University of Macau Library. It is a very useful and informative report on how Chinese names are constructed, and guides cataloguers to a better understanding of Chinese-speaking authors. It deals not only with the main features of mainland China names, but also with those from special regions of Hong Kong and Macau.

The file from Greece was published in June 2020. It was compiled by the Cataloguing and Bibliographic Services Department of the National Library of Greece, and can be downloaded at https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/pubs/ifla_names_of_persons_greece_2020.doc.

As with other files, both reports explain the different name elements that can be found in Chinese and Greek authors, providing guidance on how to arrange them in the construction of access points. Examples both in Greek/Chinese and romanized scripts are given.

The *Names of Persons* is one of the most enduring and outstanding projects from the Cataloguing Section, dating back to 1996. For its revision and update, beginning in 2009, it was decided to convert it from a onetime paper publication to a web-based project, where individual files can be accessed and updated when necessary. Many more country files need to be uploaded, so it's time to check if your country has a file, and, if not, urge your national agency to work on it.

IFLA NAMESPACES LAUNCHED WITH TRAINING HAPPENING IN 2021

By **Joseph Hafner**, Associate Dean, Collection Services, McGill Library, Montréal, Québec, Canada

After a working on this project for several years now, IFLA's Committee on Standards and Linked Data Technical Subcommittee (LIDATEC) are pleased to announce the launch of [IFLA Namespaces](#). This website allows for linked data access to various IFLA Standards, including:

- [The FRBR Vocabularies](#)

- [The ISBD Vocabularies](#)
- [The UNIMARC Vocabularies](#)
- [MulDiCat](#)
- [The LRM Vocabularies](#)

The site is flexible enough to allow for whatever other standards we should include now or in the future, so if something is missing, please reach out to our Committee and let us know.

After a soft launch of the site in June 2020, we have spent time reviewing the content and ensuring that it looks up to date. We are now ready to enter a period of training for anyone from IFLA who is working on standards that are included or who is interested in learning more about the site to join our upcoming training sessions:

Committee on Standards/LIDATEC

IFLA Namespaces Basic Training

Thursday 14 January 2021 - 15:30 CET (9:30 EST)

Registration required:

- <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=cZYxzedSaEqvqfz4-J8J6IFp08SNQkdBuZA1qTpkNB1UQkIVUDJNRDRER09TS0dLUk1BTkJDSEM0Vi4u>
- *This is a 1.5-hour training webinar for IFLA Committee Members who contribute standards to the Namespaces and need to know how the system works, how to review and update information, and how GitHub works with the Namespaces.* <https://www.iflstandards.info/>
- *Before attending the session, the registrants should have a GitHub account, so that they can try using the tool during the session on their own computer. Go to <https://github.com/> for more information about creating a login, if you don't already have one.*

Organised by [IFLA Committee on Standards/LIDATEC](#) (IFLA)

Following up on the Basic Training Session, will be an Intermediate Training Session:

Committee on Standards/LIDATEC**IFLA Namespaces Intermediate Training****Wednesday 17 February 2021 - 15:00 CET (9:00 EST)***Registration required:*

- <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=cZYxzedSaEqvqfz4-J8J6IFp08SNQkdBuZA1qTpkNB1UQzNOV0JZWkpaMU9WMVJESDRFVENKTE9LMi4u>
- *This is a 1.5-hour training webinar for IFLA Committee Members who contribute standards to the Namespaces and need to know how the system works, how to review and update information, and how GitHub works with the Namespaces.*
<https://www.iflstandards.info/>
- *Before attending the session, the registrants should have a GitHub account, so that they can try using the tool during the session on their own computer. Go to <https://github.com/> for more information about creating a login, if you don't already have one.*

Organised by [IFLA Committee on Standards/LIDATEC](#) (IFLA)

If there is interest, we will schedule an advanced training session in March 2021.

We want to thank everyone who helped us get to this point, including special thanks to Jon Phipps and Diane Hillmann from Metadata Management Associates.

We are looking forward to having feedback from the IFLA Community and beyond about how this project can help everyone using these standards realize their goals using this information as linked data.

U.S. ISSN CENTER LAUNCHES ISSN UPLINK

By **Regina Reynolds**, Director, U.S. ISSN Center

On November 23, 2020, requesting an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) became more

convenient for publishers and others who need ISSNs from the Library of Congress U.S. ISSN Center. On that day, ISSN Uplink, the first online U.S. ISSN application and tracking system, launched successfully. The day was marked by a steady stream of ISSN applications and an announcement including the ISSN Uplink logo prominently displayed on the ISSN International Centre's Facebook page. First day requests included one from Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory under the jurisdiction of the U.S. ISSN Center, and an application from Texas for a publication written almost entirely in Telugu, a Dravidian language from India that uses a script that the ISSN Uplink conversion program was able to incorporate successfully into a draft catalog record. At the end of her first day working in Uplink, Esther Simpson Beauchamp, a long-tenured ISSN librarian commented, "I was really impressed at how smoothly Uplink worked on the very first day. It is going to save us so much time! Cooking with gas, cooking with gas"

ISSN Uplink will provide significant improvements over the paper- and email-based application process that it replaces. Publishers, digitizers, database providers, and users such as Program for Cooperative Cataloging's CONSER members will be able to apply online for ISSNs, create accounts that include team members, track the status of their applications, communicate with ISSN staff members, and be able to see a history of all their applications, communications, and ISSN assigned. Uplink is even enabled for applications and communications from mobile devices. Although the application process is largely electronic, for print publications, ISSN librarians need to examine a sample issue to determine if the publication should be added to the Library's collection. In these cases, a shipping label and packing slip can be downloaded to simplify sending the issue to the Library. The application history and cumulative record of communications from a publishing team that Uplink retains will allow ISSN staff to provide better service to users during the ISSN assignment process and for future inquiries.

ISSN Uplink was created by members of the Library's Business Analysis Team, aided by U.S. ISSN

Center staff. Staff members used their deep experience with the existing workflow and their knowledge of the customer service aspects of ISSN work to provide input for each aspect of the system during the development process. Time- and labor-saving features for staff include: conversion of web form data supplied on ISSN applications into draft catalog records; communication templates that can be edited as needed; ISSN request tracking; and automated reminders to applicants for overdue published issues following ISSN assignments made in advance of publication. Regina Reynolds, director of the U.S. ISSN Center, called ISSN Uplink “the perfect early 50th anniversary present for the Library of Congress’s ISSN program that started in 1972.”

ISSN is the international identifier for serials and other continuing publications in all media. The U.S. ISSN Center is part of an international network of over 90 country-based ISSN centers. The U.S. ISSN Center assigns ISSNs to U.S. continuing publications whether current or ceased, including journals, magazines, newspapers, databases, and certain web pages. More information about Uplink and ISSN is available from U.S. ISSN Center’s web page <https://loc.gov/issn>.

NEWS FROM THE RDA STEERING COMMITTEE

By **Linda Barnhart**, Secretary of the RDA Steering Committee

Beta Toolkit Becomes Official RDA

The beta version of RDA Toolkit will become the official version of the RDA standard on December 15, 2020. On this date, the beta Toolkit will move to the *access.rdatoolkit.org* URL and will no longer be in “beta” status. The original Toolkit will move to a new URL, *original.rdatoolkit.org*.

This move also constitutes the formal end of the 3R Project. The RSC published [RDA Toolkit Switchover: Beta Toolkit Becomes Official RDA](#) with more information, and there is an article [“What you should know about the December switchover”](#) on the Toolkit blog.

The switchover date is not expected to be an implementation date for this new version of RDA. Implementation dates will differ globally depending on a community’s readiness. Community preparations are actively underway; this includes the preparation of application profiles and policy statements as well as training and orientation materials. Implementation timetables are under the control of the communities.

The switchover does NOT start the yearlong countdown clock on the original Toolkit, which will remain available at the new URL. The decision about when to begin the final countdown on the original Toolkit will be made by full agreement of the RDA Board and the RSC at an undetermined future time.

A list of the significant changes to the RDA text in the December 2020 release may be found in the Release Notes (in the Resources tab / Revision History) posted on the site.

The next release of the RDA Toolkit is expected in April 2021.

September 2020 release

A release of the beta RDA Toolkit was published on September 16, 2020. This release introduced new features and functionality as well as some relocating of RDA content. For a full explanation of notable changes to the RDA text see Release Notes (in the Resources tab / Revision History) posted on the site.

The September 2020 release included the introduction of the first translations of RDA in the beta Toolkit. The translations are in Finnish and Norwegian and are accessible to all users. Both translations are partial but do include a full translation of the user interface and many RDA instructions.

Another major change made in the September 2020 release was the restructuring of the Resources tab. Several pages that had been part of this tab have been relocated in part or in whole. A new section entitled “Community Resources” has been added to the tab. For a full explanation of the restructured tab, see the Release Notes.

RSC Membership

Gordon Dunsire, chair of the RSC from 2013-2018, Technical Team Liaison to the RSC since 2019, and deeply involved with RSC matters since 2011, will step down as an RSC member at the end of December 2020. The RSC salutes and thanks Dunsire for his leadership, vision, and years of service. He will continue as a member of the RDA Technical Working Group. Damian Iseminger of the Library of Congress will succeed Dunsire as the Technical Team Liaison and chair of the RSC's Technical Working Group.

RSC Meetings

The RDA Steering Committee (RSC) met asynchronously in July 2020. [Minutes to this meeting](#) are available on the RSC website, with links to relevant briefing papers included.

The in-person meeting of the RSC, planned for October 2020 at the National Library of Israel, shifted to a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Held 12-15 October and 20-23 October 2020, this virtual meeting had two major components: (1) two separate asynchronous meetings, conducted online using Basecamp software; and (2) four video Zoom calls, three in Executive Session and one in Public Session and open to observers.



The RSC at its virtual meeting October 2020 (Left to right, top to bottom): Linda Barnhart, Kathy Glennan, Honor Moody, Renate Behrens, Gordon Dunsire, Ebe Kartus, James Hennelly, Daniel Paradis, Thomas Brenndorfer, Ahava Cohen, Chris Oliver, Melissa Parent, Damian Iseminger. (Photo courtesy of Linda Barnhart)

Highlights are briefly described below; more detail is provided in the [Outcomes document](#). Public minutes will be published in due course.

Internationalization

The RSC received a [report](#), prepared by Gordon Dunsire, on progress made to support the internationalization strategy of the RDA Board. This briefing paper was organized according to a draft set of principles under development by the RDA Board. The RSC recognized and reconfirmed the importance of RDA moving away from an Anglo-American focus to become an international standard. Internationalization will be an ongoing endeavor and will be carried out by regional groups and task and finish working groups.

RDA Content

RDA conformance: The RSC continued the discussion begun at its July 2020 meeting of what conformance to the RDA standard means. The group agreed that the Technical Working Group will have the lead role with conformance issues and will create and maintain a lightweight self-certification checklist.

Timespan and units of time: A [briefing paper](#) prepared by Gordon Dunsire proposed adjustments to treatment of the Timespan entity and associated elements to resolve a conflict with the IFLA Library Reference Model and to improve the clarity, coherency, and consistency of the guidance and instructions. The RSC agreed to all the recommendations in that paper.

RDA vocabulary encoding scheme for

Manifestation: Type of binding: A [briefing paper](#) prepared by Gordon Dunsire and Ebe Kartus discussed the element Manifestation: *type of binding* and the associated incomplete RDA VES, and provided an appendix with a proposed completion of the VES terms. The RSC agreed to develop the incomplete RDA VES to add definitions and appropriate scope notes, and terms for basic methods of binding that are missing.

Toolkit Design and Functions

Revision of the Resources tab: The RSC continued the discussion begun at its July 2020 meeting about

the development of the Community Vocabularies area of the Resources tab. The RSC agreed that community content in this area is not part of “official RDA” and thus is not required to be translated.

RSC Communication and Work Processes

Future proposals and discussion papers: NARDAC, the North American RDA Committee, submitted a [proposal](#) which was used as the basis for a discussion of the proposal process. The RSC is open to receiving discussion papers and proposals from communities at any time; they can be considered during any of the RSC’s quarterly meetings. Proposals from individuals or groups not part of a current RDA regional community may be submitted to the RSC’s Wider Community Engagement Officer.

Governance model for community content in RDA:

The RSC continued the discussion begun at its July 2020 meeting of how the Community Resources area within the Toolkit should be managed and maintained.

RDA/MARC 21 Alignment Task Force: The RSC approved the formation of an RDA/MARC 21 Alignment Task Force as a subgroup of the Technical Working Group, and which reports to the Chair of the Technical Working Group. It is expected that this will serve as a model for other mapping or alignment efforts that require ongoing maintenance.

RSC Operations Post-3R: The RSC discussed how RSC operational work in 2021 and beyond will be different from its pre-3R and 3R processes. We expect to return to more structured processes for RDA content changes, but do not want to go back to the slower and more formal JSC-era processes. The RSC expects to function as more of an executive body and will look to the regions, communities, and Working Groups for discussion papers and proposals.

RSC Action Plans: The RSC agreed to include a specific section within its Annual Report to address how it accomplished its specific goals. The 2021-2023 Action Plan will be refined and published early in the year and will include steps to form several task and finish working groups in the new year.

Prior to January 2021, the RSC will also begin work on identifying actions for 2023.

The RSC received the usual reports from RSC position holders, regional representatives, and liaisons to external organizations. These [reports](#) have been published on the RSC website.

ISBD IN 2020: LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

By **Rehab Ouf**, Chair of the ISBD Review Group

2020 was expected to be a busy year for the ISBD Review Group. In that context of a global pandemic, this year was even busier, but a very special one.

Despite the various lockdowns, the unusual working conditions, and the absence of physical getting together, 2020 has been a year of important achievements and significant progresses.

The COVID-19 pandemic situation, resulting in the cancellation of required physical meetings (in Spring and Fall 2020), demanded some rearrangements in the methodology of the ISBD Revision and the functioning of the Task Forces entrusted with the revision works. All went fully virtual. Teleworking and remote storage have replaced pre-planned physical meetings required for bibliographic standards development and maintenance; especially when it comes to producing a major Update since the 2011 Consolidated Edition, and a transformative Revision to align the ISBD to the new bibliographic paradigm presented by the IFLA LRM.

In total, the ISBD Review Group (ISBD RG) and its Task Forces for the Revision had more than 20 Zoom meetings, including a highly attended virtual Business Meeting (Standing Committee meeting) for the cancelled WLIC 2020, with more than 30 observers from around the world, reflecting a wide interest in the ISBD Standard in the academic and professional fields. This is in addition to countless discussions and contributions through emails, Google Docs and IFLA’s Basecamp, and a dozen of work plans, reflection documents, and scope notes setting the guiding principles and outlining the directions of our work.

With this intensive virtual activity, the ISBD RG managed to keep the Revision works on track and achieved other objectives. The following update is a year review and a look forward into 2021.

Mirna Willer: One More Award for the ISBD Review Group

Perhaps the most cheerful event for the ISBD RG in 2020 was the honoring of one more of its senior members, *Mirna Willer*. Mirna was awarded an **IFLA Scroll of Appreciation** at IFLA's General Assembly that took place on November 5, 2020. The virtual honoring ceremony included IFLA Secretary General's announcement of the award and highlight of the entitlement, Mirna's acceptance speech, and, IFLA President Christine Mackenzie's words honoring Mirna.

Mirna's contribution to IFLA's work and to the library field was in the domain of bibliographic standards, namely UNIMARC, ISBD, and conceptual models—through the Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC, also chair from 1997 to 2005), the ISBD Review Group (also chair from 2011 to 2015), and the FRBR Review Group, renamed BCM Review Group. From 2007 until 2018, Mirna Willer was a professor in the Department of Information Sciences at the University of Zadar, Croatia. Now retired, Mirna continues to put her expertise and innovative views in standards development, as a consultant and honorary member of PUC, and as a corresponding member to the ISBD RG and member of its Manifestation Task Force responsible for aligning the ISBD Standard to the IFLA LRM Conceptual Model.



³ A subgroup established in August 2019 by the ISBD RG, and entrusted with the Updating aspect of the ISBD Revision, with Terms of reference outlining the mission and the deliverables.

Mirna is the fourth recipient of an IFLA Award among the current membership of the ISBD RG. The three previous recipients are: Gordon Dunsire (IFLA Medal, 2016), Dorothy McGarry (IFLA Scroll of Appreciation, 2016), and Elena Escolano Rodríguez (IFLA Scroll of Appreciation, 2017). Also shared between the ISBD Review Group and the Permanent UNIMARC Committee, this additional award reflects the tremendous developments in bibliographic standards in recent years, and highlights how central and valued the work on standards is to Corporate IFLA.

Consolidated Edition 2011 Updated, What to Expect?

The Content Update Task Force³, chaired by Elena Escolano Rodriguez (former Chair of the ISBD RG and other sub-groups), managed to keep up with its original revision plan, and produced, in late July 2020, an Updated draft of the ISBD standard in full. This aspect of the ISBD Revision entails producing a content update to the 2011 Consolidated Edition that extends the coverage of the ISBD to a larger array of resources, with stipulations on how to describe them, in addition to clarifications and refinements, and the introduction of new elements as required.

To this aim, three subgroups (also chaired by Elena) were established within the Content Update Task Force for Cartographic resources, Unpublished resources, and Component parts. The Task Force worked intensively, first in subgroups, to develop the proposals into ISBD stipulations, then, as a whole, to debate general issues and finalize the comments received from relevant liaisons and external reviewers to whom the Updated draft was sent.

The draft is now passing into review by ISBD RG and awaiting approval by late December 2020, after which it will be officially submitted to the Committee on Standards. The official Update is planned for publication early 2021, as originally set, after fulfilling the Committee on Standards

requirements as per the comments that will be received.

The 2020 Update to the ISBD Consolidated Edition 2011 draft is presenting to its worldwide usership a major Update since the ISBD Consolidated Edition 2011 in response to the numerous proposals the ISBD RG kept receiving from its communities of users during the past years. It has made enhancements and achieved broadening in scope as follows:

- The content of the ISBD was extended to include unpublished resources especially the manuscripts (without colliding with the archival standards used for archival collections). The ISBD, therefore, is no longer a standard only for published resources.
- The ISBD has integrated stipulations for the application of the ISBD to the description of component parts, a step that asserts ISBD's position as an international standard that provides internationally agreed upon stipulations for the different levels of granularity needed by different types of libraries, including those that perform cataloguing of analytics⁴.
- The ISBD has broadened and refined the description of cartographic resources, by completing the stipulations for celestial cartography resources, clarifying some stipulations and distinguishing elements already existing in the Consolidated ISBD, and providing a reorganized description of these materials by moving some elements from the notes to Area 3.
- New elements were introduced in appropriate Areas of the ISBD as required by the broadening and extensions, like Production process in Area 0 and Unpublished statement in Area 3.

⁴ These guidelines (https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbd/component_parts.pdf) were mentioned in the Introduction of the Consolidated ISBD and also in Appendix A.

⁵ A subgroup established in August 2019 by the ISBD RG, and entrusted with the Transformational aspect of the ISBD

In the Update, the additions and changes to the 2011 Consolidated Edition of the ISBD will be in red colour to facilitate their identification and maximize their usefulness to the users.

I take the opportunity to warmly thank and congratulate Elena for this achievement despite the hard times in 2020, thanks to her expert knowledge of the matter, her leadership, and her tireless work. I extend my warm thanks and appreciation to the members of the Content Update Task Force whose expertise and dedication achieved this.

A New ISBD Awaiting to Take Shape

The Manifestation Task Force⁵, chaired by Renate Behrens (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek Standards Office), had not a less challenging year focusing on its parallel track of the ISBD Revision. This aspect of the Revision is concerned with transforming the ISBD by aligning it to the new bibliographic paradigm presented by the IFLA LRM Conceptual Model, which would entail deconstructing the current ISBD Standard and reconstructing it on new bases as required.

Early in 2020, the Manifestation Task Force started its work by studying the documents and guidelines produced in the past years by former working groups, including the previous mappings, ISBD to FRBR and ISBD to LRM, and the preliminary gap analysis resulting from these trials. It was quickly concluded that the work should depart from a top-down approach rather than submerging in details that would not get much further; as useful and informing as these mappings are, they would not eventually lead to transforming the ISBD. It was clearly observed that the alignment direction should be reversed from ISBD – LMR to LRM– ISBD.

A concept note was presented by Gordon Dunsire⁶ in [Northern Hemisphere] Spring 2020, outlining new principles and Terms of reference for aligning the ISBD to LRM-Manifestation at the technical and

Revision, with Terms of reference outlining the mission and the deliverables.

⁶ Member of the ISBD RG and of the Manifestation Task Force, Independent Consultant. Former Chair of RDA Steering Committee, also member of Cataloguing Section, and Liaison to the BCM Review Group.

standard-development level. The note was endorsed by the members of the Task Force, its points discussed and augmented remotely in Basecamp, then finalized in a virtual meeting.

From September 2020, the members of the Manifestation Task Force started to work on the ISBD Consolidated Edition 2011 guided by the concept note. The task that spanned from September 2020 through December 2020 was to review ISBD manifestation statement elements by ISBD Areas vs. a top-level element set defined and augmented during Summer 2020, for gap analysis and identification of issues arising. **This progressive task focusing also on categorizing the arising issues in General (non-Area), all Areas, and Specific to an Area, shall continue until mid-January 2021.**

January 2021 is expected to be a decisive month for the future of ISBD. The Manifestation Task Force is set to have a two-day online meeting with four two-hours sub-meetings, in late January, focusing on the issues and problems resulting from the alignment and gap analysis and their possible solutions. The result of the work will be a new ISBD element set concretizing its alignment with LRM (i.e., an ISBD-LRM for Manifestation namespace), with a set of stipulations on how to describe a Manifestation according to an ISBD aligned to LRM.

The New Element Set with stipulations will be presented at the virtual WLIC 2021, following assessment and possible recommended further developments by the ISBD RG and after final approval by the Committee on Standards.

ISBD Vocabularies on the IFLA Namespaces Website

In June 2020, the [ISBD vocabularies](#) went live on IFLA Namespaces website⁷. This website allows for linked data access to the various IFLA Standards, including ISBD, FRBR, UNIMARC, MulDiCat, and LRM.

The ISBD vocabularies published consist of two Element Sets, constrained and unconstrained, and seven Value Vocabularies as follows: ISBD Content Form; ISBD Content Form Qualified Base; [ISBD](#)

[Content Qualification of Dimensionality](#); [ISBD Content Qualification of Motion](#); ISBD Content Qualification of Sensory Specification; [ISBD Content Qualification of Type](#); and [ISBD Media Type](#).

All the phases of the work were accomplished by LIDATEC (Linked Data Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on Standards), chaired by Joseph Hafner, with active participation from the ISBD Linked Data Study Group, a sub group of the Bib Standards Linked Data Study Group, chaired by Mélanie Roche (also chair of the BCM Review Group), which provided the vocabularies and contributed to the pre- and post-publishing tests.

With the post-publishing testing phase completed, LIDATEC had a Zoom meeting in October 2020, attended by Helen Mandl, IFLA Deputy Secretary General, and the chairs of IFLA standards bodies, to plan the next steps. The next stage for IFLA Namespaces will include various trainings by the developing firm, promotional activities to advertise the website, and development of documentation and introductory pages for the vocabularies. This will constitute the core activities of LIDATEC and the related Linked Data Study Groups in 2021.

Cooperation and Continuous Harmonization

Harmonization among the ISBD, ISSN, and RDA standards is an ongoing activity of the ISBD Review Group, as the Review Group has in its composition Liaisons from the external bodies developing these standards. The Liaisons keep the ISBD Review Group updated about the developments in their respective institutions and standards, and vice versa, to ensure that their institutions are informed about the developments in the ISBD Review Group and Revision.

The Liaisons from ISSN Network (Mikael Wetterstrom) and RDA RSC (Renate Behrens) are also members of the Task Forces to better concretize this harmonization and reflect it in the technical work of the ISBD Revision. The ISBD Review Group also has liaisons from other Sections in IFLA like the Rare Books and Special Collections,

⁷ <https://www.iflstandards.info/>

and other external bodies like IAML, and their role has been essential in developing the 2020 Update.

This was a brief look back in 2020 and look forward into 2021. With these achievements that will extend through 2021, the ISBD Review Group is closing 2020 and welcoming 2021. We hope there will be fewer challenges and more healthy and stable work environments for all.

NEW MEMBERS

BIBLIOGRAPHY SECTION



Aliya Saidembayeva, Head of National Bibliography Service, National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Almaty, Kazakhstan (*Photo courtesy of Aliya Saidembayeva*)

Aliya Saidembayeva, currently serving her first term as a member of the Bibliography Section Standing Committee, is Head of the National Bibliography Service at the National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan. She received her degree as a librarian-bibliographer from the History and Library Science Department of the Kazakh State Women Pedagogical University in Almaty in 1998. As a student, Aliya had an internship at the National Library, and right after graduation in 1998 was hired as Category 1 Editor of the Reference Department

of the Library. In 1999 she was promoted to a position of Category 1 Bibliographer at the Center of the National Bibliography and Scientific Information. After serving as a lead person for a retrospective team of the National Bibliography Service during 2005-2011, Ms. Saidembayeva was appointed as a head of the National Bibliography Service (NBS) in 2012.

Her responsibilities include compiling, editing, and overseeing the preparation and publishing of retrospective scholarly and recommended bibliographies. She also provides indexing and abstracting services for the abstract collection journals "Social Sciences" and "Culture, Linguistics. Literature. Art". Ms. Saidembayeva has also compiled and edited numerous retrospective bibliographies. She is an editor of the annual "Calendar of significant and memorable dates of the Republic of Kazakhstan" and is also the author and compiler of the CD-ROM "Poetical year of Kazakhstan in Russia". She has received the Laureate of the Award of the Foundation of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Art and Culture.

About being a librarian, Ms. Saidembayeva writes, "I really love my job. I consider myself the happiest person on the earth. If I were given another chance to choose an occupation, I would still choose librarianship. We, as librarians, have a very important role of providing information to our patrons through the reliable ways and channels for its discovery and retrieval. This is the best way to empower people by showing the paths to knowledge."



Wood engraving. Vignette; Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum; CCO; https://www.si.edu/object/wood-engraving-vignette%3Achndm_1945-200-252

UPCOMING EVENTS

IFLA NAMESPACES TRAINING

For additional information, see page 26 of this issue of the *IFLA Metadata Newsletter*.

Committee on Standards/LIDATEC

IFLA Namespaces Basic Training

Thursday 14 January 2021 - 15:30 CET (9:30 EST)

Registration required:

- <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=cZYxzedSaEqvqfz4-J8J6IFp08SNQkdBuZA1qTpkNB1UQkIVUDJNRDRER09TS0dLUK1BTkJDSEM0Vi4u>
- *This is a 1.5-hour training webinar for IFLA Committee Members who contribute standards to the Namespaces and need to know how the system works, how to review and update information, and how GitHub works with the Namespaces.*
<https://www.iflastandards.info/>
- *Before attending the session, the registrants should have a GitHub account, so that they can try using the tool during the session on their own computer. Go to <https://github.com/> for more information about creating a login, if you don't already have one.*

Organised by [IFLA Committee on Standards/LIDATEC](#) (IFLA)

Following up on the Basic Training Session, will be an Intermediate Training Session:

Committee on Standards/LIDATEC

IFLA Namespaces Intermediate Training

Wednesday 17 February 2021 - 15:00 CET (9:00 EST)

Registration required:

- <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=cZYxzedSaEqvqfz4-J8J6IFp08SNQkdBuZA1qTpkNB1UQzNOV0JZWkpaMU9WMVJESDRFVENKTE9LMi4u>

- *This is a 1.5-hour training webinar for IFLA Committee Members who contribute standards to the Namespaces and need to know how the system works, how to review and update information, and how GitHub works with the Namespaces.*
<https://www.iflastandards.info/>
- *Before attending the session, the registrants should have a GitHub account, so that they can try using the tool during the session on their own computer. Go to <https://github.com/> for more information about creating a login, if you don't already have one.*

Organised by [IFLA Committee on Standards/LIDATEC](#) (IFLA)

If there is interest, we will schedule an advanced training session in March 2021.

We want to thank everyone who helped us get to this point, including special thanks to Jon Phipps and Diane Hillmann from Metadata Management Associates.

We are looking forward to having feedback from the IFLA Community and beyond about how this project can help everyone using these standards realize their goals using this information as linked data.

RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: ADAPTING TO A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

When: 10 February 2021

Where: [Online](#)

The IFLA Rare Books and Special Collections Section is offering a panel discussion on the different experiences, plans, and lessons learned about providing services and continuing operations during a pandemic. Learn how special collections librarians from Spain, Sweden, Singapore, and the United States, representing national libraries, university libraries, and archives have thought about

strategies for both remote and in-person work under COVID-19.

This will be an opportunity for the broader IFLA rare books and special collections community to talk about what we have learned this year - and how we expect to operate in the future. There will be time for questions and discussion.

Speakers:

- **Makeswary Periasamy**, Senior Librarian, National Library Board, Singapore
- **Stephanie Stillo**, Curator of the Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection, Library of Congress, United States
- **Adelaida Caro Martín**, Department of Rare Books and Manuscripts, National Library of Spain
- **Peter Sjökvist**, Curator, Uppsala University Library, Sweden

Moderator: Meg Phillips, External Affairs Liaison, National Archives and Records Administration, United States

This 60-minute webinar is free and open to the public. Please share this invitation openly.

[Join the webinar](#) on 10 February 2021 at 14:00 - 15:00 CET. [Check your time zone](#) and save the date.

Suggested audience: Rare books librarians, special collections librarians, archivists, any interested person

Level of interaction: Panel (3+ speakers) discussion with Q&A

Language(s) subtitling and translations available: English - with AI subtitles, translation into 7+ IFLA Languages

Organiser: Meg Phillips (meg.phillips@nara.gov)

Sponsored by: [IFLA Rare Books and Special Collections Section](#)