To: ALA/ALCTS/CCS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access
From: John Attig, ALA Representative to the Joint Steering Committee
Subject: Report on the March 2009 JSC Meeting

Acknowledgements

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who provided assistance over the past six months. I particularly want to acknowledge the contributions of Kathy Glennan and Mark Scharff to the review and discussion of the 5JSC/LC/12 proposals on musical works and expression; and Kevin Randall, who helped me untangle the details of Appendix J (Relationship designators: relationships between works, expressions, manifestations, and items).

Introduction

The meeting of the Joint Steering Committee in Chicago, March 12–20, 2009, was the final opportunity to make decisions on the text of RDA to be included in the initial release. All issues had to be resolved by the end of the meeting; any issues not resolved would be deferred until after the initial release. At the end of the meeting, the Editor had from one to eight weeks (depending on the nature of the changes) to deliver marked-up PDF files to the developers.

The JSC was only able to deal with priority comments from the constituency responses to the full draft of RDA. Those comments were identified by JSC members and by the Editorial Team; there were about 400 of them. In addition, we somehow managed to deal with a number of non-priority comments that came to our attention. In all, almost 600 comments were discussed and resolved.

General comments on the full draft

✓ We decided to use the phrase “authorized access point” instead of “preferred access point”; we will continue to use “preferred title”.
✓ We decided to use the phrase “character string” instead of “alphanumeric string”.
✓ We decided that instructions on recording details about an element — as opposed to recording a term or terms — will be given as separate instructions; in the full draft this was done in Chapter 7, but not in Chapter 3.
✓ The centered captions for groups of elements will be reinstated, but will only display in the text of RDA, not in the table of contents pane.
✓ Additional CJK examples will not be added for the first release. The developer is having some problems with some Unicode characters, and it is not certain what East Asian scripts can be displayed. It was also felt that the addition of non-Latin alphabet examples should be more comprehensive and not limited to CJK.
Footnotes containing definitions will be replaced by links to Glossary; footnotes containing instructions will be moved into the text; most of the remaining footnotes will be those giving bibliographic citations.

Chapter 0. General Introduction

The phrase “human and non-human” will be deleted from definition of Person, in order to align with FRAD; this leaves Person defined as “an individual”, and users of RDA will need to decide whether this includes non-human individuals; at this stage, there will be no specific instructions (or examples) for access points for non-human individuals, so users of RDA will need to decide whether to apply the general instructions to non-human individuals. RDA will not forbid this practice, but will (at this point) do nothing to support it. [0.3.3]

The JSC noted that the principles of Representation and of Language Preference, as they are used in RDA are not in fact consistent, but no more so than other conflicting principles. One action that reduces this inconsistency somewhat was to remove the phrase “(in order of preference)” from the third paragraph of 0.4.3.4 and to delete 0.4.3.7.

Core elements: The JSC decided that when sub-elements are included in the list of core elements, both the element and the sub-element will be identified as core.

The list of core elements will be prefaced by a rationale for the core list. This will state that the core elements are those most significant for performing certain user tasks and will list the user tasks which the JSC has identified as the most important (from 5JSC/Chair/15). The ALA suggestion to define the core elements as a certification that certain elements should always be considered when applicable (instead of being required when applicable) did not resonate with the group. The core elements will be stated as required when applicable and readily ascertainable.

Devised title will not be considered a formal element sub-type. When the cataloguer must supply a title proper, the devised title is the title proper.

Place of Publication, Place of Distribution, and Place of Manufacture will be added to the list of core elements. When there is more than one, only the first place will be required. [0.6.2]

Language of expression will be added to the list of core elements at 0.6.3.

Medium of performance (for music), Numeric designation (for music) and Key (for music) will be always be core elements for works with non-distinctive titles, not just when needed for differentiation or when included in an access point. For works with distinctive titles, these elements will be core only when needed for differentiation. [0.6.3]

Elements relating to dates will be core elements for persons, families, and corporate bodies, not just when needed for differentiation — i.e., the elements will be moved from the second list to the first list in 0.6.4.
Expression manifested will be a core element only when more than one expression exists. [0.6.5]

Contributor will not be a core element; this resolves a conflict between 0.6.6 and 20.2.

The core requirement for subject relationships will be simply to record one subject relationship element for the work. The list of potential subject entities will be removed from 0.6.7.

Chapter 1: General guidelines

The concept of “re-basing” will be limited to updating loose-leafs (i.e., it will not apply to online integrating resources): “Create a new description for an integrating resource if a new set of base volumes is issued for an updating loose-leaf.” [1.6.3.3]

Punctuation of numbering statements: An exception will be added to 2.6.1.4 and 2.12.9.3 to specify use of the slash for numbering of double issues and spanned dates.

After discussion of various ways to give unspecified dates when decade or century is certain or probable, the JSC decided to use 1.9.2.4 and 1.9.2.11 to specify the date or range of dates explicitly. This eliminates the ambiguity of 1900s (century or first decade).

Chapter 2: Identifying manifestations and items

The JSC spent about an hour trying to resolve issues relating to sources of information, before finally admitting that these could not be resolved before the initial release of RDA. The problem is complicated, but involves the lack of a clear instruction to prefer a source that contains a collective title, as well as the exceptions in 2.2.2.4 to prefer a label that is permanently affixed to the resource over a label or container that is detachable. We agreed that the results of the currently-worded RDA instructions are problematic and will be different from current practice, but were unable to find a solution that we were confident would not cause other problems. This issue will probably be a high priority for revision after the initial release.

The JSC revised the next-to-last paragraph of 2.2.2.2: “use as the preferred source of information another source within the resource that bears a title, giving preference to sources in which the information is formally presented.

The two paragraphs following the first list in 2.2.4 will be moved to 2.2.2.1 where they will clarify sources for analytical descriptions, and the definition of container.

The definition of alternative title (2.3.2.1) will be revised based on the definition in the ISBD, consolidated edition.
✓ “Parallel title” and “Parallel title of series” will be changed to “Parallel title proper” and “Parallel title proper of series”. [2.3.3, 2.12.3]

✓ The definitions of parallel elements were changed so that they no longer refer to the language of the title proper, but to the language of the information recorded in the element. For example, Parallel other title information is “other title information in a language and/or script different from that recorded in the other title information element.”

✓ It was agreed that earlier and later titles should not be treated as variant titles; the names will be changed to Earlier title proper and Later title proper. [2.3.6-2.3.8]

✓ The JSC once again refused to acknowledge the legitimacy of the concept of continuing resources, even in the definition of the Key Title element.

✓ The sources of information for key title will be (in order of preference): the ISSN Register, a source within the resource itself, any other source.

✓ It was agreed to add “supplied title” as a cross-reference to “devised title” in the Glossary.

✓ The exception that calls for omitting statements of responsibility relating to editors of serials will be reinstated, as Statement of Responsibility is now a core element. [2.4.1.4]

✓ “Statement of responsibility relating to the title” will be changed to “Statement of responsibility relating to the title proper”. The same change will be made for “Parallel statement of responsibility relating to the title proper.” [2.4.2]

✓ The following will be added to the list of types of edition designations in 2.5.2.1: “g) particular voice range or format for notated music”.

✓ The list of sub-elements under Numbering of serials will be expanded to eight, to cover first/last designation in a sequence; first/last chronology in a sequence; first/last alternative designation in a sequence; first/last alternative chronology in a sequence.

✓ The summary sources of information instructions for Numbering at 2.6.1.2 will be deleted; the instructions will be given for each sub-element; those instructions allow information to be taken from any source within the first issue or part.

✓ The instruction on year used as a numeric designation will be moved from 2.6.3 to 2.6.2; a reference will be included in 2.6.3.

✓ In 2.6.3.3 and elsewhere, instructions to use square brackets will be replaced by a reference to 2.2.4, where use of square brackets is one of several options for indicating that information was taken from outside the source.

✓ In 2.8.4.7, the text was revised to make it clear that the distributor’s name is to be recorded as such, not as the publisher’s name; furthermore, the instruction to record the distributor’s instead of the publisher’s name was deleted. When there is no publisher identified, it will be necessary to record "name of publisher not
identified”; the decision to record the name of the distributor will thus be independent of whether the publisher is named.

- A new section will be added to 2.20 to cover notes on details of copyright dates.
- The ALA proposal that ISSNs of series be taken from any source was withdrawn when I realized that this was the ISSN in the series statement (490$x), not the ISSN itself (022). [2.12.8.2]
- ALA had asked that instructions on changes in mode of issuance be added. The JSC decided that the only case in which a change in mode of issuance did not result in a new description would be a change from a single unit to a multipart monograph, serial, or integrating resource. There are additional issues about whether such changes should require a new description; therefore, the issue was deferred until after the first release of RDA. [2.13]
- The definition of Frequency will be reworded based on the ISBD definition: “intervals at which the issues or parts of a serial or the updates to an integrating resource are issued”.
- The JSC agreed to add “trade name, brand name” before “agency, etc.” in 2.15.1.4, thus allowing the recording of recording labels as qualifiers to publishers’ numbers. The “Nimbus” example in 2.15.2 will be deleted (that instruction is limited to notated music); the references in 2.15.2 and 2.15.3 back to 2.15.1.4 will be deleted, so that it will not be required to give the name of the agency assigning the number.
- It was agreed to move the ISRC example to Chapter 6, as this is an expression-level identifier. [2.15.1.4]
- The instruction at the end of 2.20.2.4 to make a note on deletions will be broadened to include other types of title changes.
- In 2.20.12.5, “always” will be deleted; the date an online resource was viewed will not need to be given in every case.

**Chapter 3: Describing carriers**

- The JSC decided that the list of carrier types at 3.3.1.2 would not be converted into a table. The footnotes will be added to the Glossary definitions. It is anticipated that the terms will be linked to the Glossary definitions in RDA online.
- The JSC did not agree to add “audio file” and “streaming audio file” to the list of carrier types; these categories will have to be negotiated with the RDA/ONIX group.
- The JSC did not agree to add “flash drive” to the list of computer carrier types; again, this category will have to be negotiated with the RDA/ONIX group. An example will be added to the appropriate instruction under Extent.
- The scope note “Use for photographic carriers only” will be deleted from the Projected media carriers list.
- The JSC agreed to add “Object” to the list of unmediated carrier types.
✓ “Videodisc” was erroneously omitted from the list of video media carrier types, and will be reinstated.

✓ The JSC agreed that number of frames of still images should be recorded as part of the extent statement (3.4.1.7) rather than in a note (3.22.2.10).

✓ Instructions will be added to the sections on recording extent for specific types of resources, to specify the use of singular or plural forms of terms as appropriate.

✓ The exception for early printed resources that says to record all sequences of unnumbered leaves or pages is followed by a later exception that says not to record sequences of unnumbered leaves or pages containing advertisements. To resolve this conflict, we agreed to delete “all” from the first exception.

✓ The JSC agreed to change the caption at 3.4.5.10 from Folded leaves and pages to Folded leaves on the grounds that it is physically impossible to fold a page. We left unresolved the question of how to record the extent of an item that has folded leaves containing numbered pages.

✓ The Japanese orihon format (a sheet folded accordion style) will be treated as a volume. An example of a note explaining the format will be added to 3.22.2.11: “Leaves are joined end to end and folded accordion style.”

✓ There is a distinction between reels (the physical housing) and rolls (the material rolled onto the reels); the instructions for dimensions need to allow either to be measured, as a roll may exist that are not wound on a reel. In the list of carrier types (3.3.1.2), categories will be added for film roll and microfilm roll.

✓ The definitions of Base Material and Applied Material were simplified, in order to remove any reference to content.

✓ It was agreed that all terms in the Production method for manuscripts element will be given in the singular.

✓ The JSC confirmed that Type of recording (3.16.2) should be confined to how a resource is encoded for playback. Details about an analog-capture recording from which a digital recording for playback has been made can be recorded in a note. The values for this element will not be limited to analog and digital, in order to allow for other recording formats such as acoustic.

✓ An element sub-type for Resolution will be added to 3.19, Digital file characteristics; this will allow the resolution in pixels or megapixels to be recorded.

✓ Regional encoding will remain in 3.19, Digital file characteristics, rather than 3.18, Video characteristics. 3.18 is used only for attributes of analog recordings; attributes of digital video are included in 3.19.

✓ Note that 3.22 is not a complete list of notes on carrier characteristics; in addition, there are instructions on recording details (as notes) under many of the elements in Chapter 3.

Chapter 4: No decisions to report.
Chapter 5: General guidelines

- The definition of “access point” was clarified (a) to indicate that the term covers both authorized [formerly “preferred”] and variant access points, and (b) to indicate that access points in Section 2 cover both works and expressions. [5.1.3]

Chapter 6: Identifying works and expressions

- The instruction dealing with changes in responsibility for the creation of a work will be revised to call for revising the authorized access point, rather than creating a new access point for a new work. [6.1.3.3]

- A definition of “reference source” will be added to the Glossary: “Any source form which authoritative information may be obtained, including authority files, reference works, etc.”

- 6.2.2.8 for incunables will be deleted, because the instructions are consistent with the general instructions for pre-1501 works (6.2.2.5).

- It was confirmed that the designation “Selections” will never be the preferred title, but will always be added to some conventional preferred title, such as “Works.” [6.2.2.11.3]

- The phrase “(normally the year)” will be removed from 6.4.1.1 and other scope statements; the specific instructions will be given in 6.4.1.3 and comparable instructions. This resolves an apparent conflict between the scope and the instructions.

- Original Language of Work will be deleted, as this element was removed from FRAD. All language information is at the expression level. The language of the original/first expression of the work can be recorded in a note. [6.7]

- It was agreed that the definitions of identifiers (6.9.1, etc.) will contain language indicating that the identifier may also be for a surrogate for the work [etc.] (e.g., an authority record).

- Instructions on recording names of languages will refer to ISO 639-3, which is a more complete list of languages than ISO 639-2.

- Some possible discrepancies between the text and the element analysis table were pointed out in comments, and the explanation is one of the things that will have to be explained to catalogers using RDA. Note that, for example, there are two elements named “Date of work” (6.4 and 6.21); it was explained that the sections and subsections of the additional instructions for musical, legal, religious, etc., works are often not formally defined as elements, but are simply additional instructions for elements defined elsewhere. Therefore, 6.4 and 6.21 are in fact the same element. Furthermore, the subsections of 6.21, dealing with date of promulgation of a law and date of signing of a treaty are not in fact element subtypes, but are simply additional sets of instructions under the Date of work element. All of this is further complicated by the fact that many of these non-elements are labeled as “core elements”. The JSC took a deep breath and decided that (a) the sections of additional instructions will be given distinctive
captions, e.g., “Date of legal work” (6.21) and (b) the core element requirements will make it clear what the core element in question actually is: e.g., for 6.21 and its subsections, the core element required is “Date of work”.

✓ The instructions on preferred titles for the Bible does not include provision to add “Selections” because “Selections” is not part of the preferred title (6.23.2.9.7) but rather is an addition to the preferred title when creating an access point (6.30.3.2). Instructions and references will be added to 6.30.3.2 and to 6.25 that will specify the addition of “Selections” when appropriate.

✓ The instructions on access points for works (6.27.1.1) will include a reference to the scope of the Creator element, in particular to the instructions on corporate body as creator (19.2.1.1).

✓ It was confirmed that compilers are only considered to be creators in the case of compilation of factual information (e.g., bibliographies, dictionaries), but not in the case of compilations of aggregate works. In other words, there was no intention to change the AACR2 rules relating to compilations, which will be entered under the preferred title. 6.27.1.4 will be revised to clarify this, as will the definitions of Compiler and Editor of Compilation in Appendix I.

✓ An exception will be added at 6.27.2 to allow access points for episodes of moving image works to be formulated using the preferred title of the work, followed by the preferred title of the part.

✓ It was decided that not all examples of preferred title of expression or of authorized access points for expression need to identify a single separate expression, but that at least one example should show how the preferred title or authorized access point for a single expression would be created. The most common case is that of a translation; many of the current examples identify all the expressions in a particular language, which is legitimate, but we would like to see at least one example that identifies a particular translation.

Chapter 7: Describing content

✓ The scope statement for Nature of the Content (7.2.1.1) will refer to the “primary content”.

✓ The definitions of longitude and latitude will be generalized so as not to be limited to the Earth. [6.4.2.1]

✓ The use of abbreviations for academic degrees will not be specified in 7.9.2 and abbreviations for academic degrees will not be added to Appendix B; however, the examples under 7.9.2 will continue to use abbreviations.

✓ The scope of Date of capture (7.11.3.1) will be revised to allow recording a range of dates.

✓ Form of Notation (7.13) will be expanded to include form of notated movement.

✓ The terms under Form of tactile notation (7.13.4) will be changed to braille code, computing braille code, mathematics braille code, Moon code, music braille code,
tactile graphic, tactile musical notation. Level of contraction (e.g., Grade 2) will be treated as a detail to be recorded in a note.

✓ The revised definitions of full screen and wide screen provided by ALA were accepted.

Chapter 8: General guidelines
✓ The scope of Person will be expanded to include fictitious persons. As a result of this, purported creators of works by fictitious persons such as Miss Piggy will be treated as the creators of those works. [9.0]
✓ The definition of Family was expanded to “two or more persons related by birth, marriage, adoption, civil union, or similar legal status, or who otherwise present themselves as a family”. [8.1.2]
✓ Undifferentiated Name Indicator (8.11) will be limited to names of persons.

Chapter 9: Identifying persons
✓ The instruction at 9.2.2.9 will be rendered gender-neutral: “married persons identified only by a partner’s name”.
✓ The apparent contradiction among various examples that include “saint” is not in fact a contradiction; “saint” is not part of the preferred name (9.2.2.9.6) but may be part of the access point (9.19.1.1).
✓ Instructions for recording elements such as date of birth (9.3.2.3) need to specify a particular way of recording dates because the instructions for access points simply refer back to these instructions. This was in part because it was desired to be able to construct access points algorithmically by picking up the content of the related elements and adding them to the preferred title. The relationship between what is recorded in the element and what is included in the access point may be revisited after the initial release of RDA.
✓ Limitations on recording elements only when needed as part of an authorized access point will be removed; it is also legitimate to record elements when needed as part of a variant access point. Note that this is a different issue from the previous one; in this case, the question is whether to record anything at all. However, when the information is needed in an access point, it must be recorded in the element in the same form in which it will be used in the access point. [9.6.1.4]
✓ It was agreed that the distinction between Field of Activity and Profession or Occupation was difficult to make. However, in part because these are distinct elements in FRAD, it was decided not to make any change at this time. [9.15, 9.16]
Chapter 10: Identifying families

✓ It was confirmed that families must meet the definition, i.e., two or more related persons; it is not sufficient that the name include the term “family”. Therefore, the Partridge Family, which is a fictitious family but a legitimate corporate body, will be treated as the latter.

Chapter 11: Identifying corporate bodies

✓ An ALA proposal to deal with ruling executive bodies was deferred until a formal proposal can be presented for consideration. [11.2.2.19]

✓ The instruction at 11.2.3.3 that refers to multiple identities was an error in the full draft. The concept of multiple identities is limited to persons.

✓ Date of Usage is also limited to persons.

✓ Text will be added to the exception at 11.3.2.3 to explain the conditions under which the name of an institution is given instead of a local place name as the location of a conference.

✓ Number of a Conference, etc., will be made a separate element in Chapter 11, and will be identified as a core element.

✓ It was agreed that access points for a conference need not always include the location. All additions to names of conferences will be made “when applicable and readily ascertainable.” The World Series example will be moved to the section of the instructions dealing with a series of conferences, etc.

Chapter 17: General guidelines on recording primary relationships

✓ It was agreed to remove the term “related” from this chapter, to help distinguish Section 5 from Section 8.

✓ Item of Manifestation will be changed to Exemplar of Manifestation. [17.11]

Chapter 18: General guidelines

✓ An instruction was added allowing use of relationship designations that are not listed in Appendix I, J, or K.

Chapter 25: Related works

✓ There was a long discussion of how the contents note ended up in Chapters 25 and 27, as a relationship, rather than in Chapter 7, as an attribute describing content. The contents note will remain as a structured description of parts of the resource being described, but a reference at 7.10.1.1 (Summarization of Content) will point to Chapters 25 and 27 for contents notes.

✓ It was decided that publishers’ numbers and plate numbers should not be used as identifiers for use in indicating relationships; examples will be removed from Chapter 25 and 27. Examples of ISBNs as relationship identifiers are only
appropriate in Chapter 27, Related Manifestations; examples will be removed from Chapter 25. The examples of identifiers in Chapters 24-28 will only show the identifier.

**Appendix A: Capitalization**

- It was agreed to add an alternative instruction to A.1 allowing agencies to use internal guidelines on capitalization of transcribed data; this will be limited to the recording of attributes of manifestations and items.
- Key will be deleted from the exception at A.3.2; the first “word” of a key statement will be capitalized.
- The capitalization instructions for “Serbo-Croatian” (A.48) will be split into three sections for Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian.

**Appendix E: Record syntaxes for access point control data**

- E.2, which gives the current AACR2 presentation instructions for access points, will remain limited to AACR2 rules. If any additional access point control elements are added to RDA, the JSC will need to decide whether to maintain this section or to allow it to become obsolete.

**Appendix H: Dates in the Christian calendar**

- H2, conversion of dates to the Gregorian calendar, will be deleted; there are an abundance of resources available for making the determination as needed; RDA does not need to replicate this information.

**Appendix I: Relationship designators ...**

- The captions will be revised to say “Relationship designators for persons, families, and corporate bodies associated with a work” [etc.]
- Language will be added to Appendices I, J, and K to indicate that one may assign either a broad relationship designator or one of the narrower designators.
- The JSC will not create a complete alphabetical list of the designators; we are hoping that the RDA software will support a browse of the terms.
- (a) The name of the Producer designator (2.21) will be changed to Producer of an Unpublished Resource; this will allow “producer” to be used for producers of film, radio, and television works. (b) In Appendix I, two new terms (Director, Producer) will be added to I.2.2; the current terms for Film producer, etc., will become narrower terms under these designators.
- In the definition of “arranger of music” (I.3.1), we agreed to change “... the musical substance of the original composer ...” to “... the musical substance of the original composition ...” — although we were tempted to leave it in order to see whether anyone was paying attention.
We agreed to merge the designators for “choreographer of …” into a new designator “Choreographer (Expression)” and to merge the designators for “composer of …” into a new designator for “Composer (Expression)“.

Appendix J: Relationship designators for related works, expressions, manifestations, and items

There were a large number of errors in the text of Appendix J included in the full draft. For the present discussion, the JSC worked from a clean copy in which all of the errors had been corrected.

The JSC reviewed the conceptual structure of Appendix J and how the designators are to be used, but (in general) did not make major structural changes. Some of the more significant decisions about specific designators include:

- It was decided that all definitions should include the identification of the “Reciprocal relationship: …”.
- Designators for relationships between a libretto and the musical work will be included under Complemented by (work) and Complemented by (expression).
- Designators for relationships between a cadenza and the musical work will also be included under Complemented by (work) and Complemented by (expression).
- Definitions of Augmented relationships will use the term “predominant” to describe the augmented entity.
- Continuity of numbering was removed from the definition of the “continues” relationships. “Supersedes” relationships will not be distinguished from “continues” relationships for serials. However, designators for the “supersedes” relationships will be retained with very general definitions, designated to be generally used for multipart monographs and integrating resources.
- After long discussion and much drawing of pictures, it was decided that the reciprocal of “Separated from” was “Continued in part by”. The fact that this was not intuitive was the reason the JSC decided to identify reciprocal relationships explicitly.
- Both “electronic reproduction” and “digital transfer” designators will be retained, but “digital transfer” will be limited to digital-to-digital transfers, as “electronic reproduction” is already limited to analog-to-digital transfers.
- Designators for both the reproduction and reprint relationships will be retained, but the latter will become a narrower term under the former.
- The “offprint” designator will be deleted.

Appendix K: Relationship designators for related persons, families, and corporate bodies

It was agreed that this appendix should be labeled as “provisional” for the first release of RDA.
Glossary

- The term “atlas” will be limited to “A volume of maps or other cartographic content ...”.

- The definition of “captioning” will begin “Text representing speech ...”. An additional sentence will be added to the definition: “Excludes subtitles in a language other than that of the spoken content.”

- General carrier categories that are not actually used as Carrier types (e.g., cartridge, cassette) will be removed from the Glossary.

- Although recognizing that the definition of “computer” applies only to the use of this term as a Media Type, we decided not to revise or add to the definition, due to some complicated considerations (believe me, you do not want to know!) about how the RDA software is expected to display definitions when a user clicks on terms occurring in the text of RDA.

- New terms Adaptation and Arrangement will not be added to the Glossary, but the narrower term Transcription [of a musical work] will be removed.

Identifying musical works and expressions in Chapter 6

In addition to the full draft of RDA, the JSC agenda included a major set of proposals from the Library of Congress (the 5JSC/LC/12 series) dealing with the instructions for recording attributes and constructing access points for musical works and expressions. These proposals were both extensive and contentious. In spite of the limited time available, the JSC managed to agree on a significant number of changes to the text of RDA. This was made possible by a lot of hard work. Kathy Glennan, Mark Scharff and other members of the Music Library Association identified areas of agreement and disagreement. Kathy and Mark subsequently worked extensively with Daniel Paradis (representing the CCC music positions) to document proposals supported by both ALA and CCC. Finally, Barbara Tillett and Judy Kuhagen compiled a list of the areas of agreement between ALA, CCC and LC. Kathy and Mark joined me in presenting the ALA position.

The following decisions were made:

- An exception that allows the preferred titles of a numbered sequence of works in a particular form (e.g., the nine Beethoven symphonies) to be consistently formulated was moved from the instructions on recording the preferred title (6.15.2.4) to the instructions on choosing the preferred title (6.15.2.3) and reworded:

> If all of a composer’s works with titles that include the name of a type of composition are also cited as a numbered sequence of compositions of that type, use the name of the type of composition as the preferred title.

    Symphonies

    Resource described: Sinfonia eroica / composta da Luigi van Beethoven. Also cited in lists of the composer’s symphonies as no. 3
The instruction to delete initial articles from the preferred title was deleted in 6.15.2.4 because an earlier instruction had already specified that omission.

The special instruction for trio sonatas (6.15.2.7) was deleted, as this is covered by other instructions; however, the special instruction on duets (6.15.2.6) was retained.

The instructions on recording the preferred title of a part of a musical work (6.15.2.8.1) were revised:

Record the preferred title for a part of a musical work applying the instructions given under 6.15.2.4, as applicable. Apply the additional instructions given under 6.15.2.8.1.1–6.15.2.8.1.5 below as appropriate.

The scope of Medium of performance (6.16.1.1) was revised:

**Medium of performance** is the instrument, instruments, voice, voices, etc., for which a musical work was originally conceived.

The instructions and table under Standard combination of instruments (6.16.1.5) was reworded to make the instructions clearer. There will be three columns: (a) the name of the “standard combination”; (b) “instrumentation” (the list of instruments); and (c) the “term recorded” in the Medium of performance element.

The instructions for one or more solo instrument (6.16.1.9) was reworded to combine the two paragraphs in the full draft:

For a work for one or more solo instruments and accompanying ensemble, record the term for the solo instrument or instruments and the term for the accompanying ensemble, in that order, applying the instructions given under 6.16.1.4–6.16.1.8.

The instructions for recording general terms for voices (6.16.1.10, 3rd paragraph) were revised to clarify when such terms should be recorded:

Record one of the following terms for two or more solo voices of different ranges if no specific voice types or ranges can be ascertained.

- mixed solo voices
- men’s solo voices
- women’s solo voices

Minor revisions were made to the instructions on Choruses (6.16.1.11).

The instructions on Indeterminate medium of performance (6.16.1.13) were revised. The result is an order of priority to be followed when there is no stated medium: (a) a family of instruments; (b) range or general instrument type, e.g., treble instrument, melody instrument, male voice; (c) “unspecified instruments”; (d) “voices” followed by the number of parts, e.g., voices (3); (e) “unspecified”.

The caption at 6.17.1 was changed to “Numeric designation of a musical work”; a new second paragraph was added to 6.17.1.3.1, dealing with inconsistent numbering of a series of compositions; 6.17.1.3.3 was revised to allow all types of numeric designations to be recorded in this element, not just the one (or more)
that will be included in the authorized access point. In 6.28.1.11, the instruction will be to use “one or more of the following” elements in the access point:

a) a term indicating medium of performance (see 6.14)
b) a numeric designation (see 6.17)
c) key (see 6.18)

✓ The definition and instructions on recording the key (6.18) was revised to remove the distinction between pre-20th-century and post-19th-century works and to clarify that “Key is designated by its pitch name and its mode, when it is major or minor”.

✓ A proposal to combine several instructions into a single instruction on “Collaborative works” at 6.28.1.1 was rejected. The instructions included both collaborations in creating new works and “collaborations” between a composer and a later adapter/arranger. The JSC were unwilling to expand the concept of collaboration to this extent.

✓ In 6.28.1.3, the phrase “single song” was changed to “single excerpt”.

✓ 6.28.1.4 was deleted because it deals with non-musical works and is covered by the general instructions.

✓ The scope of 6.28.1.5 was reworded: “For a musical work composed for choreographic movement, such as a ballet, pantomime, etc., ...”

✓ The caption at 6.28.1.7 was changed to “Operas and other dramatic works with new text and title”.

✓ Additional instructions were added to the section on cadenzas (6.28.1.8) to deal with cadenzas that do not have titles.

✓ The scope of the instructions for Music or incidental music composed for dramatic works (6.28.1.9) will be expanded to cover “a dramatic work, film, etc.”

✓ The instructions to base the authorized access point for a libretto on the authorized access point for the musical work (6.28.1.10) were deleted, because librettos as such are not musical works; authorized access points for librettos will follow the general instructions and will include the authorized access point for the author of the libretto.

✓ A new instruction was added (6.27.4.2.1) to allow for a variant access point with the libretto treated as a part of the musical work. This variant access point would include the authorized access point for the composer and the preferred title of the musical work, followed by “Libretto.”

✓ A new instruction was added (6.28.4.2) to allow for a variant access point with the cadenza treated as a part of the musical work, instead of an independent work. The authorized access point would include the authorized access point for the composer of the cadenza, and the variant access point would include the authorized access point for the composer of the larger musical work.

✓ The caption and scope at 6.28.1.11 was changed to “Additions to access points representing musical works with titles that are not distinctive” and the caption
and scope at 6.28.1.12 was changed to “Additions to access points for musical works with distinctive titles”.

- The instructions for musical sketches (6.28.3.4) was revised (and an example added):
  
  Construct the authorized access point representing a work or part or parts of a work consisting of a composer’s sketches by adding Sketches to the authorized access point representing the completed work.

- The instructions on librettos as musical expressions (6.28.3.6) were deleted; librettos are being treated as related works.

- “Variant” was added to “access point” in a few instructions in which it was missing (6.28.4.1–6.28.4.4).

There were a number of comments on other parts of RDA that were related to this discussion:

- It was agreed to remove the limitation on the number of instruments, voices, etc., that may be recorded as Medium of performance. [7.21.1.3]

- In the Glossary, a definition of “Distinctive title” was added; “Non-distinctive title” will not be added; the term “Type of musical composition” (with “musical” deleted) will be retained and revised.

There was agreement that any issues in the LC/12 documents not discussed will be deferred until after the first release of RDA. The list of unresolved issues includes:

- Concern that the instructions on recording attributes of a musical work are being driven by the need to use these attributes without addition, deletion, or modification when constructing access points.

- Naming of “large ensembles”: beyond orchestra, string orchestra, and band, what terms should be allowed?

- The arranger, adapter, etc., for folk music, world music, etc., should be treated the creator, not simply as the contributor of “added accompaniment”.

- Non-distinctive titles: There is still no agreement on how to define or enumerate non-distinctive titles. Options included reference to an external list and an expanded list in RDA; the instructions need to include the concept of cognates in order to provide consistent treatment of titles in various languages.

- Revisions are needed to the instructions for naming complete literary works of a composer and complete musical works of an author.

- Rearrangement of the instructions for Medium of performance.

- Instructions relating to the order of instruments/voices in the Medium of performance.

- Clarification of the instructions relating to works for one performer to a part.

- Clarification of when to list individual instruments/voices in the Medium of performance and when to record names of groups of instruments/voices.
Identifying when to record the predominant keyboard instrument in medium statements for keyboard works by a single composer and when to record an unspecified “keyboard instrument”.

Clarification of when modifications to a musical work result in a new musical work.

Final thoughts …

The Joint Steering Committee completed consideration of all the priority issues in the responses to the RDA full draft. During our meeting, we considered and resolved almost 600 comments, out of almost 1200 comments received.

The JSC said semi-official farewells to a number of people whose involvement in RDA will end on June 30. These are (in order of seniority):

Nathalie Schulz, who has been JSC Secretary for 8 years, who is amazingly diligent and productive, always a joy to work with, and whose organizational efforts are probably responsible for the fact that we completed all our work this week.

Hugh Taylor, who has ably represented CILIP for over 5 years, and whose sound judgment we often depend on and whose sense of humour (so spelled in honour of his British sensibilities) — although sorely tested by the RDA development process — has never failed to raise our spirits.

Tom Delsey, the RDA Editor, whose vision of what RDA should be — both in its overall conceptual shape and in its remarkably consistent and tightly-crafted details — will remain at the heart of RDA even after his active participation ends.

Marjorie Bloss, the RDA Project Manager, who refused to give up on an impossible task — herding cats doesn’t begin to express it! — and whose efforts to keep very diverse groups of participants on track were both gracious and persistent.

And finally, Marg Stewart, whose term as Chair of the Committee — although thankfully not as the CCC representative — comes to an end at the end of June. Marg has served as Chair during a critical, and challenging, time in the development of RDA and has brought to the task her experience, common sense, integrity, and (perhaps most important) the patience of a saint!

At the end of the meeting, the JSC felt a strong sense of standing at the end of a long road. The nature of the JSC will change considerably in the next year or so, not only because of the need to operate without the contributions of those who are leaving the project, but also because the nature of the task will be changing in many ways. The road ahead is still obscured by fog, as many decisions have yet to be made, but we are looking forward to having a completed RDA product to maintain.

Since the meeting …

Since the meeting, the JSC has been resolving the sort of details that inevitably come up when incorporating the decisions made in Chicago into the text of RDA. We began by finalizing the RDA element set (names, attributes, and definitions of elements), then moved on to the text of the instructions, and finally to the examples. We are currently
proofreading the changes in marked-up versions of the PDF files that were the basis for the constituency review. This task was completed by June 22, when the final text was turned over to the developers.

The other major development involves the JSC leadership. Alan Danskin, the British Library representative, has agreed to serve as chair from July 2009–June 2010. The duties of the JSC secretary, the irreplaceable Nathalie Schulz, will be distributed among several members of the British Library staff.