

**Report from Lisa Carter, SAA liaison to the ALA's Committee on Cataloging:  
Description and Access  
August 1, 2008**

Throughout 2007-2008, the ALA Committee for Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA) continued to review drafts of *Resources for Description and Access* (RDA), which will supersede the current Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (AACR2).

At their October 2007 meeting the Joint Steering Committee for the Revision of AACR (JSC) agreed on a new organization for RDA to align it more closely with FRBR entities and user tasks. The new organization and description of the sections can be found at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/jsc/rda-new-org.html>. Minutes from the October 2007 meeting <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/jsc/docs/5m170-215.pdf> also include a detailed discussion on the definition of "families" and creating access points for families (the new Sections 3 and 9).

This new organization and a revised draft of Sections 2-4, 9 of *RDA: Resource Description and Access* were the main topics of discussion at the CC:DA meetings in January 2008 and online throughout the spring. Section 2 covers attributes of work and expression, Section 3 instructs on recording attributes of person, family, and corporate body, Section 4 details attributes of concept, object, event, and place and Section 9 contains rules on relationships between persons, families, and corporate bodies. These sections (and background comments) can be viewed at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/jsc/docs/5rda-sec2349.pdf>. Issues discussed by CC:DA included the use of "selections" in titles, organization of RDA, required elements, scope guidelines, status of place entity, and reconsideration of significant features of AACR2. Comments were taken through March 2008 and feedback was discussed at the JSC meeting in April 2008.

In April, the JSC decided against ALA's reorganization suggestions, their suggestion that certain attributes be treated as relationships to entities and moving all punctuation instructions to the appendix. The JSC did agree with ALA's suggestions to make the table of contents clearer, move the instructions on access points to the end of chapters, and that preferred and variant names and titles would be treated as sub-types of related elements. More details on the actions taken by the JSC are detailed in the ALA Representative to the Joint Steering Committee's Report at <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/docs/jsc0806.pdf>. Other outcomes of the April 2008 meeting of JSC are listed more formally here: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/jsc/0804out.html>

Of particular interest to archivists may be the treatment of the concept of "originating body". The JSC decided to include the intent of AACR2 21.1B2 in RDA by including those provisions in the definition of creator. Chapter 19 (Persons, families, and corporate bodies associated with a work) will no longer include an element for originating body. Also, the JSC agreed to add the following roles at the work level to the proposed appendix on *Designation of roles*: Film director; Cinematographer; Producer; Production

Company; Screenwriter (as a subcategory of Author). A number of roles were also added at the expression level for moving image resources, e.g., Costume designer and Film editor. Additions were made to the RDA element set including manufacture statement to chapter 2 (Identifying manifestations and items), interpretive content to chapter 7 (Describing additional attributes of works and expressions), which includes captioning and audio narration that is added to video content, and numbering of issue or part to chapter 24 (General guidelines on recording relationships between works, expressions, manifestations, and items). Due to the proliferation of the number of elements in RDA, the JSC decided it would be preferable to designate certain elements as “core” rather than categorizing elements as either “required” or “optional”. It will be possible to restrict the view in the online incarnation of RDA to just the core elements. The discussion of these matters will be detailed in the April 2008 meeting minutes.

The JSC changed the date on which the complete draft will be available for constituency review to October 2008 and the review period will go through January 2009. The plan is still to release RDA in 2009. Updates on the RDA planning process and release schedule are available at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/jsc/rda.html>.

As a result of the JSC’s decision that the extensive list of specialist cataloging manuals prepared by ALA appear as a wiki appended to but not inserted into the text of RDA, the CC:DA Task Force on Specialist Cataloguing Manuals compiled and fine-tuned the *Standards, Manuals and other Resources for Use with RDA*. The final report of that task force and the list is available at <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/docs/tf-scm3.pdf>. This list will make catalogers aware of most of the special collections and archives tools such as DACS, RAD, CCO, DCRM, etc.

For further information on RDA, please consult the JSC site at <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rda.html>, as well as the CC:DA site at <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/>.

The CC:DA Task Force to Review the *Statement of International Cataloguing Principles* provided feedback on the April 2008 draft document. The Task Force considers the draft an improvement over earlier versions, yet found the language imprecise and inconsistent in some sections, with visible conceptual gaps. General concerns mentioned include a possible continued bias towards printed resources and some inconsistency in the use of the terms “authorized”, “controlled”, and “preferred” throughout. More specific feedback is outlined in the report <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/docs/tf-icp4.pdf>.

The CC:DA Task Force for the Review of *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Serials)* submitted a report on July 22, 2008 to the RBMS Bibliographic Standards Committee regarding their review of the draft of DCRM(S). The assessment of the CC:DA Task Force was that DCRM(S) was a huge improvement over the previous state of affairs for cataloging rare serials. While the Task Force had many specific suggestions on details of the draft, generally DCRM(S) seems to embrace current trends in appropriate and sufficient description, provides greatly expanded guidance for problems

specific to serials while holding to the context of related standards around it (RDA, DCRM(B)) and contains extremely helpful appendixes, including one on the creation of collection-level records. The included section on precataloging decisions particularly lends further guidance to the field on keeping descriptive efforts appropriate to the context of institutional mission, relevance of the item and use. DCRM(S) is available at [http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic\\_standards/dcrm/dcrms/dcrms.html](http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/dcrm/dcrms/dcrms.html).